



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is only a few months ago since we met in Cascais, Portugal, upon the occasion of the XXth ESSFN Congress which marked a new record in ESSFN history – it was the best attended ESSFN Congress ever. Since then the ESSFN board has been busy in further developing several projects. With this spring newsletter which has become a tradition over the past few years we would like to keep you all posted about current affairs and activities.

First of all, I would like to thank our host Antonio Goncalves-Ferreira for organizing such a superb event in Cascais. Together with his local organizing team he secured that the XXth ESSFN Congress was a unique event in a most pleasant environment. The scientific program was at the forefront of our specialty, and I am sure that everyone who was there gathered lots of new information. The attendance this time was far beyond expectations, and it was rather difficult to select the candidates for the poster and oral presentation awards given the high overall quality.

Our society keeps rejuvenating itself constantly. At the Executive Committee meeting and the General Assembly three new members were chosen to join the Executive Committee in the future and to represent their countries: Jorge Guridi from Spain, Kai Lehtimaki from Finland, and Pawel Sokal from Poland. Special thanks go to those leaving the Executive Committee Marek Harat, Miguel Manrique and Juho Tuominen. We will continue to count on their advise in the future.

The officers decided to establish a new working group: the ESSFN Educational Committee under the guidance of Jean Regis was installed to provide European guidelines, programs, courses and a curriculum for added competence in functional and stereotactic neurosurgery and to ensure the high standards for the required training. The group of experts who will join this committee are Marwan Hariz, Jorge Guridi, Angelo Franzini, Jocelyne Bloch, Stephan Chabardes, Massimo Sceratti, and Gaston Schechtmann - to cover the whole variety of our field and also to take care of geographical representation. The committee will work in close collaboration with the recently founded EANS section on Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery and coordinate activities. Another aspect of our society will be represented by the two freshly appointed historians. The historians Marwan Hariz and Joachim K. Krauss will record and collect the history of our society which will also include digitizing historical documents and reprints, and preserve any items related to the history of ESSFN and European functional neurosurgery. The Historians' Corner on the ESSFN website will display some of these documents among them the protocol of the ESSFN founding meeting in 1970 in Freiburg, and a complete list of all ESSFN officers and Executive Committee members over the decades.

The new arrangement with WSSFN, that is that all ESSFN members are automatically WSSFN members has been received very positively. Our common journal Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery continues to do well, and this year the abstracts of our ESSFN congress were published as an electronic supplement making them fully citable. The required changes in the ESSFN Constitution and By-Laws were unanimously approved by the General Assembly in Cascais, in September 2012. In addition to the benefit of being WSSFN members, another issue, the ASSFN - ESSFN mutual benefit plan, was agreed with Konstantin Slavin, current president of the ASSFN, that is from now on there will be a recognition of reciprocity for reduced fees at meetings and conferences. The good relationship with ISIN, the International Society of Intraoperative Neurophysiology, is continued. After the common workshop in Cascais, ESSFN will co-chair and host a session on neurophysiological recording in Cape Town, South Africa, at the ISIN congress in November 2013.

We are proud to announce that the third ESSFN training charter Added Competence in Epilepsy Surgery has been almost finalized, this time in collaboration with UEMS and



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EANS. Special credits go to our secretary Damianos Sakas who worked hard on this project to navigate it through all administrative stages and to achieve consent among all authors and participating societies and boards.

Since the last ESSFN hands-on course on epilepsy surgery was such a great success and applicants outnumbered by far placement positions we decided to repeat this course once more, again in Ghent, Belgium, under the guidance of Dirk van Roost, from October 9 – 12, 2013 (see announcement in this issue). Note, this will also be under the guidance of the ESSFN Educational Committee this year.

Finally, I wish to mention and give my sincere appreciation to one person – Professor Fritz Mundinger, ESSFN founding member, president and honorary president, who was also my teacher and mentor. Professor Mundinger passed away in May, 2012, and it is my distinct honour to remember him in an obituary in this newsletter.

The preparations of the XXIst ESSFN congress from September 17 – 20, 2014, are already on their way. Our local host and congress president Yasin Temel will organize a program with a special emphasis on functional neurosurgery and neuroscience. See you all there,

Joachim K. Krauss
President, ESSFN

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE



Dear Colleagues,

The time that passed since the previous issue of our Newsletter has been a period of extraordinary development and progress for ESSFN. The interest in our Society among clinicians or researchers active in fields related to functional neurosurgery continues to increase.

This is reflected by the attraction of an increased number of applicants for the Society's activities and the steady increase in the number of ESSFN members who are currently 296. Undoubtedly, the appeal of ESSFN is constantly strengthened by the Society's commitment in promoting and ensuring best clinical and surgical practice, research, and education. This commitment is signified by numerous initiatives and projects such as the formulation of the Guidelines and Training Charters, the Research Grant and various other research and publication Awards, the long-established successful Training Courses and, recently, the creation of the Educational Committee chaired by Jean Regis and by the overall efforts to maintain a high profile for the Society with the Newsletter, the website and our significant and successful congresses.

During the recent ESSFN Congress 2012 in Lisboa, we appreciated the significant input from our younger colleagues. These commendable scientific efforts were honored by numerous awards offered by ESSFN including: a) the Research Grant, b) the Publication award on DBS (sponsored by Medtronic), c) the Best Oral Presentation Award, and d) the Best Poster Award. The Board would like to thank all colleagues for their applications for the above Awards. Special thanks go to the members of the Selection Committees, consisted by experts and esteemed colleagues who worked hard in order to select the best contributions among so many high-quality papers and presentations. The names of the awardees and of the members of the selection Committees are listed in another section of this Newsletter. Notably, an official certificate of each ESSFN Award is delivered to every recipient starting from the XXth ESSFN Congress and onwards.

The Training Charter on Epilepsy Surgery Added Competence is finalized and expected to be published in the near future. Moreover, in Psychosurgery, our Treasurer, Prof Bart Nuttin, in collaboration with a group of experts (many members of ESSFN) have finalized a document of consensus guidelines that are expected to define the framework of

surgical practice in this rapidly developing field of functional neurosurgery.

The Congress in Cascais, Lisboa (September 26-29, 2012) has been a great success from all aspects –scientific, financial and social- with the biggest participation ever.

While we are a Society characterized by intellectual dynamism, technological superiority and high human skill, we value to reflect and honour our history, the persons and values that created and shaped ESSFN. In this issue, our President pays special tribute to one of our founding fathers, Prof Fritz Mundinger, who recently passed away. During the Congress in Athens 2010, we presented a movie on the History of ESSFN. In the same spirit of recording and honoring the achievements of our predecessors, and following a proposal of Prof Krauss, a Historians' Corner will be created in the website. If you have in your possession photographs, documents, instruments or anything of historical value, send them to the ESSFN Historians, our President Joachim Krauss and Prof Marwan Hariz or the Secretary. This material could be digitized for the ESSFN Archives and form the material of a historical record of our specialty and of ESSFN activities.

After the scientifically and financially successful Congresses in Athens and Lisbon, which took place in attractive European locations, we look forward to Congress 2014 in the beautiful and historical city of Maastricht, The Netherlands. Please be all there. After that, another historical destination follows, namely Istanbul for our Congress 2016. With regards to ESSFN Congress 2018, three colleagues have expressed great interest in organizing the Congress in their countries, but please feel free to express your own interest and invite all of us to your country!

The Newsletter and website remain important tools to disseminate the mission of our Society. Please send to the Secretary material to be included in the Newsletter or the website. I would kindly ask you to disseminate the Newsletter and information about the activities of our Society to neurosurgeons who practice in fields related to our Society and to encourage other colleagues to apply for our training courses, research and publication awards and join our society as members. We count on your support.

Best personal regards to all of you! See you in Maastricht!

Damianos E. Sakas
Secretary, ESSFN

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 Christoph B. Ostertag
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TREASURER'S MESSAGE

The financial situation of the Society is healthy and it will become considerably stronger when the benefit from the ESSFN Congress in Lisboa is transferred to the account of the Society. Currently, the number of paying ESSFN members exceeds the number that Karger had required in order to allow access to the digital archives of the journal *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery*. Due diligence to the payment of the membership fee by our members allows ESSFN to remain financially healthy committed to its high scientific standards and fulfill its diverse and demanding educational and research initiatives and projects. Furthermore, a strong financial position allows the members of ESSFN to take full advantage of the various membership-related benefits including membership to the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (WSSFN), reduced registration fees to ESSFN or ASSFN Congresses, online access to the digital archives of the journal *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery* and many others.



Bart Nuttin
 Treasurer

ESSFN GRANTS AND AWARDS 2012

During the ESSFN Congress 2012 that took place in Cascais, Portugal we had the opportunity to appreciate the input from our younger colleagues. The awards offered by ESSFN included:

- the Research Grant,
- the Best Publication Award on DBS (sponsored by Medtronic),
- the Best Oral Presentation Award, and
- the Best Poster Award.

The Committees of colleagues who selected the contributions to be awarded, the names of the awardees and the titles of the works that received the awards are described below.

2012 ESSFN Research Grant

Committee: A-L. Benabid, A. Lozano, Y. Lazorthes (€ 20.000)

Yasin Temel, Maastricht, The Netherlands:

"Neurostimulation to promote neurobiological recovery in stroke"

2012 ESSFN Best Publication Award on DBS – sponsored by Medtronic

Committee: F. Alesch, D. Van Roost, Y. Kanpolat (2 x € 3000)

Stephan Chabardes, Grenoble, France:

"Subthalamic neuronal firing in obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and Parkinson's Disease (PD)" (Annals of Neurology)

Arthur Andre, Paris, France:

"Functional parcellation of the lateral mesencephalus" (Journal of Neuroscience)

2012 ESSFN Best Oral Presentation Award

Committee: M. Hariz, A. Franzini, P. Blomstedt (2 x € 1000)

Joshua Pepper, London, UK:

"Anterior capsulotomy versus DBS for OCD; a review of the literature"

Volker Coenen (Bonn, Germany):

"DBS of the human medial forebrain bundle (SLMFB-DBS) for refractory depression – Results from the foresee study"

2012 ESSFN Best Poster Presentation Award

Committee: M. Staal, K. Lehtimäki, J. Guridi (2 x € 500)

Per Almqvist (Stockholm, Sweden):

"Multimodal treatment algorithms for trigeminal neuralgia: a retrospective review"

Daniela Falk (Kiel, Germany):

"Subjective patient perception of DBS: the Kiel experience"

6TH ESSFN HANDS-ON COURSE EPILEPSY SURGERY

OCTOBER 9-12, 2013 - GHENT, BELGIUM

- LECTURES** EPILEPSY SYNDROMES, PRESURGICAL NON-INVASIVE AND INVASIVE EVALUATION, ANATOMY OF AND SURGICAL APPROACHES TO THE TEMPORAL LOBE, SELECTIVE AMYGDALOHIPPOCAMPECTOMY, RADIOSURGERY, DISCONNECTIONS, FUNCTIONAL HEMISPHERECTOMY, VAGUS NERVE STIMULATION, DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION, COMPLICATIONS AND REOPERATIONS
- HANDS-ON** SUBDURAL ELECTRODES, MULTIPLE SUBPIAL TRANSECTION, TOPECTOMY, TEMPORAL LOBECTOMY, SELECTIVE AMYGDALOHIPPOCAMPECTOMY, CALLOSOTOMY, HEMISPHERIC DISCONNECTION, VAGUS NERVE STIMULATION
- LOCATION** NH HOTEL GENT BELFORT, HOOGPOORT 63, B-9000 GHENT, BELGIUM
INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY, LEDEGANCKSTRAAT 35, B-9000 GHENT, BELGIUM



"PILGRIMAGE OF THE EPILEPTICS TO THE CHAPEL AND BRIDGE AT MOLENBEEK", BY PIETER BREUGHEL THE YOUNGER, 16TH CENTURY. REPRODUCED BY HENDRICUS HONDIUS ON COLORED COPPER ENGRAVING (1642)

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
DIRK VAN ROOST, FRANK DEWAELE

INVITED FACULTY

R. ACHTEN, P. BOON, S. CHABARDÈS, H. CLUSMANN, O. DELALANDE, F. DEWAELE, J. GOFFIN, A. GONÇALVES-FERREIRA, J.K. KRAUSS, J. MAI, C. RAFTOPOULOS, J. RÉGIS, D. SAKAS, J. SCHRAMM, J. VAN LOON, W. VAN PAESCHEN, D. VAN ROOST, K. VONCK

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

J.K. KRAUSS, J. RÉGIS, D. SAKAS, R. SCHURMAN, B. NUTTIN, D. VAN ROOST, A. GONÇALVES-FERREIRA.

REGISTRATION FEE - 300 €

ADVANCED RESIDENTS AND YOUNG NEUROSURGEONS WITH SPECIAL INTEREST IN EPILEPSY SURGERY. PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ESSFN MEMBERS OR APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP. SUPPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED. LIMITED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AND GRANTS.

APPLICATION WITH CV, LETTER OF MOTIVATION AND LETTER OF SUPPORT MUST BE SENT BY E-MAIL BEFORE **JUNE 15, 2013**

EITHER TO:

DIRK.VANROOST@UGENT.BE

OR TO THE ESSFN PRESIDENT:

KRAUSS.JOACHIM@MH-HANNOVER.DE.

HOTEL ROOMS AT REDUCED RATE HAVE BEEN RESERVED AT THE VENUE. FOR CHEAPER ROOMS THE LOCAL ORGANIZER CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION.

CONGRESSES and COURSES under the AUSPICES of ESSFN

Second International Congress on Treatment of Dystonia

May 8-11, 2013, Hannover, Germany

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| | <p>SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TREATMENT OF DYSTONIA</p> <p>SATELLITE EVENT FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REHABILITATION OF DYSTONIA</p> <p>2013</p> <p>HANNOVER - GERMANY</p> | | <p>Invitation</p> <p>Dear Colleagues,</p> <p>Dystonias are amongst the most common movement disorders. Botulinum toxin and deep brain stimulation have revolutionized their therapy. However, there are still considerable unmet therapeutical needs. This was the reason to organise the First International Congress on Treatment of Dystonia in the year 2010. The response was overwhelming: More than 450 participants from over 45 countries came to Hannover for an intense 3 day program. With this encouragement we are now calling for the second congress of this series. With 3 years in between we believe there is now ample new data to discuss. For the first time we are able to reach out to rehabilitation: The First International Conference on Rehabilitation of Dystonia will be incorporated as a pre-meeting satellite event.</p> <p>We hope that this meeting will continue to serve as an open platform for all of us who want to collaborate for improving the future of patients with dystonias. We are looking forward to welcoming you in Hannover in May 2013!</p> <p>Best regards, Eckart Altenmüller Dirk Dressler Joachim K. Krauss</p> |
|  |  |  | <p>General Information</p> <p>Congress Organisation: INTERPLAN Congress, Meeting & Event Management AG Office Hamburg, Kaiser-Wilhelm-Str. 93, D-20355 Hamburg, Germany Phone: +49 (0) 40 3250 9230; Fax: +49 (0) 40 3250 9244 E-mail: dystonia2013@interplan.de</p> <p>Congress Venue: Hannover Congress Centrum (HCC) Theodor-Heuss-Platz 1-3, D-30175 Hannover Phone: +49 (0) 511 8113 0; Fax: +49 (0) 511 8113 429; E-mail: info@hcc.de</p> <p>Congress Language: The official language of the Congress is English.</p> <p>CME Certificate: An application has been submitted to the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) to provide accreditation for medical specialists. The CME Certificate will be supplied to participants on request.</p> <p>Exhibition: An exhibition will be held during the Congress.</p> <p>Abstract Submission: All participants of this congress are cordially invited to submit abstracts for oral presentations and / or poster presentations. Abstract acceptance will be notified from April 2nd, 2013.</p> <p>Submission Deadline 18th March 2013: Please submit your abstract via this link: www.abstractserver.de/hhdyst2013/absmgm</p> |
| | <p>For further information www.treatment-of-dystonia.org</p> <p>May 8th – 11th, 2013 Hannover Congress Centrum</p> | | |

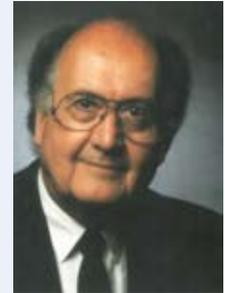
ESSFN HANDS-ON COURSES 2003 - 2013

| | Neurosurgical Field | City | Co-ordinator |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 2013, October 9-12 | Epilepsy Surgery | Ghent, Belgium | Prof. Dirk Van Roost |
| 2011, October 27-29 | Epilepsy Surgery | Ghent, Belgium | Prof. Dirk Van Roost |
| 2009, October 8-10 | Deep brain stimulation for movement disorders | Tolochenaz, Switzerland | Prof. Marc Levivier |
| 2007, November 12-14 | Radiosurgery | Marseilles, France | Prof. Jean Regis |
| 2005, September 15-16 | Surgery for pain | Toulouse, France | Prof. Yves Lazorthes |
| 2003, October 17-18 | Movement Disorders Surgery | Tolochenaz, Switzerland | Prof. Andries Bosch |

OBITUARY

FRITZ MUNDINGER (1924 – 2012)

It is with sadness to announce that Professor Fritz (Karl Friedrich) Mundinger passed away in May, 2012. He was not only a pioneer in functional neurosurgery, but also in nuclear medicine and radiation biology. He was an inventor of medical devices, founding member of the ESSFN, President and Honorary President of the ESSFN, and besides a knight of the order of templars and an aficionado of culture, mediterranean art and music. Prof. Mundinger was born 1924 in Freiburg in southwest Germany, the city where he developed his career and which became the major hub in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery in Germany for many decades.



Early in his career, before he came to neurosurgery, he studied the heredity of the human singing voice. Then, in 1950 he decided to become a resident in the Department of Neurosurgery in Freiburg, Germany. It was only few years earlier, that Riechert had become Professor of Neurosurgery in Freiburg and had commenced a close collaboration with Behringer, Jung and Hassler. When Mundinger joined the department, Hassler had already established his classification of the thalamus based on cytoarchitectonic features. Furthermore, there was a strong interest in developing functional neurosurgery and using other targets than the pallidum. In this unique setting, the young resident first worked on the perfection of a stereotactic frame, which soon became known as the Riechert-Mundinger frame. Only one year later, the first thalamotomy for tremor ever was performed based on the studies of Hassler in a patient with tremor-dominant Parkinson's disease. The surgeon was Fritz Mundinger and the other persons present in the OR were Riechert and Hassler. Nevertheless, when the efficacy of this operation was reported two years later in the German journal *Der Nervenarzt* the authors were Hassler and Riechert. Mundinger's name was not mentioned as it was not the custom at that time to include residents as co-authors.

In the 1950s, Mundinger was extremely productive working both on the development of methods for interstitial brachytherapy of brain tumors and on the refinement and development of procedures to treat movement disorders. In the early 1960s, "subthalamotomy" was added to the armamentarium to treat Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders. While the target actually was the zona incerta and the neighboring fields of Forel, neuropathological studies published in the book "Stereotaxis in Parkinson Syndrome", edited by Hassler, Mundinger and Riechert, showed that some of these lesions actually extended into the subthalamic nucleus. In the 1960s, before levodopa was introduced in daily practice, Freiburg became the early epicentre of functional neurosurgery in Germany and as many as 5 thalamotomies were performed daily. Visitors from all over the world came to see Mundinger operate and learn about his technique.

In September 1970, during a combined meeting of the International Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery and the German Society of Neurosurgery in Freiburg, out of dissatisfaction with the policies of the international society at that time, several European neurosurgeons decided to found a new society: the European Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. Among the founding members were Mundinger, Gillingham, Riechert, Leksell, Laitinen, Siegfried, Gybels, Guiot and others. It was only a few years later, that Mundinger became the second President of the ESSFN and hosted the third ESSFN congress in September, 1977, in Freiburg.

Deep brain stimulation for treatment of "torticollis spasmodicus" was introduced by Mundinger in the mid 1970s. The target was the thalamus and all seven patients benefited from chronic stimulation which was delivered via a radiofrequency coupled external pacemaker. The results were published in German in the journal *Medizinische Klinik* in 1977. This remarkable study and its publication were well ahead of their time and therefore, in addition to the fact that the results were published in German, they did not attract much attention, and were forgotten later.

Mundinger was also a pioneer in functional stereotactic neurosurgery for treatment of psychiatric disorders. In particular, he performed radiofrequency lesions for patients with obsessive compulsive disorder. While he was hesitant to perform psychosurgery on a wider range, a leading article with the title *Seele unterm Messer* (soul under knife) appeared in the German magazine *Der Spiegel* showing him while performing a stereotactic procedure on the title page. He was not happy with this article conveying both lust for sensation and critical appreciation of the use and possible misuse of psychosurgery. Soon thereafter, out of frustration with the report and in light of the more and more negative public image of psychosurgery in Germany, he abandoned this field completely.

He made numerous technical innovations and he was the father of several inventions over the decades. He worked extensively on early radiosurgery for pituitary tumors and he constructed new machinery for interstitial radiosurgery which became known as the Gammamed. In 1987, the count of stereotactic operations which had been performed in Freiburg reached the number 10.000.

Mundinger was active also in the last years of his career as director of the Department of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery in Freiburg. He considered to perform neurotransplantation for Parkinson's disease, however, discarded the idea because he was unsure about the results published at that time. Together with his co-workers and young residents at that time, including the author of this obituary, the longterm results of thalamotomy for a variety of movements disorders were obtained and published, this time, in the early 1990s in the English literature.

After his retirement from the University of Freiburg, he was still active and performed surgery in a teaching hospital in Freiburg and occasionally in Rome, Italy. He used many opportunities to spend time in this south European country by which he was attracted much. After his final retirement from professional activities he was bravely fighting against several ailments with a sharp mind and a passionate soul until the very end. He passed away peacefully on May 23, 2012 in Freiburg. Requiescat in pace.

Joachim K. Krauss, MD

Professor of Neurosurgery
President, ESSFN

PROCEEDINGS of the ESSFN GENERAL ASSEMBLY September 28, 2012, Cascais, Lisboa, Portugal

Proceedings prepared by Damianos E. Sakas, edited by Joachim K. Krauss

Minutes of the General Assembly in Athens, Greece (24 September, 2010)

The minutes of the General Assembly in Athens, 24 September 2010, are approved.

President's report

The President informs the members that Mr Martin, the Chartered Accountant, has issued his report on the financial state of the Society. The Treasurer, Bart Nuttin and two Executive Committee members, Professors Linderoth and Galanda, checked the report and found it well prepared and in good order.

With regard to the relationship with WSSFN and ASSFN, the President informs the members that the new agreement between ESSFN and WSSFN has been received very well. Both ESSFN and ASSFN have the same arrangements with regard to the journal *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery*. With respect to the participation of ESSFN members to the Meetings of the AASFN, it is agreed they should be offered reduced registration fees. This is going to be a new permanent arrangement that would apply vice versa. Following a proposal of the Board, the Executive Committee has approved the increase in the membership fees from 100 to 120 Euro for active members and from 50 to 70 Euro for resident members. The President states that this increase is reasonable and reflects the contribution ESSFN should provide to WSSFN. He points out that with this new arrangement the ESSFN members have many privileges in WSSFN including Newsletter, reduced registration fees, eligibility to apply for positions and awards, etc.

Discussion follows on the changes required in the ESSFN By Laws. The President describes that Rick Schuurman has studied the By Laws of the two societies, i.e. ESSFN and WSSFN, and communicated to the other Officers his proposal for the required changes. The indicated changes have been approved by the Executive Committee. The Secretary presents to the participants the required changes in the By Laws and how the text should be modified. No criticism is raised and all participants vote in favor of the proposed changes in the ESSFN By Laws.

On the relationship of ESSFN with EANS, the President informs the members that, a meeting took place between the two sides at the EANS Congress 2011 in Rome. EANS was represented by Prof Schramm, the Ex-President and Prof Benes the current President and the ESSFN by the President, Prof Krauss, and the Secretary, Prof Sakas. The

two societies signed an agreement for future collaboration, particularly, with respect to the newly formed EANS Section of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. This Section is currently consisted entirely by ESSFN members with Massimo Sceratti as Chairman, and Joachim Krauss, Giovanni Broggi, Jean Regis, Damianos Sakas and Marwan Hariz as members.

The President also refers to the collaboration of ESSFN with the International Society for Intraoperative Neuromonitoring (ISIN). Starting in Athens, Greece in 2010, a combined ESSFN/ISIN Session in an ESSFN Congress takes place for second time this year in Lisboa. Furthermore, ESSFN members will have reduced registration fees in ISIN Congresses.

After that, the President informs the participants on the progress related to the formation of an Educational Committee that would be consisted mainly by members of the Executive Committee with the Vice President, Jean Regis, as Chairman. The President describes that according to the ESSFN policy a Research Grant and several Awards will be bestowed during the XXth Congress including: a) two Best Publication on DBS Awards (sponsored by Medtronic), b) two Best Oral Presentation Awards and c) two Best Poster Presentation Awards. The President also expresses his satisfaction with the high number of submissions for the ESSFN Research Grant and the Best Publication on DBS Awards 2012.

The President announces the replacement of long-serving Executive Committee members with new colleagues and that Drs Jorge Guridi, Pawel Sokal and Kai Lethimaki have been accepted as the new representatives of Spain, Poland and Finland, respectively. The new members of the Executive Committee are accepted by the General Assembly without other suggestions. The President expresses the gratitude of the Society to the retiring members of the Ex-Com, i.e. Miguel Manrique, Marek Harat and Juho Tuominen for their contribution to the ESSFN.

The President also informs the members on the progress on the formulation of Psychosurgery Guidelines. According to the report by Bart Nuttin, the guidelines have received the contributions and approval by several societies and organizations. They are virtually finalized, and few final comments are expected from a remaining small number of contributors before they are forwarded for printing.

The President informs the members on the issue raised by Prof Sam Eljamel for a separate representation of Scot-

land in the Executive Committee, i.e. independently of the UK. The Executive Committee reviewed the policy on the representation of countries, states or regions in Europe and, in view of that policy, the great majority of the Executive Committee members did not vote in favor of that proposal. Therefore, Scotland would continue to be represented in the Executive Committee by the representative of UK. Furthermore, as a general rule the Ex-Committee approved the Board's proposal that one country can be represented separately in the ESSFN Executive Committee if at least five citizens of this country have been registered as members of the ESSFN.

Secretary's report

The Secretary announces that there has been a further substantial increase in the number of ESSFN members who are now 296. He points out that this is due to the successful organization of the Training Course in Epilepsy Surgery in Ghent, the increased number of applicants for the ESSFN Research Grant and Awards during the XXth ESSFN Congress in Lisbon and the overall efforts to maintain a high profile for the Society with the publication of the Newsletter, the Training Charters, the website and the organization of successful congresses.

The Secretary informs the members on the Awards to be bestowed during the XX Congress and the selected members of the ESSFN for the various Award Committees. The Awards with their corresponding Committees (in brackets) are as follows: a) Research Grant (Drs A. Benabid, A. Lozano, Y. Lazorthes), b) Best Publication on DBS (Drs F. Alesch, Y. Kanpolat, D. van Roost), c) Best Oral Presentation (Drs P. Blomstedt, A. Franzini, M. Hariz), and d) Best Poster Presentation (Drs M. Staal, K. Lehtimaki, J. Guridi). An official certificate of the Award is going to be delivered to all recipients of the various ESSFN Awards, starting from the XXth ESSFN Congress and onwards.

Then, the Secretary informs the General Assembly members about the issue raised by Dr Zvi Israel regarding the coincidence of ESSFN Congresses with major religious holidays such as Yom Kippur. Sakas explains that it is frequently difficult for the ESSFN Board to find a 4-day period in September which would not coincide with either other important neurosurgical meetings that usually take place during the same period of the year (such as the CNS Congress and the biannual EANS Congress) or major religious holidays. Nevertheless, the Secretary ensured Dr Israel and the members that the ESSFN Board will make any possible effort to avoid such problems in the future, starting from the forthcoming ESSFN Congress 2014 in The Netherlands.

Treasurer's report

The Treasurer informs the Executive Committee that the financial situation of the society is healthy. He states, however, that the financial balance will improve when the benefit of the current XXth Congress is transferred to the account of the Society. Bart Nuttin informs the ExCom members that the current number of ESSFN paying members is 225,

higher than the number of 200 paying members required by Karger in order to allow access to the digital archives of the journal *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery*. Then, the Treasurer informs the General Assembly members that there is a list of 31 members that have not paid their membership fees for a period longer than six years. Following the President's proposal, it has been agreed that these members should be first notified about their overdue fees and, then, if they do not respond should be removed from the ESSFN membership list.

Membership

It is proposed to explore suitable methods to increase membership. The Secretary informs the members that, following Prof Meyerson's proposal, all participants to the current Congress will be approached by e-mail after the Congress and asked to become members of the Society.

Website

The website has been enriched by the movie titled "History of ESSFN", the updated poster of ESSFN membership across Europe, and announcements of scientific events. Moreover, the President raises the issue that important files, documents, photographs etc of historical interest related to the Society should be collected. These should be digitalized in order to be preserved and form the "Archives of the Society". Additionally, he points out that Profs Lazorthes and Meyerson, ex-Presidents of the Society, are keen to provide a considerable amount of records related to the Society that would consist a valuable source of information for future reference. Then, Prof Krauss reports on the decision of forming a "History Committee" that will work towards the collection and digitalization of the ESSFN's Archives. The Executive Committee has decided to nominate colleagues with a proven interest and expertise in neurosurgical history to serve as "ESSFN Historians". Hence, the members of the History Committee will include the two ESSFN Historians, i.e. Profs Joachim Krauss, and Marwan Hariz, who will be assisted by Dr. Ioannis Panourias. In addition, a "Historian's Corner" will be created in the website.

Newsletter

The Secretary announces that it is the intention of the Board that next issue (No8) to be circulated in Spring 2013. The Secretary states that the contents would include: the standard reports, advertisements of activities of the Society and obituaries to distinguished colleagues who recently passed away. Furthermore, the Secretary invites all participants to send material regarding scientific or social activities taking place in their countries in order to be included in the Newsletter. Finally, the Secretary expresses his hope that all necessary texts would become available as soon as possible in order to be forwarded to the publisher.

Journal *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery*

The President expresses the general feeling of satisfaction

he gathers from colleagues and ESSFN members that the journal *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery* is now the official journal of the Society and with all other related arrangements. The President informs the participants that, starting with the current Congress, the Abstracts will be published in electronic form in the journal *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery*, at considerably lower cost compared to previous arrangements when hard copies were produced.

Training Charter on Epilepsy Surgery Added Competence

The Secretary informs the participants on the progress that has been made in the production of the Training Charter on Epilepsy Surgery. He reports that the text of the Charter has almost been finalized with the contribution of members of the ESSFN Board and other colleagues with expertise in epilepsy surgery, notably Prof Schramm. The final draft has been sent to representatives from UEMS and EANS, namely Profs van Loon and Cunha e Sa, who considered it as an important step forward but commented that final decisions should be made during the meeting of ESSFN-UEMS-EANS representatives in Bratislava, Slovakia (October 27, 2012). The Secretary is going to attend this Meeting to present and support ESSFN positions on the Charter.

ESSFN Training Course on Epilepsy Surgery 2013

The President informs the members on the successful organization of the Training Course on Epilepsy Surgery in 2011. In 2013, the Training Course will have the same topic and will take place during the period 10-12 October 2013 in the same Anatomy Laboratory of the University and the same hotel in Ghent, as happened in 2011. The Executive Committee, taking into account the considerable expenses that are required for the organization of such a demanding scientific training course has agreed to increase the registration fee from 100 Euro to the amount of 300 Euro.

ESSFN Congress 2012

It is announced, that following a report by Antonio Gonalves-Ferreira, there have been more than 600 registered colleagues, before the Opening Ceremony, estimating the final number of registrations would exceed the number of 650. Everybody expresses his satisfaction with this very positive development for the Society.

ESSFN Congress 2014

The President informs the participants that Dr Visser Vanderwalle has recently moved to the Dept of Neurosurgery in Cologne, Germany and, therefore, she would not be able to serve as chair of the Organizing Committee of the next ESSFN Congress 2014 originally scheduled to take place in Maastricht, The Netherlands. The President comments

that regardless of the change in the person initially nominated as Chairman, the Congress should take place in the Netherlands, the country of the neurosurgical society that had been awarded the privilege of organizing the ESSFN Congress 2014. After extensive discussion and secret voting, in the Executive Committee Meeting, it was decided that the Congress should take place in Maastricht, as originally planned, with Dr Yasin Temel serving as Chair of the Organizing Committee. Dr Temel is invited to the podium. He thanks the Executive Committee for their decision and invites the members to Maastricht. He states that, in his opinion, the Congress is a Dutch project and effort rather than a Maastricht's group project. Moreover, he expresses the view that a new approach in the forthcoming Congress could be adopted thus promoting the Congress as a junction of functional neurosurgery with neuroscience and, hence, invite the contribution of many more neuroscientists compared to previous congresses.

ESSFN Congress 2016

The Secretary informs the participants that there had been three applicants for the ESSFN Congress 2016, i.e. Drs Savas (Istanbul, Turkey), Eljamel (Dundee, Scotland) and Barcia (Madrid, Spain). The ESSFN Board, following an evaluation of their applications, gave priority to the bids of Istanbul and Madrid. Drs Savas and Barcia gave a five-minute presentation each to the Executive Committee supporting their application to host the ESSFN Congress 2016. The members of the Executive Committee discussed extensively the two applications and then, via an open ballot, Istanbul was selected as the hosting city. After this announcement, Dr Savas is invited to give a five-minute presentation in the General Assembly of the XXth ESSFN Congress inviting the members to Istanbul, Turkey in 2016.

ESSFN Congress 2018

Drs Barcia and Eljamel give a 3-minute presentation in the General Assembly expressing their interest to host the ESSFN Congress 2018. The other members are asked whether they would they be willing to host the Congress 2018 in their countries. At this moment, Dr Istvan Valalik comes to the podium and expresses his interest in hosting ESSFN Congress 2018 in Budapest, Hungary and informs the participants that he will prepare soon a comprehensive bid to submit to the ESSFN Board. All three applicants accept to submit detailed presentations of their bids in due course.

Matters arising

No other issues are raised.

Date of next meeting

The next General Assembly will take place in Maastricht during the XXIth ESSFN Congress, in 2014.

2010 ESSFN RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT REPORT

Dear Colleagues,

My colleagues at the department of Neurosurgery in Athens and I are deeply honoured for having been selected to receive the 2010 ESSFN Research Grant on the occasion of the XIX ESSFN Congress in Athens.

Our research project: "Transcranial Alternating Current Stimulation (tACS) effects on Cognitive Event-Related Potentials (ERPs) in patients with Persistent Vegetative State (PVS) or Minimally Conscious State (MCS)" was a clinical trial on a non-invasive stimulation technology. It aimed to assess the effects of tACS in the cognitive electrophysiological responses of patients who are in persistent vegetative state (PVS) or minimally conscious state (MCS). This study was part of a larger research line that we have been involved over the past six years, investigating brain states and cognitive functions of patients in PVS or MCS.

Initially, we reviewed the available literature and recorded all the brain nuclei and circuits participating in consciousness. Damage of these brain areas could result in impairment in awareness in patients with PVS or MCS.

Following this, EEG cognitive event-related potentials (ERPs) for a semantic oddball paradigm (two different categories of words) were recorded from six healthy volunteers once, and from ten patients (6 in PVS, 4 in MCS aged between 21 and 62 years) before and immediately after (i) 20 minutes of 1 mA tACS at 15 Hz (real stimulation), and (ii) 30 seconds of 1 mA tACS at 15 Hz (sham). Both groups received tACS on the scalp overlying the primary sensorimotor cortex bilaterally. The two conditions (real vs. sham stimulation) were counterbalanced across participants and set one week apart.

Healthy volunteers showed significantly different N400 and P600 ERPs for the rare word category, more evident over central and posterior electrodes. Some patients showed similar electrophysiological reactions, but there was no clear evidence that one session of tACS affects cognition in these patients, as measured by cognitive ERPs.

It was a privilege to present the results at the successful XX ESSFN Congress in Cascais, Lisbon, Portugal 2012. The ESSFN Research Grant covered all the expenses for the EEG equipment and materials plus the salaries for the neuropsychologists who set up the ERP paradigm, and supervised and assessed the patients during the stimulation period. We are in the process of publishing two papers on our results and we think that our findings could encourage further research and deserve the attention of the ESSFN community.

On behalf of my co-workers, I would like to express our deep appreciation to ESSFN for its support.

Stefanos Korfias

Department of Neurosurgery, University of Athens
Evangelismos General Hospital, Athens, Greece



2012 ESSFN RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

At the XXth Congress of ESSFN in Cascais (Lisbon, Portugal), our research project entitled "Neurostimulation to promote neurobiological recovery in stroke" was selected for the 2012 ESSFN research grant. We are very pleased by this award and are grateful to the ESSFN. We expect that this meaningful grant will stimulate our research project substantially.

Our research project aims to restore neurological functions by repairing the damaged neuronal network caused by stroke utilizing a specific neurostimulation paradigm in animal models. Stroke is the third leading cause of death and the most common cause of disability in US (Brown et al., 2008) and the second leading cause of death in Europe (Giampaoli et al., 2007). Even with effective thrombolysis, resulting in lower mortality rates, most patients with ischaemic stroke will have neurological deficits (Zhang and Chopp, 2009). The only beneficial therapy for patients with residual motor deficits is physiotherapy/rehabilitation therapy. In this respect, motor cortex (MC) stimulation as a potential therapy has been investigated in a randomized clinical study and was found to be not effective (the early terminated Everest study). The stimulation parameters used in this study, however, were based on pain-based mechanisms. In our project, we will use a specific neurostimulation paradigm of the MC, which has the potency to activate neurogenesis-related processes, as shown by our pilot study (Jahanshahi et al, submitted). In this project we will further characterize this stimulation paradigm in *in vitro* preparations and later in animal models of stroke. We will also identify the molecular and neurochemical factors mediating MC stimulation-induced activation of neurogenesis. We see this multi-level interdisciplinary research project as a critical step towards the further development of this potential treatment in clinical practice and its future application in stroke.

We hope to share our research results with you at the next ESSFN Congress in Maastricht.

Yasin Temel

Departments of Neurosurgery and Neuroscience,
Maastricht University Medical Center, Maastricht, The Netherlands

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XXI ESSFN CONGRESS ANNOUNCEMENT, MAASTRICHT, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

With great pleasure, we announce the XXI Congress of the European Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, which will be held in Maastricht, The Netherlands, on 17-20 September 2014. The venue is the Maastricht Exhibition and Conference Centre (MECC), providing excellent facilities and state-of-the-art services. It is strategically located between the old center of the city, which is easily accessible, and the business area. Maastricht is one of the oldest cities in the Netherlands with well-preserved cultural heritage, and Maastricht University, being the most international University of the Netherlands, has a tradition in Clinical and Experimental Functional and Stereotactic Neurosurgery.

By accepting the task of organising the XXI Congress, we aim to continue the successful series of previous ESSFN meetings. We are motivated to put together a scientifically appealing program and hope to create an active platform to exchange

and discuss the latest research results and concepts in the fields of movement disorders, psychiatric disorders, pain, epilepsy, radiosurgery, neuronavigation and intraoperative monitoring. The most recent developments in different surgical technologies varying from closed-loop deep brain stimulation to gene- and cell-based therapies and relevant diagnostic methods will be highlighted. Particular emphasis will be put on the translational nature of the scientific program which will be combined by authoritative lectures from clinician and basic scientists.

We look forward to hosting you in Maastricht.



Yasin Temel
Chairman, Organizing Committee

XX ESSFN CONGRESS REPORT, CASCAIS, 2012



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The XX Congress of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ESSFN) took place in Cascais, on the Lisbon coast, from the 26th to the 29th September 2012. The same coast from where, centuries ago, Portuguese seafarer explorers sailed the world creating new navigation tools for

the earth stereotaxy, like the ocean astrolabe. The organization of this Congress was inspired by the spirit of Egas Moniz, the Portuguese pioneer of Functional Neurosurgery and Nobel Prize laureate in 1949 for Psychosurgery, which he developed at the Lisbon School of Medicine.

This Congress was a great scientific meeting: it was attended by 693 participants from 50 different countries of all continents, 501 out of them neurosurgeons dedicated to this worldwide most expanding field of Neurosurgery; nineteen outstanding industry companies provided a major support that enabled us to achieve a high level of organization to this event.

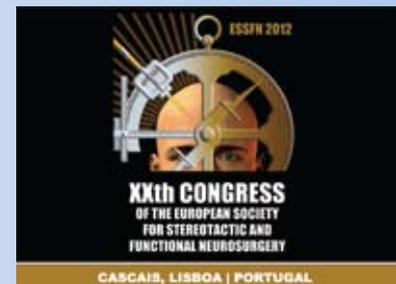
The topics of the scientific program extended over a multitude of subjects such as movement disorders, epilepsy, pain, psychosurgery, neuroncology, radiosurgery, neuromodulation, neuromonitoring, neurotransplantation, neuroimaging and navigation, function-guided surgery, technical and technological developments, and basic science. The program included one joint session with the International Society for Intraoperative Neurophysiology (ISIN) and another one with the TransEuro Consortium on Neurotransplantation. A special session dedicated to Research from the Industry also took place, as well as a pre-congress satellite symposium on DBS indications and techniques, and three luncheon seminars (one on DBS approaches, one on Tractography and one on Accuracy in imaging, stimulation and ablation) were organized by different sponsors. For the first time in ESSFN Congresses, two breakfast seminars were included in the program: one was a basic science session, the

other one was a solve-the-case session. Furthermore, there were 5 plenary sessions where 17 main lectures were presented by international invited speakers on a wide range of topics. Among the plenary lectures it is worth to mention those given by

some distinguished ESSFN and non-ESSFN members: "Neural correlates of feeling states" by Antonio Damasio, "The Anatomy of the Brain Rewarding Circuits" by Jurgen Mai, "Functionally guided surgery for low-grade gliomas resection" by Hugues Duffau, "Temporal lobe epilepsy, older and newer approaches" by Andre Olivier, "extratemporal epilepsy" by Johannes Schramm, "Past and future of Functional Neurosurgery" by Andres Lozano, "Brain-machine interface" by A.L. Benabid, "Egas moniz, the man and the myth" by J. Lobo-Antunes. A total number of 175 free oral communications and 94 posters were presented along 18 parallel sessions, most of them in three simultaneous rooms.

Globally considered, it was a successful meeting with a high number of participations and presentations (higher and higher every two years), a large amount of technical news and a very good scientific level (without despising the final positive financial balance for our Society). Indeed the ESSFN Congress is more and more an outstanding event in the world of the Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery.

I wish Yasin Temel, the chairman of the Organizing Committee of the next XXI ESSFN Congress to be held in 2014 in Maastricht, the best success to prepare and execute this future event where we'll be pleased to meet again, I hope.

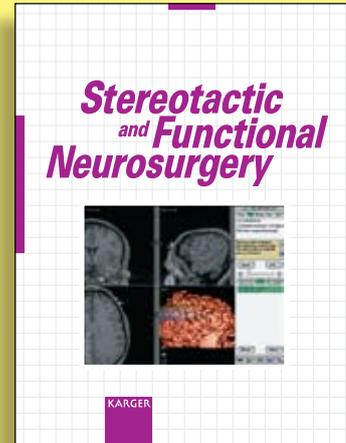


Antonio Gonçalves-Ferreira
Chairman of the Organizing Committee

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