

### ESSFN NEWSLETTER

### Number 3

December 2005

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Edited by Joachim K. Krauss

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Website: [www.essfn.org](http://www.essfn.org)

### President's Message

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Our society has the privilege to serve as the chapter of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS) responsible for stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. The EANS likewise works as the chapter of neurosurgery within the Union Europeenne des Medicines Specialistes (UEMS). Within this European field of medical policies, the ESSFN now has the unique chance to play a leading role for our subspecialty. Therefore, we have asked our national representatives (the members of the Executive Committee) to help us strengthen the interactions between individuals, countries and the European Society. A letter concerning this issue has been sent out by our second secretary Jean-Guy Villemure in March, 2005. While 13 members responded, 7 did not. Those who replied appreciated this idea as a positive and important new concept, and some eventually wished to organize national chapters of our society.

On October 1, 2005, the club Francais had its annual meeting in Marseilles and our French colleagues expressed the wish to form the first official national chapter of the ESSFN. I had the pleasure and honour as president of the ESSFN to address the French national chapter there at its inauguration!

Many other and new subspecialties arise in general neurosurgery, such as: pediatric, neurovascular, spinal et cetera. However, stereotactic and functional neurosurgery has been from its beginning (remember the first ESSFN Congress in 1970) a distinct subspecialty, although not (yet) with a professional and legal certification. It is to be expected, that in the long run throughout Europe more and more documents and certificates are required for official qualification in the field of neurosurgery! The ESSFN here once more has a leading role and responsibility: to create networks and to offer scholarships, fellowships, hands-on courses, and meetings which will be recognized through accreditation by CME credit points.

Our second Hands-on Course in Toulouse, September 15-16, 2005, on Surgical Management of Pain had 12 such CME credits. More than 30 young colleagues who attended this course have received their official certificates. The first course on Surgery for Movement Disorders was held in Tolochenaz in 2003. Both were made possible by Medtronic with an Educational Grant to our society. The ESSFN officers have decided to make these two basic courses available at regular intervals with accreditation and certification for our young trainees who want to specialize further in the stereotactic and functional neurosurgical fields.

## European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

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In the coming period we have to think about the definition of our subspecialty: what makes you a stereotactic and functional neurosurgeon, what are the prerequisites for it and so on. At least, training in a centre that has specific interest in this field plus a fellowship of 6 to 12 months extra after specialization seem to be required.

I hope, that the Montreux Meeting of our Society will give ample opportunity to discuss these matters in more detail!

D. Andries Bosch, M.D.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
President, ESSFN

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### Secretary's Message

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The third newsletter of our Society will reach you by the end of the year 2005. This has been an exciting year with many new developments in the field of functional and stereotactic neurosurgery. In this newsletter, you will find updates on the various activities of our society. Please, pay special attention to the announcements for the 17th ESSFN congress in Switzerland, October 2006, and the new ESSFN Research grant.

Since the last newsletter again there has been a steady increase in membership !! We now have a total of 190 members. In particular, the number of resident members has increased. While some countries have a relatively high number of active members, others appear to be underrepresented. It is one of our future goals to accrue new members also from such regions.

Remember 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 from Basel, Switzerland. If you want to subscribe to the journal, refer to this offer (for contact see [www.karger.com](http://www.karger.com)).

The website of the ESSFN has been relaunched in July 2005 !! We invite all of you to visit it and learn more about its facilities. It can be reached easily via the address [www.essfn.org](http://www.essfn.org). We are grateful to Mr. Roskamm from Movimientos, Freiburg, Germany who did an excellent job. There have been thoroughly positive responses regarding both the design and the content of the website since its inception. Mr. Roskamm will maintain and update the website in the future. Please, let us know of any additions you think are useful for future development of the website. We very much appreciate your input.

We are sad to let you know about the recent death of Lauri Laitinen which occurred just before the mailing of this newsletter. Professor Laitinen was one of the major figures of European functional and stereotactic neurosurgery. He was pivotal in the rediscovery of the pallidum as a target in movement disorders surgery, but his work included many other aspects of our subspeciality. He will be honoured by a special tribute at the upcoming ESSFN congress in Montreux.

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Please, continue to support us to further promote membership. The fee for resident membership continues to be only EUR 30 per year !! The membership application form in this newsletter may be forwarded to an interested colleague. Application for membership can be sponsored by another ESSFN member or by one of the officers.

Wishing you a pleasant and recreative holiday season.

Joachim K. Krauss, M.D.

Hannover, Germany  
First Secretary, ESSFN

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### Treasurer's Message

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The funds of the Society again continue to be healthy. The tax accountant of the Society Mr. Bernard Martin (Exco Fiduciaire) has presented the annual evaluation concerning 2004.

For the year 2005, the payments included the costs for the new website, advance payment for the Montreux 2006 Congress (to be paid back later) and the 2004 Research Grant.

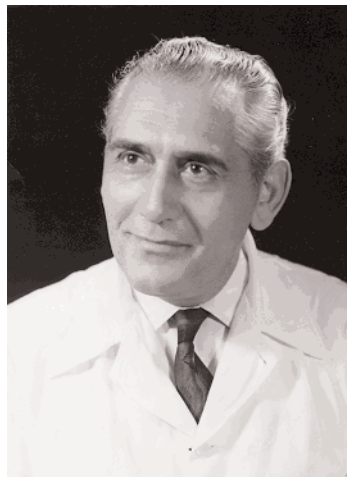
The financial balance autorizes us to increase the 2006 Research Grant amount to 20.000 € !!!

Actually, only 67 of the 162 active members, and 8 of the 17 resident members have payed their membership fees for 2005. We ask the others now to clear their debts as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support.

Yves Lazorthes, M.D.

Toulouse, France  
Treasurer, ESSFN



Jean TALAIRACH, in 1958

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**ESSFN Congress in Montreux,  
Switzerland, October, 2006**

**ESSFN Newsletter, Number 3 December 2005**

The 2006 ESSFN Congress promises to be a historical landmark for European stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. It will not only allow to determine the current status of our subspecialty, but also to define future directions. The workshops should provide the participants with the opportunity to survey some specific fields such as radiosurgery, microelectrode recordings, and epilepsy surgery, while plenary sessions will cover major topics of interest for all participants. Everyone will also have the opportunity to present their own experience - by oral or by poster presentation. Major emphasis will be given to new indications in functional neurosurgery. The congress will benefit further by the participation of the worldknown authorities in the field of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery.

The social events will allow to come together in a particular relaxing and friendly environment. Highlights include visit to the Château de Chillon and dinner on Lake Geneva. The congress venue in Montreux provides an extraordinary beautiful site for our meeting.

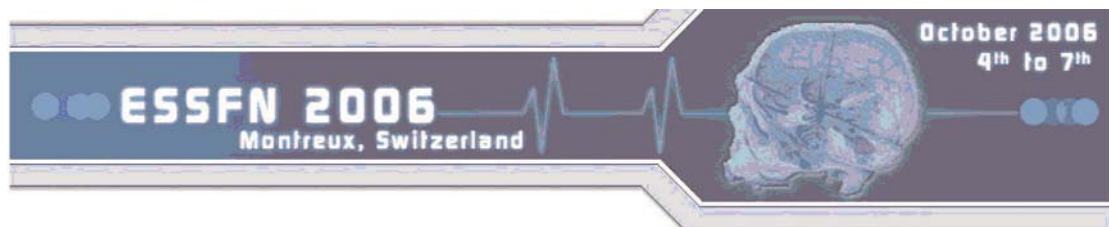
The abstract period and registration are now opened. We invite you to consult the congress website for details, or to contact us directly at [www.essfn2006.org](http://www.essfn2006.org)

We look forward to your participation at the 2006 ESSFN Congress (Oct 4-7, 2006).

Jean-Guy Villemure, M.D.

Lausanne, Switzerland  
Second Secretary, ESSFN

Chairman of the XVIIith ESSFN Congress



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**Report on the Hands-on Course in Toulouse,  
France, September, 2005**

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**The 2<sup>nd</sup> ESSFN Hands-On Course** was held at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Toulouse (September 15-16, 2005) on the topic **Surgical Management of Pain**.

**The Scientific Program** included:

- 1) Plenary sessions with lectures on: Pathophysiology of chronic pain: from basic science to treatment (D. Bouhassira); Consensus conferences on the neurosurgical treatment of pain (Y. Lazorthes); Principles and classification of surgical procedures (G. Broggi); Anatomical basis and surgical techniques of DREZ-otomy (M. Sindou); and Mechanisms of action of electrical stimulation for pain control (S. Blond).
- 2) Hands-On Workshops (3 groups - Laboratory of Anatomy - Practical exercises on human cadavers) on different topics: Percutaneous ablative techniques (cervical cordotomy, Gasserian neurectomy, facet denervation, coeliac block, ...), Open ablative and other open techniques (cervical DREZ-otomy, cerebellopontine angle approach, microvascular decompression, ...), Neurostimulation (epidural spinal cord, deep brain, motor cortex) and Application of intrathecal drugs with implantable devices.
- 3) Round Table Discussions with presentations of clinical cases: surgical strategy for essential trigeminal neuralgia and surgical management of severe neuropathic pain.

The selected participants were 32 young neurosurgeons: 30 from European countries (17 different nations), and two non-European neurosurgeons (from Mexico and from Brazil).

**The European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education** (EACCME), an institution of the UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists) has granted 12 European CME credits for this course.

**The evaluation** of the course by the participants (general assessment, course organisation, plenary sessions, workshops, round tables, etc) was considered as excellent. The course was sponsored by Medtronic Europe.

Yves Lazorthes, M.D.

Toulouse, France  
Treasurer, ESSFN

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### E-mail Directory: Officers and Executive Committee ESSFN Newsletter, Number 3 December 2005

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Juho Tuominen, Oulu  
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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):

- |   |                                  |                                     |  |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movement disorders   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pain    | <input type="checkbox"/> Epilepsy   | <input type="checkbox"/> Neurooncology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radiosurgery         | <input type="checkbox"/> Imaging | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neurotransplantation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |                                     |  |

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

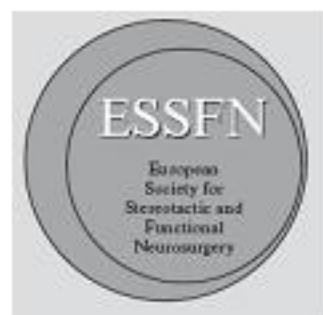
Please attach your current curriculum vitae, a supporting letter from one member of the society and send to one of the officers of the society.

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## 2006 ESSFN RESEARCH GRANT

In agreement with the ESSFN Constitution and By-Laws, the Board of Officers decided 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 send 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  
Mail: [joachim.krauss@mh-hannover.de](mailto:joachim.krauss@mh-hannover.de)
- The research project must address an original topic relevant to the field of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery
- The applicant must be a member of the ESSFN. There is no age limit.
- Selection will be finalized by the Officers before October 30, 2006.
- Conclusions of the selected project must be reported in September 2008, and presented during the 2008 ESSFN Congress.

Deadline  
September 15, 2006

### FUNDING

**THE RESEARCH GRANT AMOUNT IS: 20.000 Euros**

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

November 2006 (selection)	10.000 €
During 2007 (on written proofs)	5.000 €
At the conclusion of the report	5.000 €