

ESSFN NEWSLETTER

Number 1

Summer 2003

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Edited by Joachim K. Krauss

## European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

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President's Message

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The Toulouse Congress in October 2002 has been a great success thanks to the excellent organisation by our treasurer Dr. Yves Lazorthes and his co-workers! The city of Toulouse served as the platform for our activities, with the "Palais de Congrès" as venue for both scientific and exhibitions performances, whilst the old and historical buildings and sites were the social meeting places in the evenings.

The board of newly elected officers at the General Assembly meeting promised to actively promote the Society's activities for the coming years. The next congress will be in Vienna, Austria, in 2004, June 23-26 and will be organized by Francois Alesch being the local host to the Society. For details about this XVI th congress of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery see this Newsletter.

Drs. Giovanni Broggi and Yves Lazorthes successfully negotiated with Medtronic headquarters Europe in Tolochenaz, Switzerland, to organize a hands-on training course at their premises on October 17 and 18, 2003. Details about this new activity are to be found in this Newsletter by the local organizer Dr. Jean-Guy Villemure, who will act as the officer in charge for the workshop. It was decided also to promote membership to our Society by sending application forms and the text of the beautiful lecture "Recent advances in the pharmacology of pain and analgesia" by Anthony Dickenson, Professor of Pharmacology at the London University College, to all the colleagues who participated in the Toulouse congress. For more details see the Treasurer's report in this Newsletter.

Our first secretary Dr. Joachim Krauss has set up a digital membership directory and is at the moment busy with the new format of our website. For a regular update he is very much dependent on your help and information regarding stereotactic activities in the coming period. See the Secretary's report.

The officers met for a board meeting in December 2, 2002, in Lausanne to prepare the activities just mentioned. In the afternoon we had discussions with Medtronic officials in their office in Tolochenaz. At this site visit we have checked the facilities for a training course in their headquarters, which include indeed all we need for a successful course. Our second officers' meeting has taken place on March 24, 2003, in Vienna to discuss the preliminary program of our next congress with Francois Alesch. All officers attended this meeting and the main topics discussed were the venue we have to choose in Vienna as well as the scientific program we wish to present.

It is our wish to vitalize our Society, being the oldest and most influential in the world regarding stereotactic and functional neurosurgery and we strongly advocate our colleagues in this field to join our Society and to participate actively in this exciting and rapidly expanding specialty.

D. Andries Bosch, M.D.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
President, ESSFN

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### Secretary's Message

It is a great honour having been elected First Secretary of the ESSFN. Functional and stereotactic neurosurgery has become an increasingly important subspecialty within neurosurgery and more neurosurgeons are being trained in this field than ever before. We are looking forward to a bright future development. It is a major goal of the ESSFN now to improve communication among its members.

This newsletter will be one important tool to achieve this goal. It shall provide opportunities to inform the ESSFN membership about recent developments and decisions, to advertise courses and congresses, and to participate actively in future endeavors. Please, use this new medium and let us know your suggestions.

At the officers' meeting in Lausanne in December 2002 it was decided to reinforce efforts to increase membership. In order to open the society also for younger neurosurgeons in training, the category of resident member was established. Resident membership can be granted to any resident in training in neurosurgery upon recommendation of his or her chairperson or tutor. The fee for resident membership will be 30 Euro per year. In this newsletter you will also find an application form for membership. Please distribute this form to an interested colleague and send it to the secretary or one of the other officers of the society. Application for membership shall be sponsored by another member or by one of the officers. Note, that the criteria for expulsion from the society have been altered. When a member fails to pay his or her membership dues for three successive calendar years despite two notices outstanding he will be automatically expelled. We are working on a digital membership directory including e-mail addresses to be distributed among all members of the society. As a first step you will find an updated list with the email addresses of the officers and the current board of the Executive Committee in this Newsletter. We would appreciate very much if all members could drop a simple email to the secretary's office to inform about their email addresses, telephone numbers and fax numbers.

This year we could welcome several new members to the society. These are Lorenzo Magrassi (Pavia, Italy), Ralf Weigel (Mannheim, Germany), Vladimir Shabalov (Moscow, Russia), Jocelyne Bloch (Lausanne, Switzerland), Christopher Mascott (Toulouse, France), Jean Sabatier (Toulouse, France), Jean Ciurea (Bucharest, Romania), Ethan Taub (Zürich, Switzerland), Jaques Favre (Montreux, Switzerland), Rick Schuurman (Amsterdam, The Netherlands) and Philippe Esposito (Strasbourg, France). The first resident members are Hans-Holger Capelle (Mannheim, Germany), Yasin Temel (Maastricht, The Netherlands) and Adam Szolna (Bydgoszcz).

The Website will be relaunched soon to provide easily accessible information on the society and regular updates. We always appreciate your collaboration and participation.

Joachim K. Krauss, M.D.

Mannheim, Germany  
First Secretary, ESSFN

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### Treasurer's Message

According to the proposal presented to and approved by the General Assembly at the Meeting in London in October 2000, the Officers have undertaken the necessary steps for transferring the seat of the Society from Freiburg, Germany, to Toulouse, France.

The Society was registered with the "Préfecture de la Haute-Garonne" on the 11th of December 2002. The seat of the Society is now Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse, France. Its legal status is that of a non-profit Association (French Law 1901) and its creation was published in the Official Journal of the French Republic on the 1st of February 2003. The updated constitution and bylaws will be posted on the Society website currently under construction and will also be given to members at the next General Assembly in 2004.

Financially, the Society is healthy. This has allowed the officers to initiate the following:

- " Fellowship awards: A € 1000 award was given to the best presentation by a trainee at the 2002 Meeting in Toulouse. We hope to have two awards available in Vienna in 2004.
- " A lecture from the most recent congress was selected, printed and sent to members and congress participants (Anthony Dickenson's 2002 lecture).
- " A hands-on training course has been planned in 2003 with funds to help support selected participants.
- " A new membership category has been created for neurosurgeons-in-training (€30 / year).
- " A budget has been created for restructuring and maintaining the website.
- " Funding for mailing of a newsletter.

To keep our budget balanced, please pay your dues promptly so we can avoid the cost of second request. We thank you ahead of time.

Yves Lazorthes, M.D.

Toulouse, France  
Treasurer, ESSFN

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ESSFN Congress 2004 in Vienna

The XVIth ESSFN Congress, June 23 - 26, 2004

The XVIth congress of our society will take place in Vienna, Austria, next year. We are currently putting together the scientific program which will cover the following topics:

History of Stereotaxy, Psychiatric Surgery, Restorative Neurotransplantation, Parkinson's disease, Dystonia, Epilepsy, Pain, Spasticity and Neuronavigation.

The meeting venue will be the Viennese Museumsquartier, a site which has recently been opened and which is one of the ten largest cultural complexes in the world, offering 60,000 square meters of space to more than forty facilities dedicated to modern and contemporary art and culture.

To find more information about the meeting please go to [www.come2vienna.org](http://www.come2vienna.org) on the Internet. Deadline for paper registration is January 2004.

We look forward seeing you next year. This is a perfect opportunity to enjoy both science and the beautiful city of Vienna.

François Alesch, M.D.

Vienna, Austria

Chairman of the XVIth ESSFN Congress



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### Training Course 2003 in Tolothenaz

The First ESSFN Hands-on Course in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, October 17-18, 2003

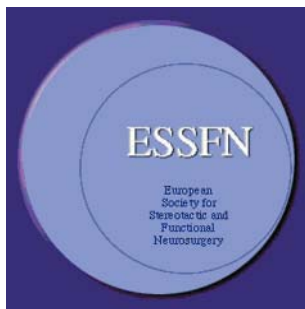
The ESSFN has decided at its meeting in Toulouse in October 2002 to organize a hands-on training course in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. The objectives of the ESSFN are to demonstrate its leadership and assume its responsibility in offering part of the training in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. This first hands-on course will take place on October 17 and 18, 2003, in Tolothenaz (near Lausanne), Switzerland. Expenses for travelling, housing and lunch will be covered through an educational grant.

The objectives of the first course are to provide trainees and young neurosurgeons with the necessary theoretical and practical knowledge essential in stereotactic surgery for movement disorders, i.e. principles of stereotaxy, use of atlases, frames, patient selection, choice of targets, localization with imaging, intraoperative neurophysiological techniques including stimulation and recording, implantation of electrodes and pulse generators, ablative techniques, and how to avoid pitfalls. The Faculty will be composed by the members of the ESSFN Officers and their collaborators.

The number of participants is restricted to 20. The Members of the Executive Committee of the ESSFN were asked to divulgate this information in their country as to identify potential candidates. The selected participants will be informed shortly.

Jean-Guy Villemure, M.D.

Lausanne, Switzerland  
Second Secretary, ESSFN



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