5th EFNS Congress, Copenhagen, October 2000

Neurologists who were brave enough to come to the far North of Europe late in the year did not only find out that the weather can be lovely in Copenhagen even in October but were rewarded by a perfectly organized meeting and an excellent scientific programme. Arvid Carlson, Nobel Laureate in Medicine 2000, honoured the congress by giving a lecture at the opening session on ‘Can we improve the current treatment of Parkinson’s disease?’.

The congress started with thirteen teaching courses. Participants evaluated the courses and the result was more than satisfactory. The nine main topics were: Primary and Secondary Prevention of Stroke; Presurgical Evaluation in Focal Epilepsy; Neuropathic Pain; Controversies in Pathogenetic Mechanisms of Movement Disorders; Headache: Epidemiology and Pathogenesis; Cost-effectiveness of Treatment in Neurology; Vascular and Inflammatory versus Molecular Factors in Dementia; MS – Disease Progression and Addiction Related Neurological Disorders. For the first time lay speakers were invited to give a talk within the framework of main topics. Thirty focused workshops dealt with very specialized neurological problems. Sixty-five submitted abstracts had been accepted for oral presentation and around 500 as posters. The three poster prizes consisting of a grant for attendance of the World Congress of Neurology in London in June 2001 were awarded for the following posters:

- Does the blink reflex R1 arc run through the principle sensory nucleus of the trigeminal nerve? Results of an electrophysiological and post-processing MRI study
  J. J. Marx, S. Fitzek, G. Vucorevic, F. Thömke, P. P. Urban, P. Stoeter and H. C. Hopf
  Mainz, Jena, Germany

- Gender in prediction of intracranial meningiomas' biological behaviour
  T. Mermanishvili, R. Shakarishvili, T. Jorbenadze and D. Gigineishvili
  Tbilisi, Georgia

- The relevance of early electroencephalography (EEG) in acute stroke – a new approach to understand subclinical functional changes
  E. I. Strittmatter, R. D. Mager, B. D. Hoch, S. Behrens and B. Pohlmann-Eden
  Mannheim, Germany; Boston, MA, USA

The programme included special events such as an EFNS–EUREPA workshop, a European Stroke Initiative (EUSI) Symposium, the Symposium Neuroethics, the Symposium Neurology and Arts with musical contributions by members of the Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra and a session of the European Basal Ganglia Club.

The great interest of the pharmaceutical industry in EFNS congresses was demonstrated by fourteen satellite symposia and a large and very well attended exhibition. Moreover Lundbeck invited all congress participants to a splendid performance of ‘Giselle’ at the Copenhagen Opera. The generous support of the industry is highly appreciated by the EFNS.

The EFNS would like to thank all those who have contributed to the success of the congress by presenting lectures and posters. Special thanks goes to the local organizing committee, in particular to Professor Gudrun Boysen and Dr Allen Anderson, for their excellent work.

Important! European Journal of Neurology

We realize that it is still difficult for many neurologists in the European countries in transition to pay for a subscription of the European Journal of Neurology and therefore the Management Committee has decided to offer these colleagues a one-year subscription of the electronic version of the journal free of charge. The application to receive this subscription is very simple. All you have to do is send an e-mail to: headoffice@efns.org and we will put you on the list of recipients.
New EFNS Officers

The term of office of the current EFNS Management Committee will expire in June 2001 and new officers were elected by Council in Copenhagen. From June 2001 onwards, the EFNS will have the following Management Committee:

- President: Wolf-Dieter Heiss, Germany
- Past president: Jes Olesen, Denmark
- Vice presidents: Richard Hughes, UK, Jean-Marc Léger, France, Krzysztof Selmaj, Poland
- Treasurer: Eberhard Deisenhammer, Austria
- Secretary General: Pavel Kalvach, Czech Republic
- Members at large: Isabel Illa, Spain, Gian Luigi Lenzi, Italy
- Chairman of the Congress Programme Committee: Jacques L. De Reuck, Belgium

The Yugoslav Neurological Society – a New EFNS Member

At the EFNS Council meeting in Copenhagen the Yugoslav Neurological Society (YNS) was unanimously accepted as a member society. The YNS takes part in the definition of health policy strategies in accordance with the needs of the population and contributes to health care programmes. The EFNS welcomes the YNS and hopes to be able to give support in the difficult situation after the political change in Yugoslavia. It is expected that it will now be easier for Yugoslav neurologists to participate in all EFNS activities. The EFNS delegate of the YNS is Dr Vera Lukic, Belgrade.

Athens – Venue for EFNS 2005

Four cities competed to host the EFNS Congress in 2005: Athens, Brussels, Düsseldorf and Jerusalem. After presentation of the bids a secret vote was taken at which Council decided with an overwhelming majority in favour of Athens. We are looking forward to collaborating with Professor Panagiota Davaki and the Hellenic Neurological Society for an exciting congress in this historic city.

Institute of Neurology – University College London

Diploma in Clinical Neurology at Queen Square

The Institute of Neurology offers a six month full-time Diploma in Clinical Neurology for doctors intending to practise Clinical Neurology. Candidates for this qualification must have at least one year’s experience in neurology. The course commences in October each year and extends to the end of March. The Institute also offers clinical attachments for doctors with a little more experience.

One free place on the Diploma course and one free place on a 10-week Clinical Attachment course for the autumn term are offered by the Institute of Neurology to doctors nominated by the European Federation of Neurological Societies. Candidates accepted for these free places will not be liable for the course fee, but will be expected to support their living and travelling expenses in London.

Application should be made to:
EFNS Branch Office Prague, Assistant Professor Dr Pavel Kalvach, Department of Neurology, Faculty Hospital, Královské Vinohrady, Šrobárova 50, CZ-100 34 Prague, Czech Republic
Tel/fax: +420 2 6716 3563
E-mail: efn@fnkv.cz
EFNS Newsletter, No. 4 2000

Collaboration Between EFNS and the European Section of the Movement Disorder Society (MDS-ES)

EFNS and MDS-ES have agreed to join forces for the organization of congresses. The MDS-ES will not hold European congresses of its own but Movement Disorders will become a major theme at all EFNS congresses. There will be many other activities such as poster sessions, teaching courses and focused workshops on Movement Disorders. All of these events will be organized by the MDS-ES.

European Society for Clinical Neuropharmacology (ESCNP)

The 5th ESCNP Congress, which took place in Opatija, Croatia, on 17–21 May 2000 under the chairmanship of Professor Leontino Battistin (Italy), was approved for CME by the EFNS. More than 500 participants from all over Europe participated in the scientific programme. Main events were symposia on Alzheimer’s disease, brain ischaemia, Parkinson’s disease, repair mechanisms in brain diseases and neurorehabilitation and pharmacological approaches. The closing lecture was presented by Professor Franz Gerstenbrand, Past-President of the EFNS, on ‘Perspectives of Clinical Neuropharmacology in the New Millennium’. The General Assembly of the ESCNP unanimously elected the new executive committee consisting of: President, L. Battistin (Italy); Vice-Presidents, E. Giacobini (Switzerland) and P. Jenner (UK); Secretary, L. Vécsei (Hungary); and Treasurer, P. Delwaide (Belgium).

The 6th ESCNP Congress will take place in Budapest, Hungary, in May 2002.

For further information, please contact:
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E-mail: vecsei@nepsy.szote.u-szeged.hu

32nd International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education

The 32nd International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education was held in the South-Hungarian city Baja, from 31 August to 2 September 2000, organized by Professor József Czopf. The scientific programme covered a wide range of topics including Neuroethics: clinical drug research, ethical and regulatory issues, general outline of current European recommendations and regulations; Epilepsy: receptors, transmitters and therapy; Stroke: diagnostics, therapy, stroke units; Extrapyramidal disorders, rehabilitation; Reinnervation: growth hormones, gene therapy.

The Danube Lecture on ‘Rehabilitation of Parkinsonism’ was given by Professor Ransmayr (Innsbruck, Austria). Another highlight was the Miskoczy Memorial Lecture by Professor Vizi entitled ‘Far from ‘Cajal-Sherringtons galaxy, nonsynaptic chemical interaction in the CNS and periphery’.

The 33rd International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education will take place in Lublin, Poland, 29 August to 1 September 2001, organized by Professor Stelmasiak.

Information can be obtained from:
Professor Dr Z. Stelmasiak, Department of Neurology, University School of Medicine, 8 Jaczewskiego Street, PL-20-954 Lublin, Poland
Tel/fax: +48 81 742 54 20

Calendar of Events

2001

26th International Stroke Conference
14–16 February, Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA
Information: 26th International Stroke Conference, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231-4596, USA
fax: +1 214 373 3406; http://www.strokeassociation.org

2nd ECNP Workshop: The Impact of Genomic Studies on Neuropsychopharmacology
15–18 March, Nice, France
Information: ECNP Office, PO Box 85410, NL-3508 AK Utrecht, the Netherlands
Tel: +31 30 253 8567; fax: +31 30 253 8586; e-mail: secretariat@ecnp.nl
http://www.ecnp.nl

Heart and Brain – 5th International Conference on Stroke and 2nd Conference of the Mediterranean Stroke Society
21–24 March, Istanbul, Turkey
Information: Professor Dr Natan M. Bornstein, Stroke 2001, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv, IL-61500, Israel
Tel: +972 3 514 00 18/9; fax: +972 3 51 75 674; e-mail: stroke5@kenes.com

Neuroméditerranée III ‘Neuroepidemiology in the Mediterranean Area’
8–10 April, Palermo, Italy
Information: Professor Giovanni Savettieri c/o Serono Symposia, Via Cassilina 125, I-00176 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 70384 513 / 506; fax: +39 06 70384 677;
e-mail: roberta.cenci@serono.com