
Don’t miss the early registration deadline: June 1, 2007

Win a free registration to EFNS 2007, Brussels, Belgium

Congress Quiz

The EFNS Congress quiz is now online. The first three participants who answer all questions correctly will each win a free registration to the upcoming EFNS congress in Brussels, Belgium, August 25-28, 2007.

The quiz will be open until May 15, 2007. Please use the following link:

Special Social Evening, Monday, August 27, 2007

Grand’Place, Brussels. The colourful and exiting Ommegang pageant reflects an important moment of the history of Belgium. Visitors are offered a historical portrait of the country and the role it played at all levels: history, economy, the arts, culture, etc. For more details, please visit: http://www.ommenbang.be

Kindly note that only a limited number of tickets is available. Please register early for this event.

12th EFNS Congress Madrid, Spain August 23-26, 2008

Information on the programme can be found on the congress website
http://www.efns.org/efns2008

15th Anniversary of the EFNS

The foundation of the Pan-European Neurological Society was a first attempt to unite neurologists throughout Europe. Members of this society were leading European neurologists from several countries. At the first congress of the Pan-European Neurological Society it was decided to hold its second congress in Vienna, Austria in 1991. However, in the meantime many political changes took place in Europe. Professor Franz Gerstenbrand had a premonition of these and realised these developments. He was convinced that this was the time to found a neurological society that unites and represents all European national neurological societies. Professor Gerstenbrand, living in Vienna, but descending from Moravia, had already for many years tried to break the Iron Curtain, if not on a political, on a scientific basis. This attempt was supported by holding the annual neurological “Donau Symposium” which took place in the East and in the West every other year, respectively.

It was especially helpful that there was a historical relationship between Austria and these former communist countries. During this time Professor Gerstenbrand succeeded to convince representatives of many national neurological societies to found such a uniting society, which is not consisting of individual members, but of national neurological societies. Every individual member of a member society is automatically a member of the EFNS. The ideological as well as active help of the former president of the World Federation of Neurology, Lord Walton of Detchant, who was enthusiastic for this idea, was essential.

During the preparation of the 2nd Congress of the Pan-European Neurological Society, with the help of the office of the former Austrian Society for Neurology and Psychiatry in Vienna – and essential work of Dr. Uschi Tschabitscher – the administrative requirements for the foundation of the European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS) were accomplished. When the 2nd PNS Congress started, the EFNS statutes were already on hand. Therefore, in autumn 1991, during this congress it was possible to found the EFNS.

National neurological societies that joined the EFNS upon its establishment were: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia (today: Czech Republic and Slovakia), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USSR (today: Russia), Yugoslavia (today: Serbia and Montenegro). Today there are altogether 41 member societies; additionally to those mentioned above: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.
An annual congress is organised by the EFNS; other EFNS activities (EFNS Regional Teaching Courses, EFNS Academy, Department-Department and Fellowship programmes) are expanding continuously. Today it is impossible to imagine European neurology without the activities of the EFNS.

Eberhard Deisenhammer

**EFNS Teaching Course in Yekaterinburg, Russia, October 5-7, 2006**

**Report from the local organizer**

First of all we would like to express our profound gratitude to the EFNS for the possibility to organise the Regional Teaching Course (RTC) in Ekaterinburg at the Palace of Youth. We are also very grateful to Pavel Kalvach who was the first person who suggested me to organise this course and helped in all stages of the preparatory work. We also express our best thanks to our outstanding invited speakers from Europe: President of the EFNS – Jacques De Reuck (Gent, Belgium), past President of the EFNS - Wolf-Dieter Heiss (Cologne, Germany), Chairman of the EFNS Teaching Course Committee - Detlef Kompf (Lübeck, Germany), Chairman of the EFNS Education Committee – Wolfgang Grisold (Vienna, Austria); Jan van Gijn (Utrecht, The Netherlands), Eduardo Tolosa (Barcelona, Spain), Arne Lindgren (Lund, Sweden), Antti Ronkainen (Kuopio, Finland), Valdis Keris (Riga, Latvia). We also would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to our famous Russian Professors from Moscow – Veronika Skvortsova, Alla Guekht, Michael Piradov, Aleksey Boiko, Vladimir Zakharov. Special thanks go to Lisa Müller – EFNS Executive director - for her kind assistance during the preparations of the RTC.

The speakers of the RTC covered the topics stroke, movement disorders, and multiple sclerosis, but also smaller fields such as neuro-ontology and neuroophthalmology. Several presentations included conditions completely new to the audience, and new techniques, which will hopefully soon be available in our region.

810 registered neurologists took part in our RTC; altogether colleagues from 28 cities of the Urals region and 12 cities of the neighbouring parts of Russia. In the words of our neurologists, the EFNS RTC was like a revolution in our neurology, one which has changed views on the treatment and diagnostics of many neurological disorders.

Michael Sklyar, the Minister of Health of our region, explained that this was the first event of such magnitude not only in neurology, but in medicine.

We were very pleased that in addition to organising this RTC, the following local colleagues made excellent presentations: Larisa Volkova, Vladimir Sakovich, Andrey Belkin and me. The syllabi were not only distributed to the participants but will also be published as a supplement of the Urals Medical Journal.

The high quality and informational programme was rounded up by the social programme, which aimed at being a “festival of science” for all participants. Among others this included an evening at the State Opera where the ballet Swan Lake was performed, and also an excursion to the European-Asian border.

**RTC Yekaterinburg**

**EFNS Regional Teaching Courses 2007**

- **Odessa, Ukraine**
  - April 25-29

- **Sovata, Romania**
  - September 27-29

- **Sofia, Bulgaria**
  - October 18-20

For detailed information on the programmes please visit [http://www.efns.org/content.php?pid=155](http://www.efns.org/content.php?pid=155)

**8th EFNS Academy in Stare Splavy, 10-13 May 2007**

**Main topics:**

1. Cognitive and language disorders
2. Stenotic processes in cerebral circulation. Evaluation, management, surgical and angioplasty approaches
3. Autonomic nervous disorders

The detailed preliminary programme can be found on the EFNS website: [http://www.efns.org/content.php?pid=148](http://www.efns.org/content.php?pid=148)

**Arrival:** Wednesday, May 10th  
**Departure:** Monday, May 14th

**Accommodation, tuition, board and programme are sponsored by the EFNS.**

**Travel expenses have to be borne by the participants.**

**Last chance to apply and participate!**

**Contact immediately:**

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100 05 Praha, Czech Republic

[pragueoffice@efns.org](mailto:pragueoffice@efns.org)
Armen Galstyan – Maralik, Armenia

that I was ready to go to a European department and to gain new knowledge
In spite of the hard economical situation of Armenia, I was so well taught in neurolo-
vision I passed my residency in neurology in Armenia.
I also want to express my thankfulness to Vahagn Darbinyan under whose super-
help to investigate hereditary neurological diseases. Particularly, I have planned to
should establish epidemiological research in neurological diseases. That will also
practical knowledge I had gained in the UK. I am also sharing my new knowledge
I once again want to thank Christopher Gardner-Thorpe and the whole staff of the
friendly city Exeter.
I also had the opportunity to introduce my home-country Armenia. Now there are at
least twenty people in Exeter who know about the history and life in Armenia. And
about twenty people in Armenia do now know about the small, but wonderful and
friendly city Exeter.
I once again want to thank Christopher Gardner-Thorpe and the whole staff of the
RAE Hospital for their warm and great hospitality. It is hard to find appropriate
words to express my gratitude.
Now, back in Armenia, I am trying to adapt and to put into work the theoretical and
practical knowledge I had gained in the UK. I am also sharing my new knowledge with other specialists: rheumatologists, rehabilitation therapists, etc. Furthermore, I
try to contribute to the development of a network of neurologists in Armenia, which
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Armen Galstyan – Maralik, Armenia

EFNS Department to Department programme – open grants

66 applicants per year are chosen and receive grants of EUR 1500.- plus travel expenses up to EUR 300.-. The purpose of this award is to support the accommo-
dation and board expenses in the city of practice. The grant is supposed to allow for
a visit of at least a duration up to six weeks. If a participant is able to obtain a few budget
board, e.g. accommodation provided by the hosting institute, it may be possible to
stay longer.
Candidates from all European countries are eligible with the exception of awardees from
previous years. Applicants must be under the age of 40, fluent in English or in the
local language.
Apply now for the DD programme 2007, as only a limited amount of grants is still
available. The extended application deadline is April 30, 2007.
Detailed information on the application process and on available departments can be
found on the EFNS website:

http://www.efns.org/content.php?pid=147

Department to Department programme 2006

Friendly, attractive, hospitable, professional – these are the words that can honestly
describe not only my supervisor Christopher Gardner-Thorpe, but actually all staff of
the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (Womond), UK. Though it should have been
training in neurology, for me it was training in all fields of medicine. I had the possibili-
ty to visit the neurology, movement disorders and the stroke departments as well
as the emergency and rheumatology departments. I also observed the rehabilitation
work in Mardon Rehabilitation Centre. Once a week I participated in the x-ray meet-
ings and lectures for house officers and registrars. Even if some of the knowledge
obtained is impossible to implement in my country at the moment, it is a great stimu-
lus for the future development of our neurology and, why not, medicine at all.
The most important for me was the personal contact with people from other coun-
tries. I found new international friends, improved my English and even changed my
lifestyle and started jogging.
I also had the opportunity to introduce my home-country Armenia. Now there are at
least twenty people in Exeter who know about the history and life in Armenia. And
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Armen Galstyan – Maralik, Armenia

EFNS Fellowship 2005

In 2005, I had the honour to be granted an EFNS fellowship to conduct a research project entitled “EEG-fMRI in children with pharmacoresistant focal epilepsy” at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (GOSH) and Institute of Child Health (ICH) in London. This fellowship gave me the unique opportunity to carry out this project over a one-
year period and to work in two very experienced and well recognised teams in the
paediatric epilepsy field: the GOSH Epilepsy Unit managed by Helen Cross and the ICH Radiology and Physics Unit managed by David Gadian.
The first period of my fellowship was devoted to the development of EEG-fMRI techni-
que. This technique combines fMRI with EEG in order to determine if epileptic events recorded by EEG during fMRI scanning may be associated to focal changes in blood
oxygenation level-dependent (BOLD) response detectable by fMRI. This new technique tries to combine the high temporal resolution EEG to the good spatial resolution of fMRI. The development of the technique was done in collaboration with Philip Allen (Department of Clinical Neurophysiology of the National
Neurology and Neurosurgery Hospital, London).
We then applied the EEG-fMRI technique to children with pharmacoresistant partial
epilepsy in order to determine the feasibility and usefulness of this technique in the
paediatric population. We compared the EEG-fMRI results with more conventional
techniques of epileptic focus localisation such as ictal single photon emission
computed tomography (SPECT) or invasive EEG monitoring. To perform this study, I
developed a collaboration with Helmut Laufs (National Society for Epilepsy and
Departments of Clinical and Experimental Epilepsy, UCL Institute of Neurology, Queen Square, London) who has an extensive theoretical and practical experience of
EEG-fMRI. We scanned with EEG-fMRI a group of 15 children with pharmacoresistant epilepsy. The results obtained demonstrate that EEG-fMRI is a promising tool in
the non-invasive localisation of epileptogenic regions in children with symptomatic and
cryptogenic pharmacoresistant focal epilepsy. It may also help to better understand the repercussions of the epileptic activity on normal brain function by showing areas of altered BOLD response remote from the
epileptic focus.
During my fellowship, I also took charge of the motor and language fMRI studies
performed in children with epilepsy requested by the epilepsy surgery group (GOSH).
This allowed me to acquire an expertise in the use of fMRI in the non-invasive
presurgical evaluation of children with epilepsy. I also reanalysed all the motor fMRI
data acquired in children with focal epilepsy between 2000 and 2006 in order to
determine how often and in what extent motor fMRI influenced their surgical
management.
Three publications will summarise the work that we did during my one-year stay in
London. One of them has already been accepted for publication in Epilepsia.
My stay in London also gave me the unique opportunity to participate in the activities
of the Functional Imaging Laboratory (FIL, Queen Square, London). I would like to per-
sonally thank Karl Friston who kindly welcomed me in his team. It has been a great
scientific and human experience to be in contact with him.
I would like to gratefully thank the EFNS for its financial support without which my
stay in London would not have been possible. I also thank all the persons who kindly wel-
comed me at GOSH, ICH and the FIL and who gave me the possibility to bring my
fellowship to a successful conclusion.
I certainly recommend the EFNS fellowship programme to all young neurologists.
Xavier De Tri`ge, Belgium
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Profile of the participants in the Teaching Courses (TCs) of the 10th Congress of the European Federation of Neurological Societies, Glasgow 2006, UK

Vitalis Lisnic, Stefan Oberndorfer, Wolfgang Grisold, on behalf of the EFNS Education Committee

Teaching and education are important aspects of the EFNS congresses. Following the first evaluation of the Teaching courses (TCs) in Athens 2005 (results see Newsletter 2006;2; p7) this is the second standardised evaluation of EFNS teaching courses. In Glasgow 2006, 322 participants of the TCs answered the questionnaire concerning contents and quality of the TCs. Most participants are MDs (70%), followed by residents (16%), MD+PhD (13%), and students (1%). Gender was available from 312 participants. According to the surname, the gender ratio was 1.35 with male predominance. The average age was 41 years. (GRAPH 1)

In total, participants from 57 countries were registered. The majority of participants came from the host country (UK), followed by Sweden, Belgium, Turkey, Finland, Croatia and Portugal. The major group were neurologists (306), other health professionals were geriatricians (8), representatives of the pharmaceutical industry (3), pharmacologists (3) and radiologists (2). Funding of attendance: The attendees were predominantly sponsored by pharmaceutical companies (67%), EFNS bursary 10%, EFNS tournament 2%, and only 17% got there by their own means. The pharmaceutical industry therefore seems to be important for postgraduate education. Information about the congress and TCs: Usually information on the congress was gained mostly from the web (n=182), from a distributed programme (n=82), and the EFNS newsletter (n=76). Suggestions for future TCs: Future teaching courses should be held on: Movement disorders, multiple sclerosis, pain, neuropathy, dementia, epilepsy, headache, neuromuscular disorders, and stroke. Structural suggestions were: handouts with current presented notes, to spread the TCs over more days, more time for discussion, contents available in advance in PDF to prepare, more interactive, discussion on controversial issues, and TC material on CD-ROM. For future EFNS meetings in general an increase of educational and scientific sessions, as well as a decrease of registration fees was proposed. (Graph 2)

Overall assessment: Most of the participants quoted the TCs of the EFNS as generally excellent, very good, and perfect.