Don’t miss the opportunity to present your work to more than 4000 colleagues...

12th EFNS Congress, Madrid, Spain, 25-28 August 2008

Extended abstract submission deadline: March 15, 2008

Please submit your abstract via the congress website
http://www.kenes.com/efns/call.asp

Bursary

The EFNS offers up to 200 bursaries consisting of free registration to the congress and four nights hotel accommodation to European neurologists under the age of 35 whose abstract have been accepted.

The EFNS is pleased to inform that it is now also possible for young colleagues from EFNS Associate member societies (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Syria) to apply for bursaries.

Details on how to apply for a bursary can be found here:
http://www.kenes.com/efns/bursaries.asp

EFNS Tournament of Young Neurologists

For the 6th time, a tournament for young neurologists will take place at an EFNS Congress. The tournament will be carried out in two groups, one on clinical related research, and one on basic neurological sciences.

Neurologists in training not older than 35 years are entitled to participate.

The Congress Programme Committee will select 6 candidates for each tournament group on the basis of the contents of the abstracts submitted. All persons selected...
will receive a bursary consisting of free registration to the Congress, up to four nights hotel accommodation, and a travel grant.

The winner of each group will receive the Uschi Tschabitscher Prize for Young neurologists consisting of: free registration at the 13th EFNS Congress in Florence, 12-15 September, 2009, up to four nights hotel accommodation, a travel grant, as well as €1,000.

If you wish to participate, please browse to:
http://www.kenes.com/efns/tournament.asp

13th EFNS Congress, Florence, Italy, 12-15 September 2009

Preliminary Scientific Programme

Main Topics
New insights into the pathophysiology and treatment of headache
Monoclonal antibodies for MS therapy
Molecular and cellular imaging of the CNS
Advances in movement disorders
Dementias and memory disorders
Neurodegeneration strategies in neurological diseases
Small vessel disease: stroke and dementia
New therapeutic avenues in epilepsy
Update in the diagnosis and therapy of neuromuscular diseases

Teaching Courses
Movement disorders – basic clinical knowledge
Movement disorders – advanced
Cerebral small vessel disease
Current concepts in stroke rehabilitation
Spasticity and pain in multiple sclerosis
Multiple sclerosis – advanced
Dementia – basic clinical knowledge
Diagnosis and treatment of the epilepsies
Management of pain in neurology
How to diagnose and treat headache
Traumatology and critical care
Infections
Neurological disorders in pregnancy
Neuro-otology/ vertigo
Peripheral neuropathy
My most difficult cases
Therapy in neurology

Focused Workshops
Management of psychiatric features in Parkinson’s disease
Pathophysiology of hyperkinesias
Update on late onset genetic leucoencephalopathies: from bench to bed and contrary Recommendations on neuropathic pain assessment.
Neurogenic bladder dysfunction
Wernicke’s encephalopathy – an old disease with new clinical scenarios
Epilepsy in brain tumours
Recent molecular and cell therapies in Huntington’s disease
The role of the mitochondrial genome in stroke
The transition from mild cognitive impairment to dementia: insights from in-vivo imaging
Genetics of sporadic ALS
IFN-beta biological activity and antibodies: a practical approach
The dangerous carotid wall
Molecular diagnosis of neurological disorders
Novel antibody targets in the nervous system: implications for pathogenesis, diagnosis and therapy

Further information can be found on the congress website www.efns.org/efns2009.

EFNS Regional Teaching Courses (RTCs)

EFNS-RTCs are specially designed for the purpose to bring neurological standards directly to the countries in the East to avoid that our young colleagues have to travel to expensive congresses.

EFNS Head Office is organising the RTCs together with the EFNS European Co-operation committee and a local organiser.

The courses are held in English and are usually planned for three days. One plenary session with three speakers is held each morning and deals with each of the three main topics of the RTC, i.e. focus on one main topic per day.

There are small tuitional groups in the afternoon (case-based videos, etc.), where participants are encouraged to discuss topics of their interest with the chairpersons. A handout in English is distributed to all participants.

Future Regional Teaching Courses will be held in

2008
Ushgorod, Ukraine
Belgrade, Serbia

2009
Lviv, Ukraine
Tbilisi, Georgia
Yerevan, Armenia

The programmes and application forms can be found on the EFNS website:
http://www.efns.org/content.php?id=158
EFNS Regional Teaching Course
27-29 September 2007 Sovata, Romania

The above mentioned Continuing Medical Education activity gained accreditation from the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, and from the Colegiul Medicilor din Romania.

It took place in Sovata, Romania, 27-29 September, 2007. The language of the lectures, workshops and of the final assessment of participants was English. Each participant received a printed workbook containing the programme and the text of the presentations.

A total number of 124 participants from 4 countries (Romania, Hungary, Serbia and Israel) attended the teaching course.

The scientific programme included the following main topics: multiple sclerosis, stroke, vascular dementia, epilepsy and muscular disorders.

Morning sessions were plenary lectures and afternoon workshops were held mainly based on case-presentations (video-recordings, brief and up-to-point presentations) and interactive discussions (debates, tele-voting, etc).

The social programme was also interesting and well attended; participants and lecturers took part in the folk-music and folkdance-show in the nearby salt mine having had the chance to get acquainted with the distinctive cultural variety of this particular part of Romania.

On the 29th of September all participants had the possibility to fill in a multiple choice questionnaire with 30 questions, each regarding information presented during the teaching course.

Each participant elaborated an evaluation sheet of the lecturers and of the teaching course itself in form of a multiple choice questionnaire. The overall appreciation of the course was positive.

We want to thank the European Federation of Neurological Societies and all lecturers for their support in this teaching course!

Yours respectfully,

Dr. Rodica Balasa and Dr. Szabolcs Szatmari on behalf of the Local Organising Committee

Continuing Medical Education in the European Journal of Neurology

The following articles are available free of charge on http://www.ejns.org/content.php?pid=132

Answer all questions correctly and you will receive one hour of CME. This service is free of charge!

August 2007: The impact of HLA-A and DRB1 on age at onset, disease course and severity in Scandinavian multiple sclerosis patients
Smestad C et al.

September 2007: EFNS Guidelines on Neurostimulation therapy for neuropathic pain
Cruccu G et al.

October 2007: Correlation of a high d-dimer level with poor outcome in traumatic intracranial hemorrhage
Kao-Chang L et al.

November 2007: Report of an EFNS Task Force on management of sleep disorders in neurologic disease (degenerative neurological disorders and stroke)
Jennum P et al.

December 2007: EFNS guideline on diagnosis and management of limb girdle muscular dystrophies
Bushby K et al.

January 2008: Early treatment after a symptomatic event is not associated with an increased risk of stroke in patients undergoing carotid stenting
Gröschel K et al.

February 2008: Relating functional changes during hand movement to clinical parameters in patients with MS in a multi-centre fMRI study
Matthews P et al.

March 2008: Pericranial injection of botulinum toxin type A (Dysport) for tensiontype headache: a multicentre, double-blind, randomized, placebo controlled study
Straube A et al.


The first 3 persons who will answer all questions correctly will receive one copy of the handbook. Winners will be notified by e-mail and their names will be published in the next issue of the EFNS Newsletter.

We congratulate the winner of the last newsletter:
Blaz Koritnik, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Free online access to the European Journal of Neurology for EFNS Members

All EFNS members have free online access to the European Journal of Neurology. To receive your access token and a detailed description of the registration process, please contact Mr. Stephen Smith at Blackwell Publishing: Stephen.smith@oxon.blackwellpublishing.com
Neurological prize for best Norwegian scientific presentation 2007

The Pfizer Neuroscience Prize is awarded each year to the best scientific presentation by a Norwegian neurologist at one of two selected international congresses. The 2007 winner was Magne G Bøe, Department of Neurology, Sarlandet Hospital, Kristiansand for his short communication at the 11th EFNS Congress in Brussels entitled Prednisolone does not reduce headache the first six days of withdrawal. A randomised double-blinded study. Co-authors were Åse Myglund and Rolf Salvesen. Patients with chronic daily headache and medication overuse were examined.

The EFNS congress has been selected as a relevant congress each year, while the other is usually for a neurological sub-speciality. The number of presentations to be judged by the committee, which is appointed by The Norwegian Neurological Association, was this year 40. The scientific quality of the original work presented is the most important factor, but the presentation skills are also evaluated. The prize constitutes 30,000 NOK (approximately 3,500 Euro). The intention of the prize is to stimulate high-quality scientific activity in Norwegian neurology.

Nilis Erik Gilhus, Norway
Professor of Neurology
Prize committee chair

EFNS Fellowship 2006

In 2006, I was granted a fellowship to spend one year at the Department of Neurology of the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam, headed by Prof. M. Vermeulen and I have been welcomed in the movement disorders team. During my stay, we have studied patients with myoclonus-dystonia, whose clinical spectrum encompasses myoclonus, dystonia and psychiatric symptoms in variable combinations. By means of coherence analysis and local field potentials, we attempted to further elucidate the neurophysiological correlates of myoclonus and dystonias in selected regions of the basal ganglia and to find neuropsychiological characteristics that could differentiate between patients with and without a proven genetic aetiology of the disease. We have also investigated the role of sensory integration in dystonia by studying patients with writer’s cramp, and the effect of botulinum toxin treatment on sensory integration. This latter study has been completed, and the results have been presented as a poster at the 10th International Congress of the Movement Disorders Society (held in Kyoto, in October 2006), and recently published as a full-length paper in the journal Clinical Neurophysiology.

However, during this year, my training and research interests have not been restricted to these topics. In fact, being part of a group in which many different aspects of Movement Disorders are investigated with passion and expertise, it becomes difficult to remain confined to a small part of it. This experience allowed me to refine my background knowledge and acquire new research skills and expertise, especially in the field of stereotactic surgery for different movement disorders.

The interaction with each of the members of the movement disorders group gave me the opportunity to appreciate their different human qualities and research abilities and to observe from a privileged point of view the difficult art of integrating each other’s talents and attitudes. No words will be enough to thank Dr. J.D. Speelman and all the members of the movement disorders group, for giving me the opportunity to conduct this educative experience.

I also wish to thank the EFNS for granting me this fellowship and for providing efficient assistance during my stay.

Maria Fiorella Contarino, Italy

9th EFNS Academy Course, 15 - 18 May, 2008

This traditional meeting developed from the previous workshops of European cooperation in neurology. As such, it still preserves two major goals in its principle: Education in selected topics and discussions on the optimal organisation of neurological postgraduate education throughout Europe.

Preliminary programme:
1. Movement disorders
2. Neuroimaging
3. Vertebrogenic disorders

Participants can prepare their own cases for demonstration and discussion.

Contributions to the optimal organisation of neurological care, neurological services and postgraduate education throughout Europe are welcome.

Arrival: Wednesday, May 14th
The lectures are scheduled for the four consecutive days
A half day trip to Prague is planned.
Departure: Monday, May 19th
Capacity: Up to 120 participants. Nominations of delegates by their national neurological societies will be preferred, individual applications are welcome up to the full capacity. Only participation for the whole course will be accepted.

Accommodation, tuition, board and programme are sponsored by the EFNS.
Participants pay only their travel.

All participants will receive a certificate after having finished this course.
http://www.efns.org/content.php?pid=148

Department to Department Cooperation Programme

Last chance to apply: 31 March 2008

Eligible are candidates from all European countries. Applicants must be under the age of 40, fluent in English or in the local language. Awardees from previous years are no more qualified. We ask the candidates to arrange their visits in a department of their choice individually.

66 participants will be selected and each of them will receive a grant up to €1,500.- plus travel expenses up to €300.- (Note: €300.- will only be paid after receipt of your final report). The purpose of this award is to support the accommodation and board expenses in the city of his/her practice. The grant is supposed to allow for a visit of a duration up to six weeks. If a participant is able to accept a low budget board, e.g., a canteen and an accommodation in a college provided by the hosting institute, or perhaps be spending some of his/her own money, it may be possible to stay longer than six weeks in the hosting department.

The application form and detailed information can be found on the EFNS website:
http://www.efns.org/content.php?pid=147