EAYNT ANNOUNCEMENTS

An exciting mix of education, science, and European culture: the activities of the EAYNT in 2011

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The European Association of Young Neurologists and Trainees (EAYNT) is an independent organization representing junior European neurologists. Our major aim is to advocate the interests of young neurologists in major bodies in Europe and worldwide. In addition, we promote European training exchange, and endeavor to improve European national core curricula by studying the differences in medical specialization, the disparities in working conditions, and the level of neurological education throughout Europe. We organize regular meetings at congresses and disseminate information relevant to young neurologists (e.g. bursaries and fellowships). We also promote and co-organize teaching courses and summer schools. EAYNT offers travel grants for its members. This summary is to provide information on the activities of EAYNT in 2011.

Introduction

Junior neurologists, are you hesitant to plan your attendance at a European Neurology conference in 2011 since you do not know what you might expect? Are you missing sleep over such decisions and are anxious of being alone in the anonymity of a major event? Your fear is definitely groundless, if you check for conferences with activities of the European Association of Young Neurologists and Trainees (EAYNT) (Fig. 1). This non-profit organization and its committed office members have been working in favor of junior neurologists since the foundation in 1999. Major aims include lobbying for educational and scientific perspectives for junior neurologists in an emerging European working market to improve their perspectives [1–3]. Readers interested in the formation of this organization and further details on the background are referred to recent articles [3,4].

EAYNT activities in 2011

In this article, we report on the EAYNT events scheduled in 2011. Further details, particularly regarding registration for the EAYNT activities but also last-minute additions, can be found on the homepage of the organization (http://www.eaynt.org). It should be pointed out that membership in the EAYNT, a 2-min procedure via the webpage, is free and not associated with any obligations.

1. The EAYNT at the 11th European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS) Academy for Young Neurologists, 12–15/5/2011, Stare Splavy, Czech Republic.

The kickoff for the EAYNT activities in 2011 will be at the EFNS Academy for Young Neurologists with an afternoon workshop on the ‘European Perspective for Junior Neurologists’. Edina T. Varga and Johann Sellner will give an overview of the spectrum of Neurology training in Europe [3]. In addition, this interactive session will be aimed at collecting views and ideas of junior neurologists, particularly on the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS)/European Board of Neurology (EBN) examination [5], and the improvement of clinical training and working conditions.

The EAYNT-ENS workshop entitled ‘Pimp your residency’ on Saturday May 28, 2011 is likely a session you should not miss, if you are interested in potential measures to improve your clinical and scientific training. Key experts in the field will provide hands-on information on European fellowships, the UEMS/EBN examination, tips for sub-specialization and emerging e-learning opportunities (Table 1). A visit to the renowned Santa Maria Hospital for up to 70 junior colleagues will take place on kind invitation by Prof. Jose M. Ferro on the same day and will be followed by the traditional EAYNT social event – this year you can expect a memorable evening at a typical Portuguese restaurant, where you will have plenty of opportunities to make friends with colleagues from all over Europe and beyond. Since 2009, the ENS has invited junior neurologists nominated by the EAYNT as poster chairs, which has successfully shown to increase the scientific discussion and has proven rewarding for both presenters and moderators. Eventually, an EAYNT party on Sunday May 29th after the welcome reception will round up the activities, which will also include an EAYNT booth at the industry exhibition.

3. The EAYNT at the EFNS regional teaching courses (RTC).

Since 2009, EAYNT representatives have been invited to lecture on matters for junior neurologists at the EFNS RTCs. These 3-day courses usually take place in Eastern Europe. This year’s EFNS RTCs are scheduled in Yekaterinenburg (18–20/5/2011) and Lviv (16–18/6/2011). This is an important opportunity for the EAYNT to get in touch with colleagues who may not regularly have the opportunity to attend EAYNT activities abroad. Hence, the contents of the talks frequently cover information on travel grants and training opportunities including the Open Facilities for Training in European Neurology (OFTEN) program [6], which is maintained by the EAYNT, but also different aspects to consider when planning an educational stay abroad.


The major highlight of this year and the event you definitely should not miss is the EAYNT Special Session at the annual EFNS conference (Table 2). Renowned speakers will cover topics that are aimed at forming a new generation of neurologists, including practical tips and tricks for scientific approaches, the importance of consolidated knowledge of psychiatry, and lifelong learning. The event will continue at a typical Hungarian restaurant off the tourist track, which definitely will be another memorable event and

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<th>The EAYNT Workshop ‘Pimp your residency’ on May 28th 2011 (11:00–12:30 h) at the ENS conference</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Johann Sellner (Munich, Germany)</td>
<td>Cristian Falup-Pecurariu (Brasov, Romania)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter Struhal (Linz, Austria)</td>
<td>Johann Sellner (Munich, Germany)</td>
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<td>Laszlo K. Sztriha (London, UK)</td>
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<th>Table 2</th>
<th>The EAYNT Special Session on Sept. 11th 2011 (17:30–19:00 h) at the EFNS conference</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chairs: Edina T. Varga and Martin Rakusa</td>
<td>Edina T. Varga (Dianalund, Denmark)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wolfgang Oertel (Marburg, Germany)</td>
<td>How to select the department to work at and become a combined neuroscientist/neurologist?</td>
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<td>Gunhild Waldemar (Copenhagen, Denmark)</td>
<td>The borderlands between neurology, psychiatry, and internal medicine: future challenges and opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ray Chaudhuri (London, UK)</td>
<td>Neurology: reading, learning, and real life</td>
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an opportunity to get in touch with colleagues. Our traditional hospital visit will be arranged at the Andras Pető Institute of Conductive Education and College of Conductor Training. The EAYNT has maintained a lounge for young neurologists at the EFNS conference since 2008, which developed to an easy meeting point for junior colleagues. This year, the EAYNT will be present with a booth in the industry exhibition where you not only can meet office members, but also get hands-on information on further activities, grant applications and give feedback on young neurologist issues and trends emerging in your country.

5. The EAYNT together with the International Working Group of Young Neurologists and Trainees (IWGYNT) at the 20th World Federation of Neurology (WFN) conference, 12–17/11/2011, Marrakech, Morocco.

The IWGYNT is an EAYNT spin-off aimed at representing young neurologists within the WFN and was founded together with junior neurologist organizations from other continents. Following the approval by the WFN in 2009, the IWGYNT has successfully implemented a facebook blog for providing a platform for exchange of information and opinion. A collaborative IWGYNT-EAYNT workshop ‘Vital armamentarium for young neurologists and trainees’ is scheduled at the WFN conference 2011. This session will illustrate potential strategies for junior colleagues for career management and will also point at different cultural aspects to consider in Neurology education. In addition, a social event at a typical Moroccan restaurant will be organized together with local colleagues.

6. The EAYNT at meetings of National Neurology Organizations and beyond.

Collaborative activities with national or regional neurological societies are currently maintained with the German Neurology Society (DGN) [7], the Danish Epilepsy Society, and the Danish Association of Young Neurologists, Neurosurgeons, and Neurophysiologists. In addition, the EAYNT is having joint projects with the International Neuropsychiatric Congress in Pula, Croatia (15–18/6/2011) and the Junior Neurologist chapter within the World Federation of Neurorehabilitation (WFNR) [2]. A workshop in evidence-based neurology will be organized for the third time at the Danube Neurology Symposium in Dresden, Germany (6–8/10/2011), in cooperation with the Cochrane Neurological Field (CNF), an entity of the Cochrane Collaboration [8]. Laszlo Sztriha is coordinating the course and details can be found at both the EAYNT and the Danube Neurology Conference (www.danube2011.org) homepages. Eventually, Walter Struhal and Johann Sellner were invited by the Resident Section of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) to represent the IWGYNT/EAYNT at one of their workshops during the congress in Honolulu, USA (9–16/4/2011). There is a plan in place at the EAYNT to provide help by local colleagues for junior neurologists participating in the Department to Department Program of EFNS when visiting departments abroad (EAYNT hospitality program).

Conclusion

The EAYNT activities in 2011 are characterized by an exciting mix of scientific and educational events you should not miss. We believe that it is of key importance not only to provide opportunities to get to know each other and receive the best possible education but also to get familiar with the peculiarities of international, particularly European Neurology (Fig. 2). For accomplishing this goal, the EAYNT has collaborated with the major European neurology organizations, the EFNS and the ENS, since its foundation and has had the chance to increase activities year by year. We would like to thank the executives within these organizations for their continuous support and the opportunity to shape upcoming neurologists of the 21st century. In addition, the EAYNT sees the recent development of the foundation of the European Academy of Neurology (EAN) as a major challenge and is eager to get involved in these activities.

Disclosure

ETV, KV, and NH are members of the EAYNT office 2011/2012. ETV is responsible for the EAYNT activities in Scandinavia, KV in Eastern Europe, and NH in

Figure 2 Snapshot of an EAYNT group visiting the Department of Neurology at the San Raffaele Hospital Milano in 2009.
Western Europe. LS is the EAYNT delegate to the EFNS Liaison Committee, the Danube Neurology Organization and the CNF. JS is the EAYNT delegate to the EFNS Scientific Panel Assembly and observer to the ENS Executive Committee.

References