

EFNS RTC in Novosibirsk, Russia - Bridging the West-East Gap in Knowledge

The EFNS Regional Teaching Course entitled "Updates on Stroke, Movement Disorders and Epilepsy" took place in Novosibirsk, Russia from 26 to 28 June 2006. The course has proved to be of great success with 478 registered neurologists from 24 cities of Siberia, from the Far East and some neighbouring parts of Russia attending the Course. Prof. Jacques de Reuck (Belgium), Prof. Wolf-Dieter Heiss (Germany), Prof. Detlef Kömpf (Germany), Prof. Amos Korczyn (Israel), Prof. Vladimir Kostic (Serbia), Prof. Anna Czlonkowska (Poland) and Prof. Valery Feigin (New Zealand/Russia) were the EFNS invited speakers who presented very interesting lectures on various practical aspects of diagnosis, prevention and management of stroke, movement disorders and epilepsy.

The EFNS Teaching Course was co-sponsored by the European Section of the Movement Disorder Society. The president of the EFNS, Prof. Jacques de Reuck and the Rector of the Novosibirsk State Medical University, Prof. Analoly V. Efremov officially opened the Teaching Course (photo).



Overall, there were 20 lectures during the 3-day course, including lectures given by the following leading Russian scientists: Prof. Pavel Pilipenko, Prof. Alexei Krivoshapkin, Prof. Alexei Shabalin (all from Novosibirsk), and Prof. Vladimir Zaharov (Moscow). All lectures given by the EFNS speakers and two lectures given by Russian speakers were presented in English and translated into Russian (all slides were in English). Each lecture was followed by an intensive discussion and questions from the audience. All registered attendees received syllabi of the courses along with the course programme. All these materials as well as the conference attendance were free of charge.

According to the self-administered questionnaires completed by the attending neurologists all lecturers were given the highest marks and the Teaching Course organization and conduct overall met all the expectations of the participants. Indeed, the attending neurologists took notes throughout the whole course, even at the very last hours of the 3rd final day of the course - a behaviour not commonly observed at conferences. The course was broadcasted by the local media, including TV and newspapers.

This EFNS Regional Teaching Courses of great importance to Siberian neurologists. After the previous equally successful EFNS Teaching Course in Novosibirsk in 2003 this second Teaching Course was the only international course available for Siberian neurologists over the last three years, thus really bridging the gap in knowledge between Western and Eastern Europe. These Teaching Courses in Novosibirsk and the contribution of the EFNS to the updates of Siberian neurologists were also formally acknowledged not only by the Mayor of Novosibirsk, Mr. Vladimir F. Gorodetsky and the Rector of the Novosibirsk State Medical University, Professor Analoly V. Efremov and other local authorities but also at the national level by the Russian Association of Neurologists. Given the significance of such teaching courses for neurologists of this large and remote region of Russia we do hope on the continuous EFNS support to carry out such courses in Siberia repeatedly every other year.

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