

ESSFN NEWSLETTER

Number 4

March 2007

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Fritz Munding
Gian Franco Rossi
Björn A. Meyerson
Christoph B. Ostertag
David G. T. Thomas
D. Andries Bosch

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Edited by Joachim K. Krauss

Past President's Message

Looking back over the past four years I am proud to say that the officers have succeeded making the society much more professional! Indeed, the new developments in functional and stereotactic neurosurgery have brought us all a true revival in activities and more indications than ever before in the treatment of movement disorders, pain syndromes and some psychiatric diseases.

Thanks to the sophisticated new imaging facilities with PET and fMRI scanning techniques allowing us to visualize target areas in stereotactic space, we are able to explore more and more the depth of the brain. Clinical availability of microrecording neuronal activity with the recognition of specific firing patterns has substantially improved the effectiveness of deep brain stimulation.

This revival is reflected by the steady increase in the number of members of our society and also in the number of colleagues with a keen interest in our scientific meetings. The congresses in Vienna, in 2004, and in Montreux, in 2006, had both a high attendance and strong support from industrial companies. Many trainees have shown their interest in the field of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery and there is a growing tendency to recognize this part of neurosurgery as a true subspecialty!

The institution of training courses for young neurosurgeons at regular 2-year intervals has become a great success. In 2003, in Tolocheuz, and in 2005, in Toulouse, we could offer courses on the treatment of movement disorders and pain syndromes for more than 50 young colleagues. This educational program will be continued in 2007 with the topic radiosurgery and stereotactic radiotherapy. I am pleased to acknowledge Medtronic for its generous support by giving educational grants which make the repetition of these courses possible!

The organization of the secretariate and the finances of the society is fully up-to-date and by establishing the website we have made the society easily accessible for anybody interested in our activities.

I wish the new board of officers and its new president Yves Lazorthes a highly successful new term and our society a strong position within the body of general neurosurgery for the years to come!

D. Andries Bosch, M.D.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Past President, ESSFN

European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

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President's and Past Treasurer's Message

During the General Assembly on October 6, 2006, I was elected for a 4-year term as President of the ESSFN following a proposal by the Nominating Committee. As the first French neurosurgeon to be given this responsibility, I am particularly honoured to succeed the prestigious individuals who founded our Society in 1970 and who have continuously improved its scientific standards. Again, I would like to thank all of you for your confidence and I will do my best to live up to this privilege. In particular, I would like to thank my predecessor, Andries Bosch as well as the officers with whom I have had the opportunity to work.

We now need to work together on the further evolution of our society. On one hand we are completely autonomous, on the other we are privileged to be considered the chapter of the European Association of Neurological Societies (EANS) responsible for stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. Our subspecialty, as you know, is rapidly expanding in technology and indications and it is taking on an expansive role in contemporary and future neurosurgery. We will, therefore need to maintain our leadership role in this rapidly evolving field.

The concept of "stereotactic and functional" has already gone far beyond that of a stereotactic frame alone, and yet this is but the prologue to what will be the future of neurosurgery. As we prepare for the future, it is our responsibility to pursue ongoing specialist education for ourselves and in particular for our younger colleagues. With this in mind we have:

- included a "Resident Member" status in our constitution and by-laws
- installed "Hands-on Courses" during alternate years to the Congress: in 2003, Movement Disorder Surgery in Lausanne; in 2005, Pain Surgery in Toulouse; and in 2007: Radiosurgery in Marseille
- created a bi-annual "Research Grant"
- developed a web-site

Any suggestions with regard to further expansion of our educational efforts would be most welcome. The following questions in particular have already come up. Should we introduce breakfast seminars during the congresses? What other training should be pursued? It will be important in expanding our educational endeavours, to maintain the more intimate characteristics of our meetings so important to amicable and enriching discussions.

At the time of the congress in Montreux, the officers' bureau underwent major changes as Bart Nuttin and Damianos Sakas joined the officers board. The ESSFN is a multinational non-profit organisation (French law 1901). Its headquarters were transferred to France (Toulouse) in 2002. We have declared the change of officers to the "Préfecture de la Haute Garonne". Having documented these changes, we were able to open a new bank account in Leuven (Belgium) to permit Bart Nuttin to assume the responsibility of treasurer in 2007. I will thus be leaving this position which I have held for the past 8 years.

Our financial situation remains to be healthy. Our resources include the annual dues from active and resident members, positive (and occasionally negative) balances from congresses, and educational grants.

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Funds are used on a regular basis to keep our society dynamic and in pursuit of its goals. In particular, we have been able to subsidise "hands-on courses", research grants, poster and oral communication awards, modernisation and upkeep of our website, work meetings of the officers and the scientific preparation of congresses and workshops.

The officers have decided that a new research grant of 20.000 Euros will be awarded at the 2008 Congress (see announcement).

The 3rd "hands-on" course will focus on "Radiosurgery" and will be held in Marseille from November 12-14, 2007 (see announcement).

The XVIII Congress will be held in Rimini (Italy) from September 18-21, 2008. The chair of the Organising Committee is Massimo Scerrati. We thank him on behalf of the society for having accepted this weighty responsibility.

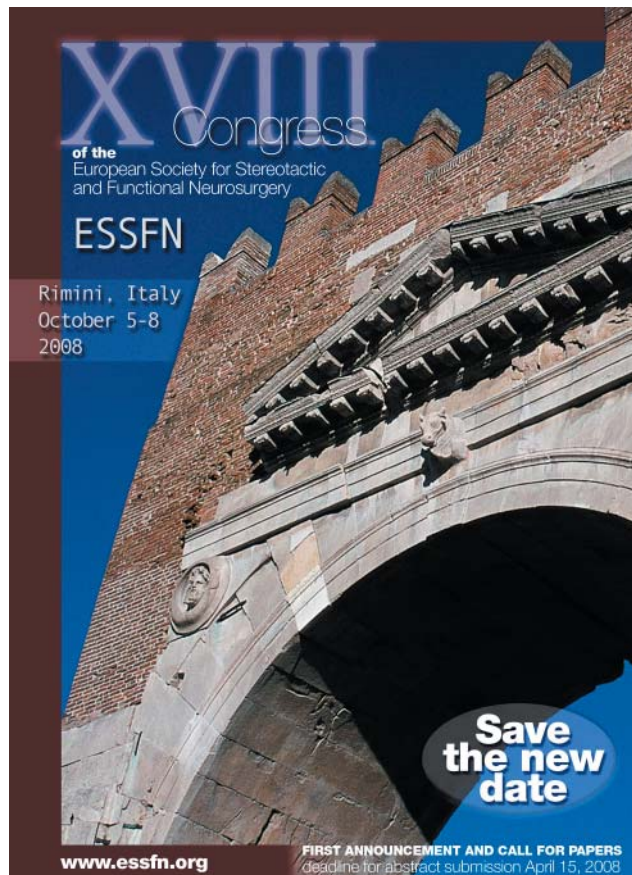
The venue and organiser of the 2010 Congress have not yet been determined. The decision will be made in November 2007 during the 3rd "hands-on" course. Candidate proposals are still open. Please contact our first secretary Joachim K. Krauss with regard to this.

Thank you for your support.

With my warmest personal regards,

Yves Lazorthes, M.D.

Toulouse, France
President and Past Treasurer, ESSFN



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Secretary's Message

With this newsletter we again want to keep you all informed with the latest news regarding our society. The last year has brought many new aspects to be considered in the field of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. The principles of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery are actually percolating through all of neurosurgery and this process extends well beyond – just consider the common use of operative navigation techniques and the development of spinal radiosurgery !!

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the ESSFN membership for having been re-elected for another term as Secretary to the ESSFN during the General Assembly in Montreux. I very much enjoyed working with the board officers during the past four years. This was a busy period and we were happy to achieve many challenging aims. We continued to establish our true all European project which the ESSFN is indeed with welcome inputs from all over the world.

During the General Assembly in Montreux in October, 2006, the new board of officers was elected. Also, several new colleagues joined the Executive Committee. Please, refer to the minutes of the General Assembly which you will find at the end of this newsletter for details. In the name of the ESSFN I would like to thank those who are leaving their duties for their expertise and diligent work over the past four years. In particular, I would like to thank our past President Andries Bosch for his leadership and Jean Guy Villemure for the pleasant and amicable cooperation.

We are happy to see that our membership increased once more. We now count 205 members, that is a 10% increase since the last newsletter has been sent ! We are proud to have the most distinguished players in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery among our members. If you need an updated membership directory do not hesitate to contact me.

I want to remember you once more that ESSFN members will receive the journal Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery at a special rate, although it is not the official journal of the ESSFN, by the kind offer from the publishing company Karger form Basel, Switzerland. If you want to subscribe to the journal, refer to this offer (for contact see www.karger.com). One big success was the re-installation of the ESSFN website. The statistics counting the visits and hits which I have presented to the Executive Committee and the General Assembly have reflected this success very nicely. Again, I call for your active support to help us to expand the website.

It was a tough job for the Research Grant Evaluation Committee consisting of David Thomas, Andres Lozano and Björn Meyerson to select the candidate for the 2006 ESSFN Research Grant in Montreux. Nine applications were sent. Their final decision was to award the grant to Dr. Sol from France for his project "Human fetal cells in neuropathic pain: preclinical study". Dr. Sol will present his findings at the next ESSFN congress in Rimini in 2008.

We need your continued support to bring new members to the society. The fee for resident membership continues to be EUR 30 per year !! Please, find the new membership application form below. Application for membership can be sponsored by any ESSFN member or by one of the officers. Wishing you a successful and creative time ahead.

Joachim K. Krauss, M.D.

Hannover, Germany
First Secretary, ESSFN

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E-mail Directory: Officers and Executive Committee

Officers:

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Vice President:	Giovanni Broggi	Milano, Italy	broggig.st@tin.it
First Secretary:	Joachim K. Krauss	Hannover, Germany	krauss.joachim@mh-hannover.de
Second Secretary:	Damianos Sakas	Athens, Greece	sakasde@med.uoa.gr
Treasurer:	Bart Nuttin	Leuven, Belgium	Bart.Nuttin@uz.kuleuven.ac.be

Members of the Executive Committee:

François Alesch	Vienna, Austria	francois.alesch@meduniwien.ac.at
Tipu Aziz	Oxford, U.K.	tipu.aziz@physiol.ox.ac.uk
Jocelyne Bloch	Lausanne, Switzerland	jocelyne.bloch@chuv.hospvd.ch
Serge Blond	Lille, France	sblond@chru-lille.fr
Jean Ciurea	Bucharest, Romania	ciureaj@yahoo.com
Miroslav Galanda	Banska Bystrica, Slovakia	galanda@isternet.sk
A. Gonçalves-Ferreira	Lisbon, Portugal	ajgonfer@fm.ul.pt
Marek Harat	Bydgoszcz, Poland	MarekHarat@10wsk.mil.pl
Bengt Linderöth	Stockholm, Sweden	bengt.linderöth@karolinska.se
Roman Liscák	Prague, Czech Rep.	roman.liscak@homolka.cz
Miguel Manrique	Pamplona, Spain	mmanriques@unav.es
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Michiel J. Staal	Groningen, The Netherlands	m.j.staal@nchir.azg.nl
Juho Tuominen	Oulo, Finland	juho.tuominen@ppshp.fi
Jürgen Voges	Cologne, Germany	j.voges@uni-koeln.de
Knut Wester	Bergen, Norway	Knut.Gustav.Wester@helse-bergen.no

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D. Andries Bosch

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Michiel J. Staal Groningen, The Netherlands
Juho Tuominen Oulu, Finland
Jürgen Voges Cologne, Germany
Knut Wester Bergen, Norway

Website: www.essfn.org

Membership Application

Name _____

Office address _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

e-mail _____

Application as (please mark with a cross):

- Active member (neurosurgeon)
Associate member (related or other speciality)
Resident member (neurosurgeon in training)

Annual membership dues for active and associate members are 100 Euro, and for resident members 30 Euro.

Main interests in functional and stereotactic neurosurgery (mark):

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------|------------|---------------|
| Movement disorders | Pain | Epilepsy | Neurooncology |
| Radiosurgery | Imaging | Technology | Basic Science |
| Neurotransplantation | Other | | |

Date _____

Signature _____

Please attach your current curriculum vitae, a supporting letter from one member of the society and send to one of the officers of the society.

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2008 ESSFN RESEARCH

In agreement with our Constitution and By-Laws, it was decided by the Board of Officers to promote basic or clinical research projects in the field of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery with a Research Grant available every two years

ELIGIBILITY

The application (curriculum vitae, research project and budget) must be sent by surface mail to the First Secretary:

Joachim K. KRAUSS - Department of Neurosurgery
Medical University MHH - Carl Neuberg Str. 1
30625 HANNOVER - GERMANY
Tel. ++ 49 511 532 6652 - Fax ++ 49 511 532 5864

Applications by email will not be accepted!!

The research project must address either a clinical or an experimental topic in the field of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery

The applicant must be a member of the ESSFN. There is no age limit.

The selection will be made by an independent committee which will be commissioned by the officers and the result will be announced at the ESSFN Rimini congress.

Scientific conclusions of the selected project and the financial balance must be reported in September 2010, and presented during the 2010 ESSFN Congress.

FUNDIN

THE RESEARCH GRANT AMOUNT IS: 20.000

The financing of the project will be progressive, and will be distributed in 3 parts:

October 2008 (selection) :	10.000 €
During 2009 (on written proofs):	5.000 €
At the conclusion of the report:	5.000 €

3rd ESSFN HANDS-ON COURSE:

Date: November 12-14, 2007

Location: Hôpital de La Timone, Department of Neurosurgery
264, rue Saint-Pierre - 13385 Marseille - FRANCE

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Theoretical Courses Principles, definitions and treatment modalities
Radiological and fundamental data
Dedicated systems: Leksell Gamma Knife, Novalis and Cyberknife
Cranial applications (AVM, tumors and functional)
Spinal applications

Hands-On Three parallel workshops on dedicated planning stations
Instruction in algorithms for treatment planning

Intraoperative demonstration (in operative room and Gamma Unit Center)

ORGANIZATION

Organizing Committee: J. Régis, S. Blond, M. Levivier, Y. Lazorthes, G. Broggi
Invited Faculty: L. Farinelli, D. Benzil, F. Colombo, J. Dhaens, M. Gerosa,
A. Kemeny, R. Liscak, A. Muacevic, R. Wurm
Scientific Committee: Y. Lazorthes, G. Broggi, J. K. Krauss, B. Nuttin, D. Sakas,
and J. Régis, S. Blond, M. Levivier

REGISTRATION

Limited to 24 participants. The candidates should be young neurosurgeons who plan to engage themselves in radiosurgery. The applicants must be ESSFN members or apply for membership. They should send a letter of intent, a CV and a recommendation letter by the head of the department or by another ESSFN member.

Applications must be sent before June 15, 2007 to:

Jean REGIS
Radiosurgery Department
Hôpital La Timone
13385 Marseille - France

or Yves LAZORTHES
Neurosurgery Department
Hôpital Rangueil-Larrey
TSA 50032
31059 Toulouse Cx 9 - France

Expenses : Inscription fees (including lunches) will be minimal (100 €)
A limited number of travelling and housing grants will be available.

Sponsors : **Accuray** **Brain Lab** **Elekta**

Minutes General Assembly ESSFN

Friday, October 6, 2006
Montreux Congress Center, ESSFN Congress

13.30-14.30

Montreux, Switzerland

The meeting is opened by the President D. Andries Bosch at 13.30.

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Juho Tuominen Oulu, Finland
Jürgen Voges Cologne, Germany
Knut Wester Bergen, Norway

Website: www.essfn.org

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda is approved.

2. Apologies for absence

There are no apologies for absence.

3. Minutes of the General Assembly in Vienna (2004)

The minutes of the General Assembly in Vienna, 2004, are approved.

4. President's report

The President summarizes the past two successful years for the society. This period includes the administration of two successful Hands-on courses and the re-opening of the ESSFN website.

The President also reflects on the growing interest worldwide in functional neurosurgery. The President thanks all ESSFN members for their continuous support of the society. In particular, he appreciates the surveys that have been sent on the situation of functional and stereotactic surgery in the different European countries.

5. Secretary's report

The Secretary reports on the development of membership. There are 199 members according to the secretary's directory. A map showing the geographical distribution of the current membership similar to the one shown at the Vienna congress has been prepared by the secretary and is being displayed at the registration level.

The Secretary reports about the development of the Society's Newsletter. Meanwhile three newsletters have been sent out to all members of the society. The next Newsletter is planned for early 2007.

The Secretary reports on the progress of the website. The last update of the website was in July, 2006. Upon this occasion several modifications were made including advertisement for meetings from other societies sponsored to be "under the auspices of the ESSFN", and new information on ESSFN courses and congresses.

In addition, links from other websites to the ESSFN website have been established (CNS and EANS). A set of slides has been prepared in power point format by the secretary showing statistics of the website (visits, hits, and so on).

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6. Treasurer`s report

The Treasurer reports on the funds of the society. The Auditing Committee, Drs. Galanda and Meyer, have reviewed the books of the society. Dr. Meyer confirms that the balances for 2004 and 2005 are well prepared and satisfactory.

The President thereafter discharges the Treasurer.

7. Election of Officers

Miguel Manrique and A. Goncalves-Ferreira from the Nominating Committee suggest the candidates for the position as ESSFN officers.

Bjorn Meyerson discusses the issue which ESSFN officer positions can be held by the same person for several successive terms. Many other ESSFN members give their opinion upon this issue.

Finally, the votes are made without dissenting votes.

Yves Lazorthes is voted as President.

Joachim K. Krauss as Secretary.

Bart Nuttin as Treasurer.

Damianos Sakas as Second Secretary.

Giovanni Broggi as Vice-President.

The new President Yves Lazorthes takes over the chair for the General Assembly. He thanks the Past President Andries Bosch for his fruitful leadership within the past four years.

8. Election of new Executive Committee members

Miguel Manrique and A. Goncalves-Ferreira from the Nominating Committee suggest the candidates for the position as ESSFN Executive Committee members.

Ali Savas is voted as representative for Turkey.

Dirk van Roost is voted as representative for Belgium.

Jürgen Voges is voted as representative for Germany.

Tipu Aziz is voted as representative for the UK.

Ioannis Panourias is voted as representative for Greece.

The President thanks those members who leave the board Barlas, Meyer, Nuttin, Sakas and Sturm for their efficacious work for the ESSFN for years and decades.

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9. ESSFN future courses

The next training course will be co-organized by the ESSFN officers together with Jean Regis, Serge Blond and Marc Levivier. The training course is scheduled to take place from November 12 to 14, 2007, in Marseille, France. As for previous ESSFN courses CME credits will be available.

Further details are given by Jean Regis. The course will be sponsored by Accuray, Brainlab and Elekta. The course will be open only for ESSFN members. There will be a "symbolic" registration fee. It is expected to have 15 up to 24 participants at the course. It will be further advertised in the next Newsletter – and in addition on the website. Applications must be received before June 15, 2007.

The President thanks Regis for his diligent planning.

10. ESSFN congress 2008

Scerrati gives some details on the next ESSFN congress to be held in Rimini. The congress will be held from September 18 to 21, 2008. There will be a congress website – as has been the case for the past congresses – which can be accessed also via a link from the ESSFN website.

11. ESSFN congress 2010

Goncalves-Ferreira proposes to have the ESSFN congress 2010 in Lissabon. This is received affirmatively by the Assembly. No other candidates speak up. Goncalves-Ferreira will send a more detailed application to the officers within the next few months. The final decision will be made during the Hands-on course in Marseille in 2007. Applications from other candidates will also be discussed then.

12. Matters arising

Goncalves-Ferreira reports that he has adopted the function as chair of the EANS Research Committee. It is planned to have one course per year. Next year the topic will be functional neurosurgery. The preliminary date for the course is June 15-16, to be held in Lissabon. Possible candidates should be alerted about this course.

13. Date of next meeting

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be hold during the ESSFN congress in 2008 in Rimini.

The meeting is closed at 14.30.

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