

Message from the President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The COVID-19 pandemic is fortunately gone or at least overcome in most of our countries. The vaccination of the vast majority of the population and the control over the consecutive COVID infection waves allowed us to have presential meetings again since 2021, namely the ESSFN Congress held on September in Marseille. Furthermore on 2022 we had the Hands-on Course on Surgery for Epilepsy on April in Lisbon, the WSSFN Congress on September in Seoul, South Korea, and finally the Hands-on Course on Basics on October/November in Marseille; all them presential.

Meanwhile, the Ukraine war that started on February 2022 is still going on, with all the tragic events that took place in this great European Country and the subsequent problems raised in the rest of Europe and all over the world. This war lead to the cancellation of the Kiev International Conference on Functional and Stereotactic Neurosurgery scheduled for June 2022 organized by Kostiantyn Kostyuk; and brought tremendous difficulties for most of our colleagues in Ukraine, that deserve and need our best solidarity.

The XXIV ESSFN Congress in Marseille had the excellent organization of Jean Régis and his team: 443 people attended this congress and the 70 oral presentations, 84 flash communications and 118 posters exhibited. It was a great success owing to the high scientific level of the event and the general wish of every participant to meet again colleagues and friends kept apart for years due to the pandemic confinement, then finally were able to gather for scientific, technical and personal profit.

The XVIII WSSFN Congress was held on September 4-7th 2022 in Incheon, Seoul, South Korea., organized by Jin Woo Chang (president) and Kendall Lee (scientific program) . It was a big scientific meeting, although Korea was still under strict anti-Covid sanitary measures and a Typhoon passed by during the first few days. More than 700 attendees were present and 288 oral presentations, 29 Flash and 209 posters were displayed. A new WSSFN board was elected with Konstantin Slavin as president who will organize the next meeting in

Chicago in 2024; Jean Régis as vice-president, Mojgan Hodaie as secretary, Paresh Doshi as vice-secretary and Patric Blomstedt as treasurer.

The traditional Korean hospitality and a very good technical organization must be congratulated.

The Scheduled ESSFN Hands-on Course on Surgery for Epilepsy was held on the 7-9th April 2022 in Lisbon. It included many lectures focused on the different aspects of this topic and several cadaver hands-on sessions with the equipment required for simulation of all sort of epileptic surgical interventions. It had a very good participation with every trainee having the opportunity of practicing from the simplest to the most sophisticated operating procedures with the orientation of the skilled faculty.

The other ESSFN Hands-on Course 2022 was held in Marseille on the 30th October-1st November. It covered several basic subjects on Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, since some historic data to the introduction to the most updated techniques in different fields, including the details of essential procedures and the necessary equipment.

On 10-12th May 2023 in Malta we'll have the next Hands-on Course on Movement Disorders, organized by Ludvic Zrinzo.

The next ESSFN Congress, the XXV, will be held on 27-30th September 2023 in Stockholm, with the organization chaired by Patric Blomstedt.

As you all see ESSFN goes on working well with a busy calendar of interesting events. I hope and wish that the year of 2023 will fulfill our good expectations and will assist to further developments of our great society.



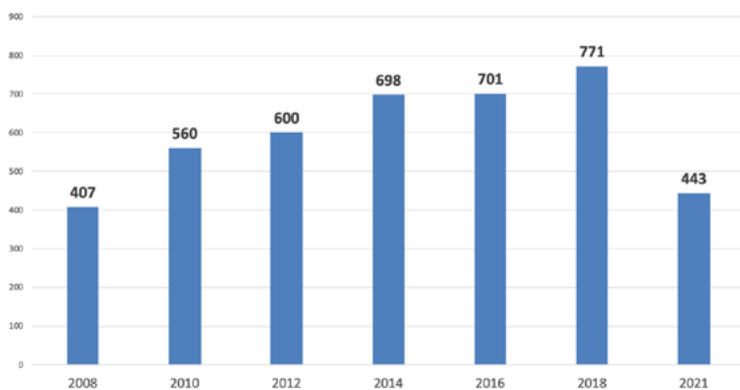
Antonio Gonçalves Ferreira
ESSFN President

Message from *the Secretary*

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

After 3 years without ESSFN congress that was with great emotion that we were able to meet again in Marseille in September 2021. The number of registrations to the ESSFN congress grew progressively and continuously from 407 in 2008 (Rimini) to 771 in 2018 (Edinburgh). In COVID era we were proud being able to recruit 443 registrations (physically present) in Marseille. However, at the difference of other international societies ESSFN DNA has always been not to search for more attendees or more income but for higher scientific content, innovation, serious research, education ... and will keep going this direction. Importantly, the number of abstract submitted was high with 301 submissions compared to 263 in Maastricht (2014), 236 in Madrid (2016), 329 in Edinburgh (2018) demonstrating well the vitality of our community.

NUMBER OF CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS



The officers of the ESSFN & our local host, Patric Blomstedt, are working hard to prepare an exceptional "post COVID" ESSFN biannual congress in the wonderful city of Stockholm in September 2023. Propitiatory works have already started for the following congress in Budapest in September 2025. The venues for the congress itself and the social events, visited by the officers and the local hosts (Istvan Valalik & Lorand Eross), are outstanding. The year 2027 is open for bid submission. If you are interested to host the 2027 congress of the ESSFN you have to take contact with Natalie Ruxton & I (all the information is available on the ESSFN website).

Thanks to an excellent faculty the last module (Basics of Stereotaxis) of the European Diploma of Functional Neurosurgery was a great success with 53 people (43 attendees and 10 faculties).

The previous course of the ESSFN was a cadaveric hands-on workshop dedicated to Epilepsy Surgery in Lisbon. This was an excellent workshop with our president as a local host and organizer. Due to technical limitations we were unable to satisfy all the demands of registration and it was decided to organize rapidly a second edition of this same course in Lisbon. After the course dedicated to movement disorders in Malta in May 2023 and the congress in Stockholm in September 2023 it was then decided by the board to organize 3 courses in 2024 dedicated respectively to Epilepsy Surgery, Pain/spasticity and Psychiatry. You will find soon all the details of dates and location on the ESSFN website.

On the occasion of the last course in Marseille 4 candidates have finalized their cycle with this module and, after analyze of their practical background in Functional Neurosurgery by the educational committee, will receive their official diplomas of the ESSFN. More than 20 young European neurosurgeons are already now laureate of this European diploma of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery.



Jean Régis
Secretary of the ESSFN

Message from the Treasurer

The financial situation of the Society is stable, despite the difficult times we have behind us in the face of the pandemic, during which membership contributions were waived for a year and which forced us to postpone the conference cycle for a year. Nevertheless, resuming our bi-annual meetings with the successful conference in Marseille in September 2021 did not only give a fresh injection of energy into our ties of friendship, it also boosted the funds of the society again so that we can maintain the necessary level of security to continue to work on our main goals: enhance scientific exploration and professional collaboration through the exchange of ideas during the conferences, and educate the new generation of functional neurosurgeons through the high-level educational courses that the ESSFN organizes.

The ESSFN will offer again a number of prizes on the occasion of the XXVth congress in Stockholm in September 2023: a research grant of € 20.000, best oral presentation awards of € 1.000 and three best poster presentation awards of € 500.

Paying members will not only qualify for a reduced entrance fee for the 2023 conference, but in the package, you are also automatically a member of the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery and receive free online access to the journal Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. So please take a minute, go to our website www.essfn.org and find the easy online option for 2023 membership fee payment by credit card or by bank transfer under the tab "membership".

I hope to see you all in Stockholm this coming September!

Rick Schuurman
ESSFN Treasurer



2023 ESSFN RESEARCH GRANT

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.

The application (curriculum vitae, research project and budget) must be sent by email to jregis@ap-hm.fr

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 Stockholm 2023 Congress.

Scientific conclusions of the selected project and financial balance must be reported in September 2023 and presented during the 2023 ESSFN Congress.

THE RESEARCH GRANT AMOUNT IS 20.000,00€

The financing of the project will be progressive and will be distributed as follow:

€ 15.000 in October 2023 after selection

€ 5.000 in October 2025 after presentation of the report during the XXVI conference in Budapest

2023 ESSFN BEST PRESENTATIONS AWARDS

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 and highlighting the scientific input of our colleagues with the Best Oral Presentation and Best Poster Presentation Awards.

All abstracts which will be selected by the Board to be presented during the ESSFN Congress 2023 would be also evaluated for the Best Oral Presentation and Best Presentation Awards.

The evaluation will be made by two independent committees consisted by esteemed colleagues and the awardees will be announced during the Closing Ceremony of the Congress.

All colleagues are welcome and strongly urged to submit abstracts via the official website of the Congress aiming to scientifically support the particular session of the Congress but also to have the opportunity to see their work being bestowed one of the Best Oral Presentation or Best Poster Presentation Awards

Best Oral Presentation Awards: 2 x 1.000 Euros

Best Poster Presentation Awards: 3 x 500 Euros

SAVE THE DATE for the 2025 ESSFN Congress

in Budapest, Hungary

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are delighted to inform you that the ESSFN Congress will take place in Budapest in 2025, the first time since 1989. The program design will promote your clinical practice: the latest clinical updates and science behind the cutting-edge stereotactic and functional neurosurgical practice and engaging discussions – helping you deliver the best possible care to your patients.

Loránd Erőss
ESSFN Second Secretary



Message from the Young Functional Neurosurgeons

Choice of neurostimulators: a small decision with big implications?

Martin Jakobs for the study group:

Yara Willems, Kuan Hua Kho, Øystein Vesterli Tveiten, , Niels van der Gaag

During the 2021 ESSFN congress in beautiful Marseilles, France, the young functional neurosurgeons taskforce could meet for the first time since the pandemic started and during our conversations a first project to be tackled was conceived.

While it is in the stereotactic neurosurgeons' nature to try to place DBS electrodes as precisely as possible and while the scientific world revolves around identifying disease- or even symptom specific "sweet and sour spots" for stimulation, a negligible decision may also have major implications as to whether patients feel satisfied with DBS therapy: the choice of implantable pulse generator (IPG).

While smaller and longer-lasting rechargeable IPGs have been available for more than ten years now, there are no guidelines or definite recommendations as to which patient should get which type of IPG. Being able to monitor and handle a rechargeable system requires cognitive and motor performance from patients, both of which may be impaired in a subset of our DBS patients.

Therefore, the ESSFN's young functional neurosurgeons task force developed an online questionnaire that was sent to all ESSFN members across the globe to highlight which strategies for IPG choice are most often applied and which factors most often are taken into account in the decision-making process.

Overall, 87 DBS experts (> 80% neurosurgeons) from 30 countries around the world participated in the online survey and completed the questionnaire giving insights into their decision-making process.

Overall, the three most important factors for IPG choice were "existing social support", "cognitive status of the patient" and "patient age", while "financial aspects", "personal clinician preference" and "research" were aspects being the least important factors identified having influence on IPG choice. Regarding indications for DBS only dystonia showed a clear consensus for always implanting a rechargeable IPG.

Interestingly the person most often making the decision on IPG choice was the neurosurgeon in 85% of cases, which is more common than both the patients themselves and partners/family combined. And while participants thought that patients do value the avoidance of IPG replacement surgeries with a rechargeable IPG more than not having to spend time recharging with a non-rechargeable system, the majority of centers always implant a non-rechargeable IPG first. Overall, less than 50% of participants stated that their center does have standardized protocol to decide which patient should get a rechargeable system.

Furthermore, participants gave insight into a diverse landscape of financial aspects of IPG choice making implantation of a rechargeable IPG more or less financially attractive in different countries.

Overall these findings showed that this small decision indeed has big implications for patients, families and clinicians that should not be briskly looked over and we encourage each center to develop. The taskforce is currently trying to make the results of this survey available to the expert community as it is submitted for publication in a per-reviewed journal.

We are happy to present the results also during this year's ESSFN congress in beautiful Stockholm and hope to meet more young functional neurosurgeons from across Europe.

Martin Jakobs
Member of the Young Functional
Neurosurgeons Committee



Obituary Andries Bosch

On December 28th 2022, our honorary president Andries Bosch passed away after a short illness.

Andries was a very well-known and well-liked figure in the world of functional neurosurgery. After finishing his neurosurgical training in 1976 in Groningen, the Netherlands, he spent a year in Stockholm with his family, where he was trained in the stereotactic method by Lars Leksell at the Karolinska Institute. Then he built up a large practice in the Netherlands with functional and oncological neurosurgery as his main interests. He was the chair of neurosurgery at the Academic Medical Center of the University of Amsterdam from 1986 until his retirement in 2004.

Andries was an active member of the European Society for Functional and Stereotactic Neurosurgery. He represented the Netherlands in the Executive Committee from 1990-1994, and was member of the Board of Officers of the ESSFN as Secretary from 1994 to 1998, as Vice President from 1998 to 2002 and as President from 2002 to 2006. He was a strong advocate of international collaboration of neurosurgeons throughout Europe and he will be remembered for his friendly leadership style.

In 1986 he published the monography "Stereotactic Techniques in Clinical Neurosurgery", one of the earlier comprehensive textbooks in our field covering all technical and clinical aspects of stereotactic neurosurgery in that period of time. His later scientific contributions to the developing field of deep brain stimulation influenced the clinical practice of functional neurosurgeons worldwide, and will continue to provide improvements in the lives of many. He is survived by his wife, four children and twelve grandchildren, the warm family in which he spent his final years.



Andries Bosch
Honorary President

ESSFN Hands On Courses

MOVEMENT DISORDERS



10-12 May 2023
Malta

essfn European Society for
Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery



GENERAL ORGANIZATION :

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Contact : Natalie Ruxton - natalie.ruxton@mcocongres.com

essfn

XXV Congress of the European Society
for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery



STOCKHOLM, Sweden

Stockholm Waterfront Congress Center

www.essfncongress.org

27-30 SEPTEMBER 2023



GENERAL ORGANISATION: MCO CONGRÈS - Villa Gaby - 285 Corniche J.F. Kennedy - 13007 Marseille
Tél. : +33 (0) 4 95 09 38 00 - Contact : **NATALIE RUXTON** - natalie.ruxton@mcocongres.com



World Society for
Stereotactic and Functional
Neurosurgery

WSSFN 2024

CHICAGO, USA
2-6 SEPTEMBER

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary
of Modern Stereotaxis

SAVE
THE
DATE

XX
WORLD
CONGRESS OF
STEREOTACTIC
AND FUNCTIONAL
NEUROSURGERY

www.wssfn2024.org

