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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank all ESSFN members for their confidence giving me the honour to serve as President of this prestigious society. Over the past 8 years I had the pleasure collaborating closely with the Executive Committee in my function as secretary and I always appreciated their support. I am particularly honoured to succeed the long line of superb functional neurosurgeons who had great impact in the development of our field and I will do my best to meet the high standards, which have been set. My special thanks go to our past president Yves Lazorthes who prepared me well for this office and also to the other officers. When I was a resident of one of our former presidents, Professor Mundinger, in the 1980s in Freiburg, I never could have imagined following his steps as president of the ESSFN. The new era of functional and stereotactic neurosurgery nowadays is an exciting time when its concepts penetrate and intermingle with so many aspects of neurosurgery.



With the new board of officers who were elected at the General Assembly of the ESSFN Congress in Athens in September 2010, Damianos Sakas as Secretary, Bart Nuttin as Treasurer, Jean Regis as Vice President, and Rick Schuurman as Second Secretary, we will follow the traditions of our predecessors and we will also step into the future which will expand both techniques and indications for functional neurosurgery. ESSFN membership has been growing continuously, and it is a special pleasure to welcome Istvan Valalik to the Executive Committee as the representative for Hungary, and Angelo Franzini for Italy.

The ESSFN congress 2010 in Athens has been a great success thanks to the efforts of the local organizing team under the guidance of Damianos Sakas and thanks to the active support and the lively participation of ESSFN membership. The scientific value was outstanding and the atmosphere was superb. Although the congress is only few months behind we are already active in planning the ESSFN Congress 2012 in Lisboa, hosted by Antonio Gonçalves-Ferreira, and the ESSFN Congress 2014 in Maastricht, hosted by Veerle Visser-Vandewalle. One of the major issues, which we see reflected by our congresses, is the increasing involvement of the treatment of psychiatric disorders. Times change.

I am particularly proud that after years of negotiation the journal *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery* has become the official journal of the ESSFN, along with the *ASSFN* and the *WSSFN*. Under the leadership of David Roberts the journal has evolved greatly which is also reflected by its current impact factor of 1.4. ESSFN members now have the unique advantage that they have free online access to *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery* and access to the printed journal is provided at a special low rate. For details please refer to the treasurer's report.

ESSFN nowadays is the oldest society in functional and stereotactic neurosurgery. Besides the congresses which are held every two years, its regular activities include an active website, the biannual teaching courses, research grants, awards and prizes, and guidelines on added competence. The new training charter on added competence for pain surgery, which has been a common project of ESSFN and UEMS is being published in *Acta Neurochirurgica*. My goals for the next few years are to strengthen the relationship with the other functional neurosurgery societies but also to make ESSFN still more powerful. I count on your help and on your continued support.

Joachim K. Krauss
Hannover, Germany
President, ESSFN

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

I wish to express my gratitude and great appreciation to all ESSFN members for offering me the privilege and honor to serve as Secretary of our historical society. I am particularly indebted to the two retired colleagues from the ESSFN Board of Officers, the ex-President Yves Lazorthes and the ex-Vice President Giovanni Broggi, for their invaluable guidance and support all the previous years and for providing an outstanding leadership to our society. I would like also to express my great appreciation to the President Joachim Krauss for his guidance, advice and help during the previous four years and for making the transfer of secretarial duties to me much more easier. Finally, I would like to thank our Treasurer, Bart Nuttin, for his friendship, confidence, and thoughtful input and support in promoting ESSFN's role in the wider neurosurgical community over the last four years. In my new position as Secretary, in close collaboration with existing members of the Board and the two recently elected officers, i.e. Jean Regis and Rick Schuurman, I will try to increase our membership, disseminate the mission of ESSFN even more widely and serve the educational aims of our Society to the best of my ability.

This year, we celebrated in Athens the 40th Anniversary since the creation of ESSFN in Freiburg Germany, in 1970. On this particular occasion, the present issue of the Newsletter, in its revised and extended form, aims not only to inform our colleagues about recent interesting events in ESSFN but, also, to reflect on the exciting developments in our society. ESSFN remains committed to an educational and training program aimed to younger colleagues. This is currently materialized through the ESSFN Training Courses, an important educational program held in the years between the biannual congresses and covering in sequence the main areas of our interests. Following the very successful 2009 Training Course on "DBS for movement disorders" conducted by Mark Levivier in Tolochenaz, the 2011 Course on "Epilepsy Surgery" will be organized by Dirk van Roost in Ghent, Belgium and

future courses are currently considered on psychosurgery and spasticity.

I would like to thank Massimo Scerrati for his contribution in the Executive Committee over the years and for the organization of the successful Congress of Rimini in 2008. At the same time, I welcome Angelo Franzini and Ivan Valalik as the new representatives of Italy and Hungary, respectively, in the Executive Committee.



All members should feel particularly satisfied that, following long negotiations of the President, Joachim Krauss, and the Treasurer, Bart Nuttin, with Karger, the journal *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery* has become the official journal of our society along with ASSFN and WSSFN, a development that offers to our members free online access to this journal and, at an additional reasonable cost, the printed issues of the Journal.

The website has continued to be an important forum to disseminate the spirit and mission of the ESSFN all over Europe and worldwide with regular updates yearly. For further details regarding ESSFN activities please refer to the website. If you wish to organize meetings under the sponsorship or the auspices of the ESSFN please contact the Secretary.

We need your continued support to bring new members to the society. Please encourage young colleagues to join our Society. Application for membership can be sponsored by any ESSFN member or by one of the officers.

Damianos E. Sakas
Athens, Greece
Secretary, ESSFN

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

The Treasurer reports that the Society is financially healthy. All ESSFN members who paid their membership fee in 2009 have obtained automatically access to the ONLINE version of the journal 'Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery'. The ESSFN has paid Karger, the publisher of this journal, from this fee. Since the meeting in Athens in September 2010, the number of members who have access to this ONLINE version increased from 146 to 160. Many members agree that getting the ONLINE version of the journal is definitely worthwhile. Karger will only continue the collaboration with the ESSFN if Karger receives an amount equivalent to the payment of at least 200 members. Therefore, it is essential that members who did not pay yet their membership fee for 2009 do so before March 20, 2011.



Bart Nuttin
Leuven, Belgium
Treasurer, ESSFN

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F. John Gillingham
Fritz Mundinger
Gian Franco Rossi
Bjørn A. Meyerson
Christoph B. Ostertag
David G. T. Thomas
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Yves Lazorthes

Officers:

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Marseille, France
Vice President
Damianos Sakas
Athens, Greece
Secretary
Rick Schuurman
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Second Secretary
Bart Nuttin
Leuven, Belgium
Treasurer

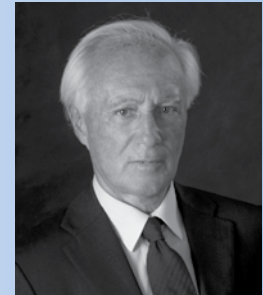
Executive Committee:

Frannois Alesch
Vienna, Austria
Tipu Aziz
Oxford, U.K.
Jocelyne Bloch
Lausanne, Switzerland
Serge Blond
Lille, France
Jean Ciurea
Bucharest, Romania
Angelo Franzini
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Ruby Mahesparan
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Dirk van Roost
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Ali Savas
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Vladimir Shabalov
Moscow, Russia
Michiel J. Staal
Groningen, The Netherlands
Juho Tuominen
Oulu, Finland
Istvan Valalik
Budapest, Hungary
Jürgen Voges
Magdeburg, Germany

Website: www.essfn.org

FEW THOUGHTS AFTER 12 YEARS IN THE BOARD OF OUR SOCIETY: A COMMENTARY

I joined the ESSFN in 1979 and was elected as a member of the Board in 1998. During the period 1998-2006, I served as the Treasurer and my main priority was to improve the financial situation of our society. In order to accomplish the mission of our society, particularly the education and training of younger neurosurgeons, I felt it would be mandatory to use methods of professional management in ESSFN. Towards this goal and on the basis of tax-related arguments, the President, Prof. D. Thomas, and the Officers decided to transfer the seat of our society from Freiburg, Germany (where it was established in 1970) to Toulouse, France. The ESSFN General Assembly approved, in October 2000, the above-mentioned proposal and two years later, in October 2002, the updated Constitution and By-Laws of our Society. ESSFN was registered in France in December 2002 in the legal form of a non-profit association (French law 1901).



The necessary funds that formed the financial basis of the Society was raised by the income of two profitable ESSFN Congresses, i.e. Toulouse 2002 and Vienna 2004. In 2004, the existing positive financial balance allowed our society to fund the construction of a website and create a bi-annual research grant of 20.000 € and five awards offered during the ESSFN Congresses for oral and poster presentations of 3.000 € each.

Another important educational development in the history of our Society took place in 2003. The Board, with Andries Bosch serving as President, organized the first Hands-on Educational Course on Movement Disorders Surgery in Tolochenaz, Switzerland in October 2003. Afterwards, this initiative evolved to a major bi-annual educational event of our Society. In particular, the Organizing Committee of the Course, in close collaboration with the Board, selects and invites about 20 young European neurosurgeons for a 3-day intensive training program offered by highly-esteemed invited speakers and experienced neurosurgeons.

During the last 4 years while I served as the President, in close collaboration with the other Board members, we worked on another important educational objective. One of our main goals has been to improve and harmonize the European training and practice in Stereotactic and Functional neurosurgery. As a result of a continuous and productive cooperation with the EANS and the UEMS section of Neurosurgery, we have taken various actions and led them to a successful conclusion. First, we established the definition of the modern concept of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery and, second, we validated recommendations and guidelines on the «subspecialization» in the various specific fields of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery, in the form of «Training Charters». The first Training Charter on «Movement Disorders Surgery» was completed and published in 2009 (Acta Neurochirurgica 2009;151:1505-1509) with the approval of UEMS. The second Training Charter on «Pain Surgery» was finally approved in September 2010 by ESSFN and UEMS, and is, currently, «In press» in Acta Neurochirurgica.

With regard to perspectives, the new President J. Krauss and the officers of the Board, are on the right path to work, in cooperation with EANS, on another Training Charter on «Epilepsy Surgery». They also work on the preparation of the first Epilepsy Surgery Hands-on Course that will take place in Ghent, Belgium in October, 2011. I feel confident they will continue to work in improving the standards of theoretical education and practical expertise of the young European neurosurgeons who are involved in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery; undoubtedly, this goal will also contribute to an increase in the number of ESSFN members.

My last recommendation would be to increase the efforts to involve the ESSFN Executive Committee members more actively in all programs and initiatives of our society and, hence, to contribute more substantially to the evolution of the field. It would also be advisable, in my opinion, to support the formation of «National Chapters» in the various E.U. countries such as the existing «Club Français» or the newly formed «Sociedad Española» and also facilitate the close collaboration of those chapters with ESSFN. I do believe that such a development could be a constructive strategy for our Society. Good luck to all of you!

Yves Lazorthes
Toulouse, France
Honorary President, ESSFN

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ESSFN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

September 24, 2010, Athens, Greece

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

President's report

The President reports on the evolution of the relationship of ESSFN with the EANS in order to improve the coordination and harmonisation of neurosurgical training in the field of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery all over Europe. He indicates that there is a concept of nominating common delegates for both societies. It is suggested that Jean Regis from Marseille would serve in that function to be commissioned by the ESSFN. Overall, this is regarded as a very positive development for both ESSFN and EANS.

The President summarizes the achievements which have been made with the UEMS Section of Neurosurgery in order to create "Added Competence Charters" for the main working domains of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. The first task that was accomplished together was the Training Charter for Added Competence in Movement Disorders Surgery that was published as an official document of both ESSFN and UEMS in November 2009, in *Acta Neurochirurgica*. The main goal of this charter was to formulate minimal standard criteria to ensure both quality of education and qualification. The second step was to establish the Training Charter Added Competence for Pain Surgery. After several steps of development and revision, also this charter was finally approved by UEMS leadership as a common document of ESSFN and UEMS. The charter now is being processed for publication in *Acta Neurochirurgica* which serves as the official organ of the EANS. Reprints for both documents are available for all ESSFN members and the documents can be downloaded from the ESSFN website. Future topics for training charters to define quality training all over Europe could be epilepsy surgery, psychiatric surgery or treatment of spasticity. Finally, it is mentioned that thus far the training charters are only recommendations and have no legal bindings yet.

The President reports on the well received hands-on course on deep brain stimulation for movement disorders surgery which was held in Lausanne, October, 2009. The course was hosted and organised by M. Levivier with the support from J. Bloch and C. Pollo. There were 19 participants from various European countries. The course had a very positive pedagogic

evaluation and provided additional financial balance for the society.

It is announced that the next ESSFN Training Course with the topic of epilepsy surgery will be hosted by Dirk van Roost in Ghent, Belgium. The course will be convened from October 27 to October 29, 2011. The choice of attendees will be based as before upon suggestions from the members of the Executive Committee. The deadline for the applications will be announced in due time.

The President indicates that two other major tasks have been accomplished within the past two years. First, an algorithm has been established to select candidates for future ESSFN congresses (see Secretary's report below). Furthermore, the journal *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery* now is the official journal of the ESSFN along with WSSFN and ASSFN, and the electronic version will be distributed for free to every ESSFN member in good standing according to payment of his membership fees (see Secretary's and Treasurer's report below).

Finally, the President brings to the attention of the members the new regulations by EUCOMED which will determine the rules for the participation of companies in future congresses and the choice of location and facilities for future conferences.

Secretary's report

The Secretary reports first on the development of membership. At the time being there are 242 ESSFN members. The Secretary indicates that, in 2006, there were 199 members, while in 2008 there were 245 members. Nevertheless, the present number of 242 marks another rise of "true" membership, since in June 2010, 17 members have been expelled from the society since they did not pay membership fees for more than 7 years despite numerous reminders. The distribution of the ESSFN membership again is demonstrated in a poster which is displayed at the entrance area to the congress.

The Secretary reports about the society's newsletters. Newsletter number 5 was sent out along with the minutes of the General Assembly in Rimini to all

ESSFN members by surface mail by the end of last year. It was also displayed on the ESSFN website. The next ESSFN Newsletter, issue number 6, will be distributed in early 2011 and it will be edited once more by D. Sakas.

The Secretary gives an overview on the state of the website which is working very well and keeps being maintained regularly by a professional webmaster. Several updates are made each year and important issues are advertised in the news section.

The Secretary gives an account on the society's grants and awards. This year, 4 applications were sent for the ESSFN Research Grant, and 3 applications were sent for the ESSFN Publication Award on Deep Brain Stimulation sponsored by Medtronic. The grants and awards will be announced during the closing ceremony after selection by the responsible committees.

The Secretary gives a detailed account on the process which has been elaborated by the officers in the past two years how to select sites for ESSFN future congresses. The selection procedure which has been formulated during the officers' meeting in May, 2009, and which has been revised later has been approved by the ExCom members during the meeting the day before.

The final selection for the ESSFN future congress site should be made 4 years ahead at the corresponding ExCom meeting (that is the congress site 2014 should be selected during the 2010 ExCom meeting). Applications should be sent at least 9 months ahead of the ExCom meeting to the officers of the society. These applications should contain all necessary logistic and financial issues, that is reasonable budgetary plans and information on the congress premises. Guidelines for these procedures are provided by the board of officers. The officers will then make a preselection primarily based on the logistic and financial plans. It is important to remember that the activity of the society primarily depends on the income made at congresses. The officers will then ask the selected candidates to give a 5-minute presentation at the ExCom meeting. The ExCom members will then select the final candidate for the meeting to be hosted in 4 years. The final candidate will be announced in the General Assembly and give his presentation again to all ESSFN members.

The Secretary indicates that for 2014 two preliminary business plans were provided by Visser-Vandewalle for Maastricht and by Savas for Istanbul. The ExCom members selected Maastricht for the 2014 ESSFN congress during the ExCom meeting upon the recommendation by the officers.

All ESSFN members who wish their country to be

considered a candidate for the ESSFN 2016 congress are encouraged to give a short presentation in the General Assembly. From these proposals (and from those not considered in the ExCom meeting) three candidates will be selected and will be contacted by the officers to provide a business plan, according to the guidelines prepared by D. Sakas. The 3 selected candidates will then present the application in the ExCom meeting 2012 along the procedure as outlined above.

The Secretary briefly summarizes the session Intraoperative Monitoring, the combined session of ESSFN and the International Society for Intraoperative Neurophysiology (ISIN). The project has been well received, and it could serve as a model for similar future endeavours.

Finally, the Secretary reports on the state of the negotiations with Karger regarding the journal *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery*, which is now the official journal of the ESSFN. The Secretary refers to his e-mail that was sent on June 24, 2010, to Mr Nold from Karger to summarize the state of negotiations. This was circulated to the WSSFN and ASSFN officers, and to the editor D. Roberts. Overall, there was an overwhelming positive response to these efforts. Following the general agreement to move on, more detailed negotiations were made between Mr Nold and the Treasurer, B. Nuttin (see Treasurer's Report).

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 were revised by a chartered accountant, were presented to the auditing committee consisted by Drs Galanda and Linderoth for review. The auditing committee gave a written report that they had detailed insights into the ESSFN accounts for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010. The contents and accuracy of the accounts were approved by the auditing committee.

The official seat of the society will remain to be rooted in Toulouse, France since, with regard to European regulations, there is no need to change the seat of the society in the future.

The Treasurer then reports on details of his negotiations with Karger on how to provide online access to *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery* to ESSFN members. A list of paying members had been sent by the Treasurer to Karger. It was agreed, that there is a trial period until April 2011 with reevaluation after that timeline. Overall, Karger considers a number of 200 paying ESSFN members as a reasonable basis

for further development. The fee for online access charged by Karger is € 29,- (which is provided by ESSFN without additional charge to the individual ESSFN members). Karger will provide passwords for each paying member that will change each year. The online subscription includes online access to the back issues as of 2005. In addition, print subscription for 2011 at the rate of € 120,- will be offered through ESSFN, while orders and invoicing will be handled directly between the individual member and Karger. Mr Nold and the Treasurer will meet in April 2011 to decide how to go on. Karger suggested that until that time ASSFN and WSSFN would not participate in this project.

Election of officers/Executive Committee members

Dirk van Roost and M Galanda members of the Nominating Committee announce the candidates for the positions of ESSFN officers.

The following votes are made without dissenting votes:

Joachim K. Krauss is voted as *President*.

Damianos E. Sakas as *Secretary*.

Bart Nuttin as *Treasurer*.

Jean Regis as *Vice-President*.

Rick Schuurman as *Second Secretary*.

The new President *Joachim K. Krauss* takes over the chair for the General Assembly. He thanks the Past President *Yves Lazorthes* for his successful leadership within the past four year counting on his future advice.

Dirk van Roost and M Galanda from the Nominating Committee suggest the candidates for the position as ESSFN Executive Committee members:

Angelo Franzini is voted as representative for Italy.

Istvan Valalik is voted as representative for Hungary.

ESSFN Congress 2012 Lisboa

Antonio Gonçalves-Ferreira reports on the ongoing preparations for the ESSFN 2012 congress. Cascais

has been finally selected as the site where the congress will be convened. A brochure has been prepared which was distributed during the congress in Athens. The preliminary date for the congress will be the last week of September 2012. The congress will take place along the pattern that has been established in the past decades, that is from Wednesday to Saturday.

ESSFN future courses

The next ESSFN Training Course 2011 on "Epilepsy Surgery" will be hosted in Ghent by D. van Roost. The program will include local faculty and invited speakers. ExCom members will suggest and select appropriate candidates for the course. The teaching course will be convened from Thursday, October 27, 2011 to Saturday, October 29, 2011.

ESSFN future congresses – 2014 and beyond

Visser-Vandewalle gives a detailed presentation concerning both the congress site and the budgetary plans for the ESSFN congress in Maastricht in 2014.

Ali Savas gives a presentation for the application of the ESSFN congress to be held in Istanbul in 2016. Two other applicants for 2016 speak up: J. Ciurea suggests to have the ESSFN Congress 2016 in Romania, and S. Eljamel provides arguments to consider Scotland.

Matters arising

ESSFN member G Schechtmann from Sweden reports on his survey on how stereotactic surgery for movement disorders is performed nowadays worldwide. This survey was already distributed via WSSFN. ESSFN members are asked to participate actively in the survey which is supported by the officers and the Executive Committee.

Date of next meeting

The next General Assembly will be held during the XX ESSFN Congress, in Lisboa, Portugal, in 2012.

The meeting is closed at 18.00

5TH ESSFN HANDS-ON COURSE EPILEPSY SURGERY

OCTOBER 27-29, 2011 - GHENT, BELGIUM

- LECTURES** EPILEPSY SYNDROMES, PRESURGICAL NON-INVASIVE AND INVASIVE EVALUATION, ANATOMY OF AND SURGICAL APPROACHES TO THE TEMPORAL LOBE, SELECTIVE AMYGDALOHIPPOCAMPECTOMY, RADIOSURGERY, DISCONNECTIONS, FUNCTIONAL HEMISPHERECTOMY, VAGUS NERVE STIMULATION, DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION, COMPLICATIONS AND REOPERATIONS
- HANDS-ON** SUBDURAL ELECTRODES, MULTIPLE SUBPIAL TRANSECTION, TOPECTOMY, TEMPORAL LOBECTOMY, SELECTIVE AMYGDALOHIPPOCAMPECTOMY, CALLOSOTOMY, HEMISPHERIC DISCONNECTION, VAGUS NERVE STIMULATION
- LOCATION** NH HOTEL GENT BELFORT, HOOGPPOORT 63, B-9000 GHENT, BELGIUM
INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY, K.L. LEDEGANCKSTRAAT 35, B-9000 GHENT, BELGIUM



"PILGRIMAGE OF THE EPILEPTICS TO THE CHURCH AT MOLENBEEK", BY PIETER BREUGHEL THE YOUNGER, 16TH CENTURY

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE DIRK VAN ROOST, FRANK DEWAELE

FACULTY R. ACHTEN, P. BOON, S. CHABARDÈS, H. CLUSMANN, O. DELALANDE, F. DEWAELE, J. GOFFIN, A. GONÇALVES-FERREIRA, J. K. KRAUSS C. RAFTOPOULOS, J. RÉGIS, D. SAKAS, J. SCHRAMM, J. VAN LOON, W. VAN PAESSCHEN, D. VAN ROOST, K. VONCK

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE J. K. KRAUSS, J. RÉGIS, D. SAKAS, R. SCHUURMAN, B. NUTTIN, D. VAN ROOST, A. GONÇALVES-FERREIRA.

REGISTRATION FEE - 100 €

ADVANCED RESIDENTS AND YOUNG NEUROSURGEONS WITH SPECIAL INTEREST IN EPILEPSY SURGERY. PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ESSFN MEMBERS OR APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP. SUPPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED. LIMITED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AND GRANTS. APPLICATION WITH CV, LETTER OF MOTIVATION AND LETTER OF SUPPORT MUST BE SENT BY E-MAIL BEFORE **JUNE 15, 2011** EITHER TO: DIRK.VANROOST@UGENT.BE OR TO THE ESSFN PRESIDENT: KRAUSS.JOACHIM@MH-HANNOVER.DE. HOTEL ROOMS AT REDUCED RATE HAVE BEEN RESERVED AT THE VENUE. FOR CHEAPER ROOMS THE LOCAL ORGANIZER CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION.

ESSFN MISSION

The European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ESSFN) is a multinational non-profit organization with a long and rich history.

The mission

The principal objectives of the society are:

1. to study and teach the methods of functional and stereotactic neurosurgery as applied in the human nervous system as well as to promote scientific investigations in connection with these endeavours
2. to investigate the etiology and mechanisms of diseases of the nervous system and their treatment and to teach and promote the investigation of the function of the nervous system and its components,
3. to establish scholarships for educational training in these fields,
4. to promote scientific and medical research in these areas, and
5. to promote, sponsor or solicit assistance for all related activities.

The society strives to achieve its objectives through:

1. congresses, lectures and practical courses as well as scientific publications
2. personal contacts and close relationships among the members themselves and with physicians and scientists in all specialized fields related to stereotactic and functional surgery of the nervous system.

Journal

The journal Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery is the official journal of ESSFN.

Membership

There are five different categories of membership: active, associate, resident, honorary and benefactor. The membership has increased steadily over the past few years.

New members are cordially welcome to the ESSFN. Note the special fee for residents.

Benefits include intense contact with colleagues from other European countries, free access to the online version of the journal Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery and at a reduced cost to the printed version, free newsletter, possibilities to serve on the society's committees and boards, preferences for selection of candidates for teaching courses, reduced fees at congresses.

To become a member please send your CV and the membership application form to one of the officers of the society.

ESSFN GRANTS AND AWARDS 2010

During the ESSFN Congress 2010 that took place in Athens, we had the opportunity to appreciate the input from our younger colleagues. The awards offered by ESSFN included: a) the Research Grant, b) the Publication award on DBS, c) the Best Oral Presentation Award, and d) the Best Poster Award. The Committees of colleagues who selected the contributions to be awarded, the names of the awardees and the titles of the works that received the awards are described below.

2010 ESSFN Research Grant

Committee: B. Linderoth, A. Lozano, J. Voges

(€ 20.000)

Stefanos Korfiatis, Athens, Greece: "Transcranial alternating current stimulation (tACS) effects on cognitive event-related potentials (ERPs) in patients with persistent vegetative state (PVS) or minimally conscious state (MCS)"

2010 ESSFN Publication Award on DBS – sponsored by Medtronic

Committee: M. Hariz, R. Mahesparan, T. Aziz

(2 x € 3000)

Hans-Holger Capelle, Hannover, Germany: "Chronic deep brain stimulation in patients with tardive dystonia without a history of major psychosis" (Movement Disorders)

Pepijn van den Munckhof, Amsterdam, The Netherlands: "Postoperative curving and upward displacement of deep brain stimulation electrodes caused by brain shift" (Neurosurgery)

2010 ESSFN Best Oral Presentation Award

Committee: A. Goncalves-Ferreira, M. Galanda, D. van Roost

(2 x € 1000)

Volker A. Coenen, Bonn, Germany: "The medial forebrain bundle in man: a forgotten structure and its role in the circuitry of depression – an analysis with DTI fiber tracking" (OR 58)

Emile Simon, Lyon, France "Epidural electrical auditory cortex stimulation in the management of chronic unilateral disabling tinnitus. First results of the pilot study ELECTIN" (OR68)

2010 ESSFN Best Poster Award

Committee: M. Harat, I. Panourias, J. Bloch

(3 x € 500)

Patrick Schweder, Oxford, UK: "Connectivity of the anterior nucleus of thalamus in epilepsy" (OP23)

L. Schjerling, Copenhagen, Denmark: "A double-blind crossover trial of DBS in GPi and STN in dystonia" (P031)

L. Zrinzo, London, UK: "Minimizing brain shift in stereotactic functional neurosurgery" (P076)

2008 ESSFN RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT REPORT

Dear Colleagues,

Let me introduce myself. My name is Götz Lütjens and I am a 6th year resident in the Department of Neurosurgery at Hannover Medical School. I was awarded with the ESSFN Research Grant 2008 endowed with 20.000 Euro, on the occasion of the XVIII ESSFN Congress in Rimini, Italy.

The grant money was spent on my research project "Effect of deep brain stimulation on pharmacologically induced deficient sensorimotor gating in rats, an endophenotype for Tourette's syndrome" which was carried out under the supervision of Prof. K. Schwabe, Head of Experimental Neurosurgery, in our Department. The project was focused on a rat model for neuropsychiatric disorders with features typically seen in Tourette Syndrome (TS). The studies showed that excitotoxic lesions and deep brain stimulation (DBS) of the rats' entopeduncular nucleus (EPN), the equivalent to the human globus pallidus internus, prevent apomorphine-induced deficient sensorimotor gating, a well established measurement in animal models used for neuropsychiatric disorders such as TS. Furthermore, it was demonstrated that only lesions of the EPN could ameliorate apomorphine-induced hyperlocomotion, a marker for stereotypic or tic-like behavior. The lesions did not alter normal cognitive or behavioral functions such as memory, motivation and motor skills. The results point out that DBS of the EPN counteracts differentially various features in this rat model of TS.

It has been a privilege to present the results two years later at the exciting XIX ESSFN Congress in Athens 2010. We have published our results in Behavioral Brain Research (IF 3.2) and two additional publications, which are being currently processed, will follow. The work that I was able to carry out with the support of the ESSFN grant laid the foundation for my future research.

Again, I would like to thank everybody involved for offering me the honour of being awarded with this prestigious grant.



Götz Lütjens
Department of Neurosurgery
Hannover Medical School
Hannover, Germany

2010 ESSFN RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT MESSAGE

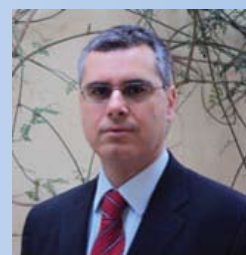
Dear colleagues,

I am delighted and deeply honoured for having been elected for the ESSFN Research Grant 2010, during the XIX ESSFN Congress in Athens.

Our research project entitled: "Transcranial Alternating Current Stimulation (tACS) effects on Cognitive Event-Related Potentials (ERPs) in patients with Persistent Vegetative State (PVS) or Minimally Conscious State (MCS)" is a clinical trial of a non-invasive brain stimulation technology. Patients with Persistent Vegetative State (PVS) or Minimally Conscious State (MCS) will be submitted to transcranial alternating current stimulation. This is based on recent literature data on Transcranial Alternating Current Stimulation and its ability to induce synchronous brain activity as measured by EEG (Zaghi et al, 2009). Consequently, alternating current may enhance the efficacy of the underlying neurophysiological activity.

We will proceed to a double-blind, randomized placebo controlled study. Patients will be randomly assigned to two groups. Both groups will receive real and sham tACS, applied bilaterally to the area of the scalp overlying the primary sensorimotor cortex at two different days. Ten patients with PVS or MCS, aged between 18 and 50 years, and four healthy volunteers will be included in the study. Electro-encephalographic (EEG) activity will be recorded and event-related brain potentials (EEG oscillations time- and phase-locked to particular events) will be captured during the transcranial stimulation.

We have already encouraging preliminary results in a condition that deserves the attention of the Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgical Community.



Stefanos Korfias
Department of Neurosurgery, University of Athens
Evangelismos General Hospital
Athens, Greece

OBITUARIES

During the year 2010, two Japanese distinguished stereotactic and functional neurosurgeons passed away. ESSFN as the oldest society dedicated to stereotactic and functional neurosurgery honoured their memory and contribution by including obituaries by T. Taira in the scientific program of the ESSFN Congress 2010 in Athens, Greece.

CHIHIRO OHYE (July 3, 1932 – Jan 5, 2010)



On January 5, 2010, Dr. Chihiro Ohye, M.D., Ph.D., a highly esteemed and inspirational figure in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery, passed away. He was seventy-seven years old and died from a heart attack.

Dr. Ohye, a diligent researcher, contributed greatly to the development of selective, small lesioning in the VIM nucleus sufficient to control tremor instead of the traditional large lesioning in the VL thalamus. His pioneering method of intraoperative recordings with semi-microelectrodes became a standard treatment in stereotactic functional neurosurgery. Dr Ohye originally learned this technique in Paris from Mme and M. Fessard at L'Institut Marey. Since that time he maintained a strong connection with the French Academy.

Dr. Ohye was the Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery in Gunma University, Japan. He started Gamma Knife thalamotomy and this aroused great curiosity among us, since he had always emphasized the importance of electrophysiological confirmation during thalamotomy. Even after retirement, he was active for 12 years, performing stereotactic functional operations. I believe that his life-long pursuit in microrecording was motivated by his desire to minimize invasiveness to the patients. His work was focused on maximizing the beneficial effects and minimizing the risks and complications. After each operation, he used to wash scrupulously the microelectrodes and keep them in a sterilizing box; such a meticulous care became part of my routine practice as well.

Above all, and in every aspect of his medical practice, Dr. Ohye was a wonderful mentor and friend to neurosurgeons throughout the world. He shared with his colleagues not only his deep medical and scientific knowledge but also his good will. His wry smile would often punctuate a serious discussion, thus expressing how much he used to enjoy what he was doing. Many of his pupils are now actively engaged in functional neurosurgery and Gamma Knife therapies. Dr Ohye was respected and admired throughout his career. He will be sorely missed.

TAKASHI TSUBOKAWA (March 4, 1930 – Aug 25, 2010)

Dr. Takashi Tsubokawa died on August 25, 2010, after almost one-year-long struggle with malignancy. He was a distinguished doctor and the inventor of motor cortex stimulation for intractable pain. He should also be remembered as a thoughtful neuroscientist and excellent teacher. His great contributions are found in many areas of neurosurgery.

Before starting his career as a neurosurgeon, Dr. Tsubokawa was involved in basic neurophysiological studies on functions of the hypothalamus, basal ganglia, and the subthalamic nucleus in Yale and Emory Universities. In around 1970, he published papers on subthalamic neuronal responses to joint movements and on the relationships between pallidum and subthalamic nucleus. This work came as a great surprise to neurosurgeons at that time because they had not even started taking note of the subthalamic nucleus in movement disorders. Upon returning to Japan, he devised his original stereotactic frame, which he used for various functional disorders until 1976. Dr. Tsubokawa first started deep brain stimulation (DBS) in Japan in the 1970s. He used DBS not only for intractable pain but, also, he applied it experimentally to those patients who were in a chronic vegetative state by targeting the thalamic CM nucleus or the brainstem cuneiformis nucleus. Dr Tsubokawa was also passionate for his research on brain edema and traumatic brain injury.



I must admit that when he was active in functional neurosurgery, he was too great for me to talk to him in a friendly manner. I was always afraid of his incisive and straightforward questions during my presentations. It was only after his retirement that I started to enjoy having conversations with him and I found him a really thoughtful and kind person. In 2009, Dr. Tsubokawa and I were on board a flight to Toronto to attend the WSSFN meeting. He looked well and cheerful as he said to me, "I am now the happiest in my life as I am going to receive the Spiegel-Wycis Award". I was very happy to hear his words because I had a small share in selecting the recipients of this award.

There are so many excellent neurosurgeons, who were trained in his department and were inspired by him. His enthusiasm and devotion to neuroscience throughout his career always impressed everyone who was fortunate enough to know him. Dr. Tsubokawa will be fondly remembered by all of us.

Takaomi Taira, MD, Ph.D.
President of the World Society for
Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

XX ESSFN CONGRESS ANNOUNCEMENT, LISBOA, 2012

Dear Colleagues and Friends,



The XX Congress of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ESSFN) will take place in Cascais, Lisbon in the end of September 2012. It is with great pleasure that we announce it and invite you to be present and participate in this congress, that will be held in the city of Egas Moniz, the inventor of Angiography and Nobel Prize recipient in 1949.

The congress center will be at the Cascais-Miragem Hotel, a modern hotel in Cascais bay on the Lisbon coast 25 km away from the city center (25m. by train, 15m. by highway), with excellent logistic conditions for such a scientific event.

The XX ESSFN Congress 2012 will be a great opportunity to update your knowledge and share your experience with colleagues from Europe and all over the world. The Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery is the most actively expanding field of our specialty, with an enormous amount of new information constantly invading us. This Congress will provide, by a judicious inclusion of relevant themes and recognized speakers, the state of the art of the most significant scientific and technological developments in a wide range of topics: movement disorders, epilepsy, pain, psychosurgery, neurooncology,

radiosurgery, neuro-modulation, neuromonitoring, transplantation, gene therapy, neuroimaging, and neuronavigation.

The ESSFN Congress 2012 will be a unique chance to make a direct contact with people and authors, equipments and new techniques that will trace and point to the future of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. Naturally, you will meet old colleagues and find new ones, profiting also from the traditional local hospitality.

Come and enjoy this congress that celebrates the twentieth major meeting of our European Society. Seize the time and the place where, in older times, the Portuguese Nautical Astrolabe became an outstanding tool to guide other well known navigation discoveries.

See you in Lisbon, 2012.



Antonio Conçalves-Ferreira
Chairman, Organizing Committee

XIX ESSFN CONGRESS REPORT, ATHENS, 2010

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The XIXth Congress of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ESSFN) took place from September 22 to September 25, 2010 in Athens, Greece. This was the first ESSFN congress that ever took place in SouthEastern Europe. During the Meeting, we celebrated the 40th Anniversary since the creation of our Society in Freiburg, Germany in 1970. Importantly, the Congress brought together more than 560 delegates, mostly from Europe but with almost 20% coming from many other parts of the world including North and South America, Australia, Japan, Korea, and China. This highlights the significance, influence and high prestige of our Society in the broader field of world neurosurgery. The main goal of the meeting was to present the impressive progress of our discipline and its rising role within the wider neurosurgical practice. The scientific program presented developments in all the traditional fields of functional and stereotactic neurosurgery such as movement disorders, pain, epilepsy, psychiatric disorders, radiosurgery, neuroimaging, navigation and instrumentation. Notably, neuromonitoring was highlighted in a combined session by the ESSFN and the International Society for Intraoperative Neurophysiology (ISIN). Special emphasis was given to recent innovations, new technologies and basic research.

Thirteen scientific sessions presented 87 oral and 86 oral poster presentations. In addition, 102 posters were presented. Furthermore, three plenary sessions enhanced the scientific content of the congress with 8 invited lectures on the following topics: brain stereotactic atlases, DBS in Alzheimer's disease, developments in nanotechnology, gene therapy in functional disorders, design of studies on novel therapies for Parkinson's disease, structural imaging in humans, therapeutic spinal cord stimulation and DBS mechanisms of action. Furthermore, five Symposia of high scientific level, were sponsored by companies and presented attractive and controversial topics including movement disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder,

technical and clinical solutions in functional neurosurgery, intrathecal baclofen therapy, theory and practice of DBS and advances in stereotactic planning. With respect to DBS, it was the first time that a new alternative system, i.e. constant current stimulation vs constant voltage stimulation was presented. This promises that, in the years to come, we would witness a more rapid pace of developments in brain stimulation therapies.

The number of participants, highest in ESSFN Congress history, the level of the scientific contributions and interactions, the appreciation of social activities, the satisfaction of participants and sponsors, the relaxing and pleasant atmosphere of the Congress Venue in the town of Vouliagmeni of Athens Riviera, and last but not least the positive financial balance, all indicate that the meeting was highly successful.

I wish Prof. Antonio Conçalves-Ferreira, President of the next 2012 ESSFN Congress in Lisboa, a lot of energy and best success in organizing such an important meeting. Till then, I wish to all of you to have good health and a very productive time ahead of you.



Damianos E. Sakas
Chairman, Organizing Committee

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