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# ESSFN

09  
Fall '09

EUROPEAN SOCIETY  
FOR STEREOTACTIC  
AND FUNCTIONAL  
NEUROSURGERY

Newsletter no 5



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The XVIIIth Congress held in October 2008 in Rimini was another success for our society. The attendance was good (407 participants) and the scientific level was always high inciting numerous fruitful discussions. Both, the state of the art and new evolutions in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery were covered. The board thanks the local host Professor Massimo Scerrati and his co-workers for the perfect organization of the Congress in the historical and charming city of Rimini.

The next ESSFN congress will be held in Athens in September 2010 under the responsibility of Professor Damianos Sakas. It was decided that the 2012 ESSFN congress will be held in Lisboa organized by Professor Antonio Goncalves-Ferreira.

The 4th ESSFN Hands-On Course was held in October 2009 in Tolochenaz on the topic "Movement Disorders Surgery". The local organizing committee was chaired by Professor Marc Levivier. We have selected 21 young European neurosurgeons to participate and to advance with their super-specialization. Continuous education is one of the goals of our society which is also reflected by accreditation of our activities by CME credit points. The evaluation of the three previous training courses was very positive.

During the last years, we have decided to reinforce the position of the ESSFN within the European training for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, and to improve the coordination and harmonization of training and practice. In order to achieve these objectives, we have worked closely with the section of neurosurgery of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS). The first step in our effort to guide education and quality control concepts in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery was to establish the "Training Chart - Added Competence Movement Disorders Surgery". The final version of this Training Chart was approved by the UEMS section of neurosurgery in March, 2009, during the EANS meeting in Marseille. It is available for everyone now on the ESSFN website. The Training Chart has been published in Acta Neurochirurgica 2009;151:1505-9.

The next step will be to prepare the "Training Chart - Added Competence Pain Surgery". At the present time, these standards are considered as recommendations without legal bindings, but we expect that these documents serve as references for super-specialization within the frame of European regulations. I hope that the 2010 congress will give us the opportunity to discuss these issues further.

Yves Lazorthes  
Toulouse, France  
President, ESSFN

## CONTENTS

- 1** \_\_\_\_\_
- President's message
- 2** \_\_\_\_\_
- Secretary's message
- Treasurer's message
- 3** \_\_\_\_\_
- Obituary L. Laitinen
- 2008 ESSFN Rimini Meeting report
- 4 - 5** \_\_\_\_\_
- Minutes, General Assembly, ESSFN Congress 2008, Rimini
- 6** \_\_\_\_\_
- 2010 ESSFN Publication award
- 2010 ESSFN Research Grant
- 7** \_\_\_\_\_
- 2010 ESSFN Athens Meeting Announcement





With this newsletter we follow our tradition to inform our members briefly about new events and recent developments within the ESSFN. The last two years have been very successful for our society. The ESSFN training courses which are held in the years between the biannual congresses have become a constant factor of our educational activities. The website has been established as another medium to transport the spirit of the ESSFN all over Europe and worldwide with regular updates yearly.

There has been one change in the Executive Committee. Upon the request from Knut Wester, who gave a special and well appreciated lecture in Rimini, Ruby Mahesparan was nominated to present Norway in the future in the Executive Committee. The society again wants to thank Professor Wester for his great spirits over the years.

The ESSFN congress 2008 in Rimini was also an opportunity to appreciate the input from our younger colleagues. Three posters were awarded with the ESSFN best poster prize (500.- E each): those of Alfredo Conti from Messina, Felix Rauch from Hannover, and S. K. H. Tan from Maastricht. The candidates were selected by Professors Savas, from Ankara, and Tronnier, from Lóbeck. The awards for the best oral presentations (1000.- E each) were given to Laura Cif from Montpellier and to Dennis Fontaine from Nice. The committee for this prize consisted by Professors Hariz, from London, Bloch, from Lausanne, and Liscak, from Prague.

The candidate for the ESSFN 2008 Research Grant

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

which was also bestowed upon the occasion of the Rimini congress in October, 2008, was selected by Professors Lozano, from Toronto, Aziz, from Oxford, and Sakas, from Athens. The award was given to Götz Lójtens, from Hannover, for his submission of his project on deep brain stimulation in an animal model of neuropsychiatric disorders. The awardee will present his results during the ESSFN 2010 congress in Athens.

The General Assembly was well attended in Rimini. Please find the minutes attached to this newsletter. One other issue: next year there will be two meetings which will be under the auspices of the ESSFN – Treatment of Dystonia in May, 2010, in Hannover, and the 60 years Anniversary of Functional Neurosurgery in October, 2010, in Freiburg. For details please refer to the website. If you want to have other meetings to be sponsored under the auspices of the ESSFN please contact the secretary.

Since the last newsletter we had a steep increase in membership (by more than 20%!!). At this time, there are 263 members according to the Secretary' directory, including the new applications within the past few months. We need your continued support to bring new members to the society. The fee for resident membership continues to be as low as EUR 30 per year !! Encourage your young colleagues to join our endeavour. Application for membership can be sponsored by any ESSFN member or by one of the officers.

Joachim K. Krauss, M.D.  
Hannover, Germany  
First Secretary, ESSFN

## TREASURER'S MESSAGE

During the board meeting in Athens in May 2009 the treasurer gave a detailed overview on the financial balance of the ESSFN accounts in Leuven. For that purpose also a detailed hand-out was provided to the officers. At the time being, May 2009, the ESSFN had a positive balance. There was a benefit from the Rimini 2008 congress. Invoices for payment of membership fees 2009 were sent out in early 2009. Reminders have also been sent to those who did not transfer their fees. Those who paid received (or will receive if they paid recently) a confirmation of their payment. Payment by Pay-Pal is working very smoothly, and in the future payment by cheque will no longer be possible, because of the excessively high costs for the Society.

The board concluded from the detailed data on income and fixed expenses of the ESSFN that benefit from future congresses remains essential to cover the annually incurring fixed costs for grants, awards, travel expenses and website.

Bart Nuttin  
Treasurer



Bart Nuttin, Treasurer

## OBITUARY

### LAURI LAITINEN (1928-2005)

By Prof Marwan Hariz, London



Lauri Laitinen passed away on November 9, 2005. Lauri was one of the last remaining, second generation, European pioneers of functional and stereotactic neurosurgery.

Lauri was born on December 14, 1928 in Northern Finland. He completed his neurosurgical training at the University of Helsinki, where he defended a PhD thesis on craniosynostosis in 1956. Lauri contributed clinically and academically in virtually all aspects of neurosurgery, including pediatric, vascular, tumoral and other general neurosurgical domains. However, it is in the field of functional and stereotactic neurosurgery that Lauri was most widely known. Lauri designed his own stereotactic frames as well as one of the first devices to adapt the then new imaging modalities (CT and MRI) to functional stereotaxis, avoiding thus the use of ventriculography. The renaissance of surgery for Parkinson's disease (PD) is largely due to Lauri Laitinen who revitalised the old Leksell's posteroventral pallidotomy of the fifties, and who demonstrated its effect on symptoms of post-levodopa PD, well before the Alexander-DeLong basal ganglia model was known. His seminal paper on pallidotomy from 1992 remains the most quoted single paper in the functional neurosurgical literature. Laitinen was also academically active in non-surgical management of PD, which is very uncommon for a neurosurgeon. He published studies such as "Desipramine in treatment of PD. A placebo-controlled study" (1969) and "Effect of amantadine on some psychomotor performances in Parkinsonism. A double blind study" (1971). Laitinen was active in other functional domains than PD and movement disorders, not the least in the field of surgery for mental illness; he performed and analysed, together with the neuropsychologist Juhani Vilkki, all major stereotactic procedures for mental illness and devised in the 1970s new surgical interventions for psychiatric disorders such as the anterior mesoloviotomy, and the ventral rostral cingulotomy, a target similar to the one that has become today a promising DBS target for surgical treatment of depression. Already in 1977, Laitinen proposed in detail a project for a multidisciplinary prospective controlled randomized trial in which eligible patients would be allocated to either stereotactic psychosurgery (cingulotomy, anterior capsulotomy, ..) or to continued conservative therapy with prolonged follow up examinations by psychiatrists and psychologists.

Professor Marwan Hariz, London

## 2008 ESSFN RIMINI MEETING REPORT



The XVIIIth congress of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery took place from October 5 to October 8, 2008, in Rimini. This was the third ESSFN congress in Italy after Rome, 1983 (Prof. Gian Franco Rossi), and Milan, 1996 (Prof. Giovanni Broggi). The congress brought together 407 delegates coming mainly from Europe, but also from several non-European countries.

The main goal of the meeting was to confirm the impressive evolution of our discipline and its rising role within neurosurgical practice. Accordingly, the scientific programme encompassed all the classical fields of functional and stereotactic neurosurgery (movement disorders, pain, epilepsy, psychiatric disorders, neuronavigation and radiosurgery) but giving emphasis as well to recent progress and innovations of new technologies and basic research (stem cells and transplantation, brain mapping and monitoring, brain engineering, magnet encephalography, and future directions in neuromodulation).

To reach this goal there were three plenary sessions with 8 invited lectures (history of DBS, oscillatory activity of the basal ganglia, epilepsy surgery, brain machine interfaces, spinal radiosurgery, magnet encephalography, and functional surgery for mind and mood), and 17 scientific sessions presenting 282 selected oral and poster presentations. In addition, 5 symposia were dedicated to specific, attractive and controversial topics (past, present and future of DBS; loco-regional therapy for malignant cerebral gliomas; vagal stimulation for epilepsy and depression; failed back surgery syndrome; and controversies in radiosurgery).

The high number of participants, the great level of the scientific contributions, the appreciation of the social activities, the satisfaction of participants and sponsors, the magic and charming atmosphere of Rimini with its mixture of history, art and entertainment, and last but not least the positive final balance, have assured the full success of the meeting.

Now, I wish Prof. Damianos Sakas, president of the next 2010 ESSFN Congress, a good job and the best success, looking forward to meeting all of you again in Athens.

Massimo Scerrati  
Chair, Organizing Committee



## PROCEEDINGS OF THE ESSFN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

October 10, 2008, Rimini, Italy

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

### *President's report*

The President reports on the state of the development of the Training Chart – Added Competence Movement Disorders Surgery and on the ongoing discussions with the EANS and the UEMS. The ESSFN will be in the position to regulate the requirements for superspecialization in functional and stereotactic neurosurgery within the frame of the European community. He explains in detail the achievements which were made and the requirements which were imposed by the UEMS, in particular with regard to the number of operations which have to be done by the trainee. A copy of the latest version will be forwarded to all ExCom members in due time.

The President then relates to the successful transfer of the finances of the society from Toulouse to Leuven. He explains the necessities of the legal reports which continue to be issued in Toulouse.

The President reports on the well perceived radiosurgery course that was held in Marseille, November 2007. The course was hosted and organized by Jean Regis, together with Serge Blond and Marc Levivier. There were 16 participants from various European countries.

The President furthermore gives an account on the development of the ESSFN congresses over the past few years since 2002 in Toulouse. While there has been a steady rise in the number of scientific activities and the number of participants over the years, it appears that the present congress in Rimini is the most well attended congress thus far.

### *Secretary's report*

The Secretary reports on the development of membership. There are 245 ESSFN members at this time. At the last ExCom meeting in Montreux, in 2006, there were 199 members. The distribution of the ESSFN membership again is demonstrated in the poster which is displayed at the congress. The members are encouraged once more to further promote membership. The membership directory will be sent by e-mail per request to the members of the Executive Committee.

The Secretary reports about the Society's Newsletters. Newsletter No. 4 was sent out along with the minutes of the General Assembly from Montreux to all ESSFN members by surface mail. Newsletter No. 5 will be prepared to be sent out in fall 2009. All

ExCom members are asked for contributions to be included in the Newsletter.

The Secretary reports on the state of the website. It is working well, and several updates are made annually. It keeps being maintained by a professional website master. The newest achievement was the possibility to pay membership fees now via Pay-Pal.

The Secretary reports about the contacts with Karger Verlag. The Mission of the ESSFN is regularly published in the Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery journal at no cost. Notably, the impact factor of the journal has increased up to 1.3 since it has been reorganized. The Secretary encourages the ExCom members to consider the Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery journal for future publications. It has been thought to explore the possibilities that the journal would be the official organ of the ESSFN similar as it is the case with the ASSFN and the WSSFN. The main problem is the high cost for the journal and the somehow poor communication by Karger. At this time no agreement is being made.

The Secretary gives an account on the society's Research Grants (RG). Meanwhile, Dr. Pollo, the recipient of the RG 2004 wrote a detailed report. Dr. Pollo indicated that with the grant money it was possible to hire a PhD student and that the initial project lay grounds for successful application of another grant donated by the Swiss National Research Foundation. There were 9 applications for the RG 2006, and the recipient Dr. Sol from Toulouse will give an account during the present congress. There were 5 applications for the RG 2008.

### *Treasurer's report*

The Treasurer gives a detailed report on the financial balance of the ESSFN account in Leuven. The books of the society which have been revised by a chartered accountant were presented to the Auditing Committee, Drs. Galanda and Linderoth, for review. The funds of the society at this time total about 170.000 € which includes the total profit from meetings, membership fees and courses.

There is still a significant number of members who did not fulfill their duties to pay membership, some of them, for several years. The ESSFN members present are encouraged to support those morally who are still late.

The Treasurer reports that the invoices for payment of membership fees were sent out in June. Upon this occasion the members were informed about the new payment option via Pay-Pal over the website which was installed by the webmaster earlier. The option pay-per-check will not be available any longer while transfer via bank account will still be possible. There were some temporary problems with Pay-Pal which could be solved, however, by time-intensive discussions and several letters of the Treasurer to the service team from Pay-Pal.

### *ESSFN future congress*

The ESSFN members are informed that Athens has been confirmed as the site for the next ESSFN congress in 2010. The date of the congress, September 22 – 25, in the Astir Complex, near Athens, has been set. Brochures with the first announcement are ready to be distributed. The brochure includes the timelines for registration and submittance of abstracts which had been approved earlier by the officers.

The officers indicate that there have been several candidatures for the ESSFN 2012 and the ESSFN 2014 congresses: Lisboa by Goncalves-Ferreira, Maastricht by Visser-Vanderwalle, Lille by Blond, and Istanbul by Savas.

There are comments but since the assembly is running out of time and other meetings are scheduled in parallel there is no further discussion on this topic at that time. The members are informed that the final decision concerning the choice for the 2012 ESSFN congress will be announced by the President during the closing session.

### *ESSFN future courses*

It is confirmed that the ESSFN Training course 2009 will be held in Tolochenaz. The scope will be mainly deep brain stimulation in movement disorders. It is suggested to have a course over 2.5 days including basics of stereotactic surgery, indications for surgery, DBS programming, management of complications, case demonstrations and panel discussions - limited to 20 participants. The most likely date is the weekend October 8 -11, 2009.

The courses will be open only to ESSFN members or those who apply for membership at the time of registration. The ExCom members are encouraged to suggest appropriate candidates.

### *Matters arising*

The concept of the ESSFN registry is briefly explained. The difficulties to produce such a registry are acknowledged. Due to lack of data from many countries and subsequently some biased effects in others it is decided not to continue with the Registry project at this time.

The relationship with the neuromodulation society is discussed. While there is great interest to keep a good relationship with the neuromodulation society, any competition and possible overlap on national and international levels should be avoided. In particular, the ESSFN does not wish to be "infiltrated" by the neuromodulation society, and any attempt to jeopardize the independence of the ESSFN will be condemned.

Kunt Wester announces that he will retire from the Executive Committee. The Secretary thanks him cordially in the name of the society for his effective work all over the years and in particular for his stamina and engagement.

At the same time, Michiel Staal, ExCom member from Groningen, The Netherlands, asks whether the site for the 2012 meeting actually has been determined already, and if so how the procedural steps were. The Vice-President then explains that the choice would be Lisboa. Unfortunately, due to time restraints and the above mentioned circumstances this issue is not being discussed further.

### *Date of next meeting*

The next General Assembly will be held during the Athens ESSFN congress in 2010.

## EUROPEAN SOCIETY for STEREOTACTIC and FUNCTIONAL NEUROSURGERY



### 2010 ESSFN Publication Award on DBS

– sponsored by Medtronic

At the last officers' meeting in Lausanne in October 2009, it was decided to establish a new award – the ESSFN publication award on deep brain stimulation – sponsored by Medtronic.

The profile of the grant is clearly different from the ESSFN research grant. The grants will be bestowed biannually upon the occasion of the ESSFN congress. The grant can be advertised both by the ESSFN and by Medtronic.

The publication must have been published in 2009 or 2010 in a peer-reviewed journal, or it must be available at least online in PubMed. Manuscripts not yet online or published, that is those "in press" or "accepted" are not being considered. The topic of the study may be clinical or experimental, however, it has to deal with the issue of electrical brain stimulation. The ESSFN member must be either the first or the last author of the manuscript. The candidate will be selected by a subcommittee. The prize will be awarded during the ESSFN congress.

The application (along with four copies of the publication must be sent by surface mail to the Secretary:

Prof. 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

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

**The Publication award is: 2 x 3.000 Euros**

#### ELIGIBILITY

**Deadline**  
June 30, 2010

## EUROPEAN SOCIETY for STEREOTACTIC and FUNCTIONAL NEUROSURGERY



### 2010 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 surface mail to the First Secretary:

Prof. 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

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 Athens 2010 congress.

Scientific conclusions of the selected project and financial balance must be reported in September 2012, and presented during the 2012 ESSFN congress.

#### FUNDING

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

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

September 2010 (selection) :	10.000 €
During 2010 (on written proofs):	5.000 €
At the conclusion of the report:	5.000 €

#### ELIGIBILITY

**Deadline**  
June 30, 2010

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

## XIX CONGRESS OF THE ESSFN

### Announcement

by Prof Damianos E. Sakas  
Chair, Organizing Committee

Dear Colleagues,

With great pleasure we announce the XIX Congress of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery that will be held in Athens, Greece, September 22-25, 2010.

We will meet in the Astir Hotel in Vouliagmeni Peninsula of the Athenian coast, a location that offers nice natural surroundings and all the services and facilities to meet the needs of a high quality scientific meeting. Vouliagmeni is located 25 km away from the centre of Athens and has easy access to the monuments of cultural heritage (Acropolis, Olympic Stadium, Museums etc.). The congress will present the latest information on the utility of established and new technologies, their clinical applications and future prospects of emerging technologies. Its aim is to exchange ideas and experiences on the newest development of neurosurgical methodology, neuronavigation, neuromodulation, neurotransplantation and gene therapy, tumours, movement disorders, epilepsy, pain, radiosurgery and interoperative monitoring. We intend to prepare an exciting scientific program with state-of-the art lectures, debates and round tables from worldwide recognized authorities.

We look forward to seeing you in Greece.



Damianos E. Sakas,



### Important dates

- May 10, 2010**  
Deadline for submission of abstracts
- June 5, 2010**  
Notification of acceptance of abstracts
- June 14, 2010**  
Deadline for early registration

### Congress Site

[www.essfn2010.org](http://www.essfn2010.org)