

The importance of the Brazilian Society of Neurological Investigation (SBIN)

A importância da Sociedade Brasileira de Investigação Neurológica (SBIN)

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RESUMO

A Sociedade Brasileira de Investigação Neurológica (SBIN) foi fundada em 19 de dezembro de 2000 por um grupo de neurologistas capitaneados pelo Prof. Dr. Lineu César Werneck, com a finalidade de promover o desenvolvimento científico e cultural na neurologia e nas neurociências. Os critérios de admissão de membros sempre foram rígidos, tendo o grupo alcançado 80% de médicos com doutorado. Entretanto, as condições para se tornar membro foram modificadas com a intenção de atrair mais pesquisadores, principalmente os mais jovens, e neurocientistas de outras áreas da saúde e da biologia. Os eventos científicos foram o objetivo maior da SBIN. Foram realizadas 18 edições. A diretoria e os membros da SBIN reconheceram que a Academia Brasileira de Neurologia, e as outras sociedades de incentivo às neurociências, estavam trabalhando para a continuidade do aumento exponencial da produção científica em ciências neurológicas no Brasil, compreendendo que seus propósitos estavam cumpridos. A sociedade se desfez em dezembro de 2020.

Palavras-Chave: Sociedades científicas, Sociedades médicas, Neurociências, Neurologia, História da medicina.

ABSTRACT

The Brazilian Society of Neurological Research (SBIN) was founded on December 19, 2000, by a group of neurologists headed by Professor Lineu César Werneck, MD, Ph.D., to promote scientific development and cultural diversity in neurology and neurosciences. The criteria for members' admission have always been strict, and the group reached 80% of physicians with a Ph.D. degree. However, the conditions to become a member were modified to attract more researchers, especially the younger ones, and neuroscientists from other areas of health and biology. The scientific events were the primary goal of SBIN. Eighteen editions were performed. The board and members of the SBIN recognized that the Brazilian Academy of Neurology, and the other societies that encouraged the neurosciences, were working to continue the exponential increase of scientific production in the neurosciences in Brazil, realizing that their purposes were fulfilled. The society was dissolved in December 2020.

Keywords: Scientific societies, Medical societies, Neurosciences, Neurology, History of medicine.

INTRODUCTION

The Brazilian Society of Neurological Research (SBIN) was a civil, non-profitable society whose purpose was to promote scientific development and cultural diversity in neurology and neurosciences. In its scientific events, the researchers in the neurological area and similar science areas had the opportunity to present and discuss their research bodies.¹

SBIN was founded on December 19, 2000, by a group of neurologists headed by Professor Lineu César Werneck, Ph.D. (Figure 1).² At that time, the neurological research in Brazil was going through a silent transformation, and with its capacity for organization and a strategic and futuristic vision very wide, professor Werneck began his project of updating the context of neurological research in Brazil. It was necessary more space for the research growth, for new ideas that were revolutionizing the neu-

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rosience, and so that young researchers did not feel discouraged to continue in the area. Thus, with a small group of 29 researchers, followed by his students and colleagues, in July of 2001, the first meeting of the SBIN took place in Curitiba.³

THE ORGANIZATION

When the end came, SBIN had 53 members; 44 were full members, six were effective, and three were honorary members (supplementary material online). Professor Antonio Spina-França Netto, a full member since the foundation of society, died in 2010 and was considered a member in memoriam. The same occurred to Professor Amilton Antunes Barreira, who died in 2018, and was elected President of SBIN. SBIN had a small number of members, but all were very qualified, with 42 (76.35%) with a Ph.D. degree (Figure 2). The conditions to become a member in each category have been modified.¹ The intention for the changes in the admission criteria was to attract more researchers, especially the younger ones so that they could exchange knowledge with senior researchers (Table 1).

In addition to a possible elitization, another criticism of SBIN was its regionalization. At the Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) of 2004, the discussion on this issue had already emerged. Doctor Lineu commented that it would be desirable for a periodic change of SBIN to Ribeirão Preto, thus to distort the SBIN as a 'paranaense' entity but as a society of national scope, with a philosophy of work and ideas very clear and set out (...).⁴ At OGM 2001 "... Doctor Svetlana Agapejev (...) suggested a dissemination and greater stimulus to the participation of members from the Northern and Northeastern regions of the country (...).³ In the end, 42 (80.8%) of the members of the SBIN lived in Parana or São Paulo; there was only one member from the Northeast and no members from the Northern region (Figure 2). Despite attempts, there was a cluster of members, especially among researchers or students from the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR), the School of Medicine of Paulista State University (UNESP), and the Ribeirão Preto Medical School of the University of São Paulo (USP). The boards were also predominantly from the aforementioned universities (Table 2).^{3,4}

THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BRAZILIAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY (ABN)

The creation process of SBIN was quite different from the traumatic separation between the American Neurological Association (ANA) and the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) in 1948. ANA was an association of about 200 members, predominantly from Northeast America, which restricted the affiliation of new members, and closed their eyes to a predominance of psychiatry concerning neurology. Among Americans, there was a rupture and a desire for the representation of neurologists as a class.⁵

The concern in making a clear relationship of cordiality with ABN was exposed since the SBIN's opening minutes: "This society would not have a representative role, would not constitute a dissident ward of ABN, and neither would have functions of basic training in neurology (...).² The president of ABN, Doctor Luiz Alberto Bacheschi (2000 – 2004), attended the opening of the first SBIN meeting together with Doctor Paulo Norberto Discher de Sá, president of the subsequent Neurology Brazilian Congress (2002).

Even though, there was great care regarding the relationship with ABN. At the OGM of 2006, "Doctor Amilton Barreira highlighted (...) that the existence and purpose of SBIN did not constitute a situation of opposition or competition to ABN (...).⁶ At the OGM of 2005, "Doctor Osvaldo M Takayanagui highlighted the importance of a closer approach of SBIN to ABN (...) and that this initiative would be of great importance for the harmonization of Brazilian neurologists (...).⁷

One issue that generated controversy was the SBIN events held during the same period as the Brazilian Congresses of Neurology. This issue was raised since the first OGM in 2001 when it was minimized by Doctor Ylmar Correia Neto that "proposed (...) that in the years coinciding with the ABN congress, the two events could co-occur, or better, consecutively (...).³ This situation was resolved with the insertion of SBIN meetings, in even-numbered years, in the ABN congresses from 2008 on.⁸

THE SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

The scientific events were the central goal of SBIN. Initially, the meetings had a hi-

gher percentage of studies with oral presentations, but as time went by, space for posters was opened up, and also for lectures and mini-courses. Several studies initially presented at SBIN sessions were later published and had national and international repercussions.^{2-4, 6-9} The events held in the Brazilian Congress of Neurology were adapted from the Master conference until the presentation of oral papers (Table 3). At the Brazilian Congress of 2016, in Belo Horizonte, there was a competitive session with Professor Andrew John Lees, honorary member since 2010, who lectured about his book "Mentored by the Madman: The William Burroughs Experiment".¹⁰

THE END

The last years have been plentiful in the research on the nervous system in Brazil. Professor Werneck and those researchers who founded SBIN were correct. There was a need for space for this scientific earthquake. SBIN has established as a society that has encouraged and supported the neurological sciences. During this time, it has seen societies supporting the basic neurosciences being born and growing and observing a revolution in the ABN, which has become a very active agent in raising awareness of the importance of research done by Brazilian neurologists. In a general assembly held on December 6th, 2020, the SBIN members were sure their duty was done. It was time to get off the stage.

Contributions:

We confirm that the manuscript has been read and approved by all named authors and that there are no other persons who satisfied the criteria for authorship but are not listed. We further confirm that the order of authors listed in the manuscript has been approved by all of us.

Authors' Roles:

1) Project: A. Conception, B. Organization, C. Execution;
 2) Manuscript: A. Writing of the first draft, B. Review, and Critique.
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Table 1

Specifications for admission of SBIN members

Type of member	Specifications
Full members	Being a neurologist or child neurologist and holder of the title of specialist in these areas, recognized by the Regional Council of Medicine or issued by the Brazilian Medical Association and, Having published at least ten papers in an indexed scientific journal on PUBMED or LILACS.
Emeritus Members	Being an SBIN full member for at least 10 years and, Being older or 70 years old or, Having carried out relevant services to Neuroscience and SBIN.
Effective Members	Being a professional of health or biological area duly registered in their professional Council and, Having published at least three scientific papers in Neuroscience in an indexed scientific journal on PUBMED or LILACS.
Honorary Members	Having carried out contributions to research in Neurosciences and, Having published at least 30 papers in an indexed scientific journal on PUBMED or LILACS.
Meritorious Members	Having contributed through actions, donations, or alike for SBIN growth.

Table 2

Boards of the Sociedade Brasileira de Investigação Neurológica

Period	President	Board
2001- 2004	Lineu César Werneck	Élcio Juliato Piovesan Hélio Afonso G Teive Pedro André Kowacs Walter Oleschko Arruda
2005 - 2007	Amilton Antunes Barreira	Cláudia F R Sobreira Osvaldo M Takayanagui Wilson Marques Júnior
2008 – 2010	Hélio Afonso G. Teive	Lineu César Werneck Marcos Christiano Lange Rosana Hermínia Scola Viviane Flumignan Zétola
2011 – 2016	Hélio Afonso G. Teive	Carlos Eduardo S Silvado Lineu César Werneck Marcos Christiano Lange Viviane Flumignan Zétola
2017- 2020	Carlos Henrique F. Camargo	Edmar Miyoshi Marcos Christiano Lange Marcelo Machado Ferro Paulo Lorenzoni Rodrigo Bazan

Table 3

Events performed by the Sociedade Brasileira de Investigação Neurológica

Event	Date	Place
I Meeting	July 26 and 27 th of 2001	Curitiba - PR
II Meeting	April 05 th , 2002	Curitiba - PR
III Meeting	August 15 th and 16 th of 2003	Curitiba - PR
IV Meeting	June 18 th and 19 th , 2004	Curitiba - PR
V Meeting	August 19 th and 20 th , 2005	Ribeirão Preto - SP
VI Meeting	May 12 th and 13 th , 2006	Ribeirão Preto - SP
VII Meeting	June 29 th and 30 th , 2007	Ribeirão Preto - SP
VIII Meeting*	August 19 th , 2008	Belém - PA
IX Meeting	August 1 st and 2 nd , 2009	Curitiba - PR
X Meeting *	August 26 th , 2010	Rio de Janeiro - RJ
XI Meeting	September 23 rd and 24 th , 2011	Curitiba - PR
XII Meeting*	August 07 th , 2012	Goiânia - GO
XIII Meeting	December 6 th and 7 th , 2013	Curitiba - PR
XIV Meeting*	November 10 th , 2014	Curitiba - PR
XV Meeting	November 27 th and 28 th , 2015	Curitiba - PR
XVI Meeting*	August 30 th , 2016	Belo Horizonte - MG
XVII Meeting	March 31 st , 2017	Curitiba - PR
XVIII Meeting	July 27 th , 2018	Curitiba - PR

*After 2008, the events in even-numbered years were inserted in the Brazilian Congress of Neurology of the Brazilian Academy of Neurology



Figure 1: Professor PhD Lineu César Werneck
Planner, founder, and first president of SBIN
Source: UFPR

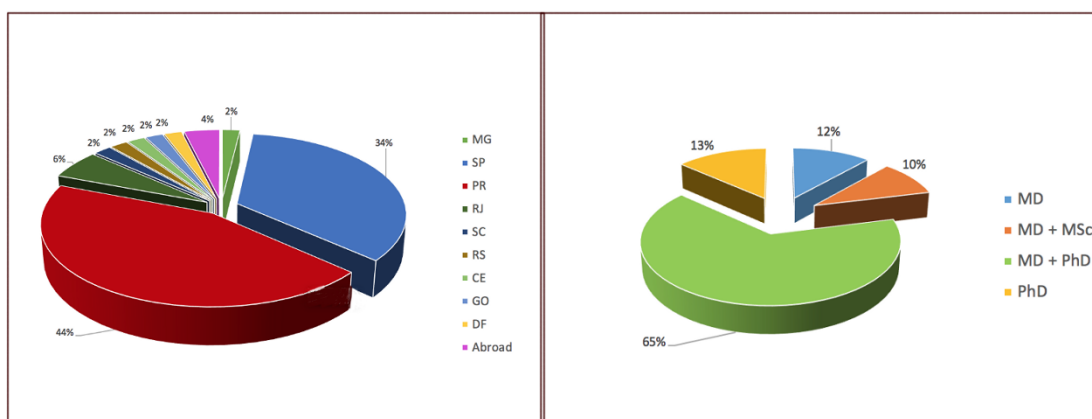


Figure 2: Graph with characteristics of SBIN members (n=52)

A- Origin by State (Brazil)

B- Members' degree

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