

Message from the incoming INF President

It is an honor for me to have been elected President of the International Neuroendocrine Federation (INF). It is also a great pleasure because I have enjoyed immensely serving the Federation first as Treasurer and then as Secretary General during the tenure of the first two INF presidents, Dionysia Theodosia (2000-2002) and John Russell (2003-2006). During this time, I have established friendships with individuals from all over the world and this would not have come to pass had it not been for my participation in the activities of the INF. I therefore look forward to the next four years.

I should like to thank John Russell for his selfless and dedicated leadership of the Federation for the last four years and for his earlier role as our Secretary during the nascent years of the Federation. Fortunately, John's cumulative experience of the Federation and his dedication will not be lost as John will remain significantly involved with INF activities as Chair of the Strategic Action Committee (SAC). In similar vein, I'm also very pleased that Iain Clarke and Greti Aguilera, who played pivotal roles in the Federation for the last four years as Chair of the Program Organizing Committee for ICN 2006 and INF Treasurer, respectively, have also willingly agreed to join John as founding members of the SAC. A major remit of this important committee will be to help and advise me to develop plans and financial resources for initiatives to implement INF objectives, particularly those with regard to education and training.

As President, I will be most fortunate to be working with a creative and dedicated Executive with William Rostene (France) as Secretary-General and Mitsuhiro Kawata (Japan) as Treasurer. We look forward to acting on behalf of Council, which happily will be expanded in size because applications for membership of the Federation by the Pakistan Neuroendocrine Group and the Romanian Society of Psychoneuroendocrinology were recently approved by Council. The centerpiece of the Federation's activities is the International Congress of Neuroendocrinology, the next of which is to be held in Rouen, France in 2010. The organization of this major event is in the competent and experienced hands of Gareth Leng (UK) and Hubert Vaudry (France), who will serve as Chair of the Program Organizing Committee and Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, respectively. My confidence in the leadership provided by these two individuals in organizing the next ICN will allow me to lead the Executive and Council in concentrating on other challenges facing the Federation. First there are some important "house keeping" matters that require attention. Incorporation of the Federation as a non-profit tax exempt organization is essential, and if the Federation's goals to substantially nurture a world-wide neuroendocrine community are to be realized the financial basis of the INF must be strengthened. Next, in addition to pursuing the Constitutional objectives of the INF, I want to place particular emphasis on supporting young neuroendocrinologists and economically underprivileged, but scientifically active, regions of the globe.

I will try to do my best.

Tony M Plant
INF President