



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure and privilege to communicate with you through the pages of our annual Newsletter. Since the publication of the previous issue, ESSFN conducted successfully one more Congress in the beautiful city of Madrid (September 28th-October 1st, 2016). On behalf of the ESSFN Board, I would like to express the appreciation of the Society to the Chairman of Congress 2016, Prof. Juan Barcia and the members of the Organizing Committee for their intense efforts and hard work to ensure the success of Congress 2016. The submitted papers covered important fields including movement disorders, epilepsy, pain, psychiatric disorders, oncology, intraoperative neuromonitoring, and radiosurgery. The registrations and support from sponsors were satisfactory and reflect the great appreciation and respect that our Society enjoys within the biomedical community.



It is my sad duty to announce formally that our Society lost recently two highly esteemed colleagues, namely Professor Yucel Kanpolat and Professor Michiel Staal, who were well liked and respected by everyone. The current issue of the Newsletter contains Obituaries to honor their memory. I thank Prof. Ali Savas for his kindness to prepare the Obituary to Yucel Kanpolat, and Prof. Mike de Jongste for writing the Obituary to his long-time friend and collaborator Michiel Staal.

Reflecting on the developments of the last year, I feel satisfied that our membership remains strong. Notably, functional neurosurgery is currently more widely practiced in southeastern Europe, and one more country from that region, Bulgaria will be represented in the Executive Committee of ESSFN by Dr. Krassimir Minkin. With regard to WSSFN and EANS, our collaborations remain strong, thus, confirming that these affiliations hold great promise for more intense combined educational and research initiatives in the years to come.

I am particularly glad to inform you that the *Training Charter on Spasticity Surgery Added Competence*, an initiative of ESSFN with EANS, was approved by the UEMS and has been published in *Acta Neurochirurgica*. Furthermore, the new comprehensive Educational Program – thanks to the contribution of the Chairman Jean Regis, the members of the Educational Committee and all distinguished invited faculty members - is also progressing well with courses conducted on Radiosurgery (Marseille, 2015), Psychosurgery and Research (Lausanne, 2015), Pain (Stockholm, 2016) and Movement Disorders (Malta, 2017). I must, however, express my sincere apologies to Prof. Bjorn A. Meyerson, Honorary President and Prof. Bengt Linderöth, long-serving Executive Committee member for not participating, as honored faculty members in the Course on Pain that took place in Stockholm. They have both excelled in the field and contributed to the high reputation of ESSFN. It is our duty to honor such colleagues, and in that sense, not having them as honored speakers, was an unfortunate and regrettable oversight.

Following the change of venue of Congress 2016 from Istanbul to Madrid (the city that was selected to host Congress 2018), we faced the problem of

CONTENTS

- 1-2** – President's message
- 3** – XXIII ESSFN Congress, Edinburgh, 2018
- 4** – Welcome message, XXIII ESSFN Congress, Edinburgh, 2018
– 2018 ESSFN Research Grant
- 5** – 2018 ESSFN Best Publication Award on Electrical Brain Stimulation
– 2018 ESSFN Best Presentations Awards
- 6** – Michiel Staal. Obituary
- 7** – Yucel Kanpolat. Obituary
- 8-9-10** – Proceedings, ESSFN General Assembly, September 30, 2016, Madrid, Spain
- 11** – Functional neurosurgery in Bulgaria
– Journal Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery
- 12** – ESSFN Hands-On Course, Fundamentals, Lausanne, Autumn 2017
– ESSFN Hands-On Courses 2003-2017

“not having a selected city” for Congress 2018. The option of organizing the Congress 2018 in Marseille (the city selected for Congress 2020) was not feasible for technical reasons that were described by Prof. Regis (Chairman of Congress 2020 in Marseille). In view of the unavailability of Marseille for 2018, Prof. Regis took the initiative of investigating other options. Discussions took place with Prof. Marwan Hariz and Prof. Keith Mathews, who both expressed their willingness to organize the Congress 2018 at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh. The Executive Committee members at their meeting of 29/9/2016, in which the Honorary Presidents Yves Lazorthes and Joackim Krauss also participated, - in view of these unforeseen circumstances - approved this selection. We are grateful to Profs Hariz and Mathews and certain that - with the assistance of the ESSFN Board - will spare no effort in order to offer an exciting scientific program, and a highly enjoyable social experience.

At this point, I must stress that ESSFN following a decision of the Executive Committee on 23 September 2010 that was approved by the General Assembly of 24 September 2010, in Athens, has established a specific process for selecting the Congress host-city. The deviation from the protocol was necessitated by the unusual circumstances described above, and hopefully such deviation will not be repeated. This process includes the following stages: a) submission of applications by interested members, b) evaluation and prioritization of the applications by the Board, c) Proposal of the Board and discussion of the applications at the Executive Committee meeting, d) selection of the host city by secret ballot by the Executive Committee, and e) Presentation of the selection of the Executive Committee to the General Assembly for the ultimate approval. Hopefully, the selection of the site for Congress 2022 will take place in Edinburgh, according to the above process and no other deviations from protocol will take place in the future. I, therefore, invite everyone who is interested in organizing Congress 2022 or 2024 to submit an application in the following months in order to be evaluated by the members of the ESSFN Board, well ahead of the Congress 2018, where it will be presented to the Executive Committee.

With respect to the forthcoming Congress 2018, I must point out that, it was the year 1908, when Horsley and Clarke introduced the stereotactic frame. Hence, next year 2018 will be a great opportunity to celebrate 110 years of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery in Edinburgh, the great historical city which has been the place of numerous great advances in our field and medicine, in general. For instance, Prof John Gillingham (1916-2009), former President of our Society, has spent most of his neurosurgical career in Edinburgh pioneering stereotactic and functional surgery for Parkinson’s Disease. I have no doubt that this Congress 2018 will offer a great opportunity to share ideas with other colleagues from Europe and other parts of the world, update your knowledge and have some relaxing and inspiring time in the unique atmosphere of the city of Edinburgh.

With this opportunity, I also invite you to encourage your co-workers and younger colleagues to become members of the Society and apply for the scientific ESSFN Awards (Research Grant, Best Publication on Electrical Brain Stimulation and Best Presentation) that are bestowed by the ESSFN Board and whose announcements can be found in this issue.

Concluding this message, I would like to thank you for your contribution and support to ESSFN but also to share my view and concern for the future of scientific societies, in general. Undeniably, we are living in an era when values and principles tend to become less important in modern society. For instance, on many occasions the scientific societies, forming miniatures of our society, run the risk of being taken over by small but well-organized groups of members, who, from a position of influence, act mainly in order to serve their special interests, rather than the interests of the Societies. In this spirit, I invite every member to remain vigilant and contribute in order ESSFN to remain a society guided by principles and governed by adherence to proper procedures. We must prevent the risk that our Society could evolve into an organization where decisions are made arbitrarily, without transparency, by a small number of “determined” members, who are in cohort, and can act unrestrained by principles or rules. In such an unfortunate development, only few members, would influence the Society’s affairs, being guided only by their practical considerations and motivated by their personal interests, without regard to the views of other members or to the long-term interests of the Society.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next Congress in Edinburgh.

Damianos E. Sakas
President ESSFN
Athens, Greece



EDINBURGH,
Scotland
ROYAL COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS

26>29
September
2018

XXIII CONGRESS
OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY
FOR STEREOTACTIC AND
FUNCTIONAL NEUROSURGERY

www.essfncongress.org

essfn

European Society for
Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

COLLEGIUM
REGIUM CHIRURGORUM
EDINENSE

WELCOME MESSAGE, XXIII ESSFN CONGRESS, EDINBURGH, 2018

Dear colleagues, dear friends, dear citizens

The XXIII congress of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ESSFN) will take place in Edinburgh, Scotland on 26-29 September, 2018.

The location of the meeting will be at The Royal College of Surgeons.

For the first time, the ESSFN meeting of 2018 will be jointly organised by neurosurgeons (Ludvic Zrinzo and Marwan Hariz from The National Hospital at Queen Square, London) and a psychiatrist, Keith Matthews, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Dundee, Scotland. Hence one of the main topics for the meeting will be that of neurosurgical approaches to the treatment of psychiatric disorder. The organisers will invite leading neuroscientists, psychiatrists and neurosurgeons to discuss and debate the place of surgery in the treatment of depression, OCD, Tourette's Syndrome, anorexia nervosa and other mental disorders.

As always, Pain, Epilepsy, Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders will remain major topics to discuss the latest advances in brain targets and technology aimed at treatment in these domains.

Of course, the congress of the ESSFN will also include the scope of functional non-stereotactic surgery in epilepsy, pain, spasticity and other conditions, as well as highlighting stereotactic non-functional neurosurgery dealing with brain tumors, radiosurgery, and other areas of the stereotactic techniques.

2018 marks the 110th anniversary of the publication by Victor Horsley and Robert Henry Clarke of the stereotactic method, and 25 years anniversary of DBS of the STN.

2018 will mark also the 50th anniversary of the famous symposium on Parkinson's disease that took place at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. It was organised by John Gillingham, one of the pioneers of British Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, and co-founder of the ESSFN in 1970.

It was at that meeting, summarised within the published proceedings, that Robert Schwab presented the now famous Schwab and England ADL scale; that Margaret Hoehn and Melvin Yahr described the evaluation of Parkinson's Disease patients after surgery and also that the first rudimentary "DBS" targeting of two areas of the brain for tremor, the Vim and the subthalamic area, was presented.

For the culturally interested, Edinburgh, the historic capital of Scotland and centre of the Scottish Enlightenment offers many delights, from its internationally renowned Festivals, its many Galleries, its imperious Castle and its fine food and drink. Sampling haggis and whisky may be optional, but it is essential.

We hope that the XXIII meeting of the ESSFN will provide intellectual stimulation and unforgettable memories of scientific, neurosurgical, psychiatric, cultural, culinary and social excellence.

Welcome to Edinburgh in September 2018.

The local Organizing Committee

EUROPEAN SOCIETY for STEREOTACTIC and FUNCTIONAL NEUROSURGERY



ELIGIBILITY



FUNDING

2018 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 – or alternatively by email to the Secretary:

Prof Jean Regis, Service de Neurochirurgie
Fonctionnelle et Stereotaxique
Hopital d'adulte de la Timone
264 bvd St Pierre, 13385 Marseille cedex 05, France
Tel: + +33 491387060, + +33 491387058
Fax: 0049 1387056, E-mail: jregis@ap-hm.fr

The research project must address either a clinical or an experimental topic in the field of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery

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

The selection will be made by an independent committee which will be commissioned by the officers and the result will be announced at the ESSFN Edinburgh 2018 Congress.

Scientific conclusions of the selected project and financial balance must be reported in September 2020 and presented during the 2020 ESSFN Congress.

THE RESEARCH GRANT AMOUNT IS: 20.000 Euros

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

October 2018 (selection) :	10.000 €
During 2018 (on written proofs):	5.000 €
At the conclusion of the report:	5.000 €

EUROPEAN SOCIETY for STEREOTACTIC and FUNCTIONAL NEUROSURGERY



ELIGIBILITY

2018 ESSFN BEST PUBLICATION AWARDS
on Electrical Brain Stimulation

At the Officers' Meeting in Lausanne in October 2009, it was decided to establish a new award – the ESSFN publication award on electrical brain stimulation.

The profile and financial honorarium associated with this award is clearly different from that of the ESSFN research grant. The award will be advertised by ESSFN and be bestowed biannually on the occasion of the ESSFN Congress.

The publication must have been published in 2017 or 2018 in a peer-reviewed journal, or it must be available at least online in PubMed. Manuscripts neither online or published, i.e. 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 successful candidate will be selected by a committee of distinguished experts. The prize will be awarded on **two** articles during the ESSFN Congress.

The application (along with four copies of the publication) must be sent by surface mail – or alternatively by email to the Secretary:

Prof Jean Regis, Service de Neurochirurgie
Fonctionnelle et Stereotaxique
Hopital d'adulte de la Timone
264 bvd St Pierre, 13385 Marseille cedex 05, France
Tel: ++33 491387060, ++33 491387058
Fax: 0049 1387056, E-mail: jregis@ap-hm.fr

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

Honorarium of Best Publication Awards: 2 x 3.000 Euros

EUROPEAN SOCIETY for STEREOTACTIC and FUNCTIONAL NEUROSURGERY



ELIGIBILITY



FUNDING

2018 ESSFN BEST PRESENTATIONS AWARDS

In agreement with our Constitution and By-Laws, the Board of Officers decided to promote basic or clinical research projects in the field of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery by appreciating and highlighting the scientific input of our colleagues with the Best Oral Presentation and Best Poster Presentation Awards.

All abstracts which will be selected by the Board to be presented during the ESSFN Congress 2018 would be also evaluated for the Best Oral Presentation and Best Presentation Awards.

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

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

Best Oral Presentation Awards: 2 x 1.000 Euros

Best Poster Presentation Awards: 3 x 500 Euros

OBITUARY

MICHEL J STAAL

Michiel J. Staal was born in Amsterdam August 17, 1949. His zodiac sign was a lion, and as that suggests, he knew how to be in the lead.

Michiel studied medicine in Utrecht. He married Anna Schreinemachers, in 1973. They raised two children, Arne and Lisa, and two grandchildren. After Michiel passed his medical exams in Utrecht, he pursued theoretical and clinical training, before he went to Uganda to work in a missionary hospital for two years. Following his return to the Netherlands, he started working at the Catharina Hospital (Eindhoven) at the Department of Cardiac Surgery (Intensive Care), where he investigated "Some aspects of infection surveillance in open-heart surgery," which was the topic of his thesis, in 1983.



He qualified as a neurosurgeon and was appointed to the Department of Neurosurgery, at the University Medical Center Groningen, in 1986. At this time, Michiel became inspired by the work of his spouse, who was taking care of patients with Parkinson's disease. He early recognized the potential of functional neurosurgery through stimulating the brain to improve the consequences of diseases, such as Parkinson disease. Subsequently, he combined his interest in neuromodulation with a growing fascination for Parkinson's disease and so he began to treat these patients with deep brain stimulation (DBS). Furthermore, Michiel envisioned neuromodulation to become a tool to treat diseases, such as movement disorders, and a variety of other indications, among others refractory angina.

Michiel received a grant of 300,000 euros from the Dutch government to evaluate different indications for spinal cord stimulation (SCS), in 1986. At that time, I only had treated a couple of patients with refractory angina with transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS). However, Michiel was immediately enthusiastic about the idea of evaluating angina as a putative indication for SCS. Though we only had a vague idea of how we could treat these patients with severe angina, the study showed refractory angina to be one of the best indications to be treated by SCS. Since then, Michiel and I started collaborating more and more, intensively.

In 1989, Michiel Staal hosted the very successful First International Congress on Epidural Spinal Cord Stimulation (ICESS), in Groningen. Two years after the ICESS meeting, this initiative resulted in the creation of bylaws for the INS and its establishment in Paris, France, in 1991.

Michiel Staal wrote many articles on neuromodulation and received a professorship for neuromodulation in 2003. In his inaugural speech as a professor on "current, fluids and cells," he highlighted all aspects of neuromodulation.

He was chairman of the Benelux Neuromodulation Society (BNS) from 2009-2014. He successfully organized several symposia on motor cortex stimulation (among others the successful BNS meeting in Brussels, 2011) and a joint BNS meeting with the foundation of the Baltic States-Nordic chapter. Unfortunately, the latter had to be postponed for a year, due to the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland. The joint meeting took place in Groningen in 2011.

After his retirement in July 2014, his head was full of ideas, initiatives and challenges: to travel with his wife Anna and spend time with his grandchildren. Unfortunately, this was only for a very limited time since he got ill in February 2015. Gradually, Michiel started to become more and more disabled. On July 12, 2016 Michiel Staal died from brain cancer.

I cherish many great moments we shared together and extend my condolences to his wife Anna, their children Arne and Lisa, Arne's wife Jin, granddaughters and the rest of the family in their loss.

Mike JL DeJongste

Honorary Presidents:

Bjorn A. Meyerson
Christoph B. Ostertag
David G. T. Thomas
D. Andries Bosch
Yves Lazorthes
Joachim K. Krauss

Officers:

Damianos E. Sakas
Athens, Greece
President
A. Gonçalves-Ferreira
Lisbon, Portugal
Vice President
Jean Regis
Marseille, France
Secretary
Jocelyne Bloch
Lausanne, Switzerland
Second Secretary
Rick Schuurman
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Treasurer

Executive Committee:

Tipu Aziz
Oxford, U.K.
Juan Barcia
Madrid, Spain
Alexander Campos
Lisbon, Portugal
Stephan Chabardes
Grenoble, France
Jean Ciurea
Bucharest, Romania
Angelo Franzini
Milano, Italy
Miroslav Galanda
Banska Bystrica, Slovakia
Brigitte Gatterbauer
Vienna, Austria
Kostiantyn Kostiuik
Kyiv, Ukraine
Kai Lehtimäki
Tampere, Finland
Roman Liscak
Prague, Czech Rep.
Ruby Mahesparan
Bergen, Norway
Krassimir Minkin
Sofia, Bulgaria
Ioannis Panourias
Athens, Greece
Claudio Pollo
Bern, Switzerland
Dirk van Roost
Gent, Belgium
Ali Savas
Ankara, Turkey
Gaston Schechtman
Stockholm, Sweden
Pawel Sokal
Bydgoszcz, Poland
Vladimir Shabalov
Moscow, Russia
Yasin Temel
Maastricht, The Netherlands
Istvan Valalik
Budapest, Hungary
Jurgen Voges
Magdeburg, Germany

Website: www.essfn.org

OBITUARY

YUCEL KANPOLAT

Professor Kanpolat, one of the most prominent neurosurgeons in the field of pain surgery, passed away on September 17th, 2016.

Dr. Kanpolat was born in 1941 in Sivas, Turkey. He graduated from Gazi High School, Ankara in 1959. He then attended Ankara University, School of Medicine, and obtained his medical degree in 1965. He worked as a practitioner during his public health service between 1965 and 1968 in Diyarbakir, where he won the World Health Organization's (WHO) "Best Public Health Service Unit Award" with his colleagues in 1966. He became a resident assistant at the Department of Neurosurgery, Ankara University during 1968–1973. The next year, Dr. Kanpolat served as the chief of Haydarpasa Military Hospital's Neurosurgical Department during his military service between 1974 and 1975 in Istanbul.



Dr. Kanpolat became an assistant professor at the Department of Neurosurgery, Ankara University in 1975. He subsequently got promoted to associate professor and professor at the same institute in 1978 and 1988, respectively. He served as the chairman of the Neurosurgery Department, Ankara University between 1999 and 2008. Dr. Kanpolat trained more than 100 neurosurgical residents until his retirement in 2008. He was elected and appointed as the president of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TUBA) following his retirement from Ankara University, where he served until 2012. Moreover, he became the charter member of the Turkish Neurosurgical Society in 1985 and served as the president of the society twice, first in 1990–1991 and then in 1995–1996. Furthermore, Dr. Kanpolat received the Paxton International Professorship from Oregon Health Sciences University (USA) in 2006.

He practiced CT-guided stereotactic pain surgery for the first time worldwide in 1986. He undertook numerous academic studies in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. Dr. Kanpolat made several presentations in international congresses, while he made publications in neurosurgical journals. He was invited as a key speaker to many national and international congresses to give lectures. On every occasion and manner, Dr. Kanpolat trained numerous neurosurgeons from Turkey and abroad throughout his career. Those instances include the Kanpolat Cordotomy Kit (KCTE), which was produced in Burlington, Boston USA in 1994, as well as, a total of 176 international publications referred in Index Medicus (1869 citations as of 13.11.2015), 92 globally invited lectures, and 48 presentations in international congresses.

Dr. Kanpolat had memberships, presidencies, and chairmanships in many neurosurgical communities. He was an active and emblematic member of various international societies such as European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS) and European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ESSFN). He served as both officer and executive member in all of them. Dr. Kanpolat organized the ESSFN Congress in Antalya in 1994.

His legacy as a continuous contributor to scientific education has been remarkable, especially during his presidency in the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TUBA). Dr. Kanpolat has endeavored to practice "La main a la pate" in pilot schools. The objective of this TUBA program was to promote the education of science among children in Turkey via game playing. Dr. Kanpolat collaborated with valuable teachers during this project. He arranged the training of 20 teachers from Turkey in Paris, France whereas Georges Charpak, Nobel laureate for Physics in 1992, Pierre Lena, and Yves Quere took part in this project in Turkey as important contributors. During the presidency of Prof. Kanpolat in TUBA, Open Courseware Project was continued. Commenced in 2007, 80 lectures on Basic Sciences and Social Sciences were put together within this framework under Dr. Kanpolat's presidency between 2010 and 2011. Dr. Kanpolat also contributed on humanitarian issues where the need was most dire. He and two members of TUBA went to Afghanistan in 2004 on a voluntary project. There they observed the most pressing humanitarian problems, and prepared a report which the visiting team published in *Surgical Neurology*, with the title "Is there a common consciousness of humanity? Should there be one?"

Apart from numerous academic conferences, he gave many lectures on lives and disciplines of Marie Curie, Louis Pasteur, Ramon Cajal, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, etc., in many cities and countries. He also gave a Marie Curie lecture entitled "A Woman of Wisdom in the Science Age-Maria Sklodovska Curie," in the Pomeranian Academy of Medicine, Department of Neurosurgery, on May 9th of 2003, in Szczecin, Poland. He advised neurosurgeons, and other audiences to listen, write, read, ask, and work hard in all his conferences, lessons, and presentations.

Dr. Kanpolat and his work, especially in the surgical treatment of pain, inspired many neurosurgeons all over the world. He grandly supported a course in therapeutic action which ultimately benefited his patients. As an influential neurosurgeon, he often organized regular local or international training courses, giving lectures, offered fellowship programs that he designed to realize his vision in the surgery and treatment of pain. Dr. Kanpolat did not ignore the social aspect of leadership either. He was always accessible to students, academicians, and visitors in a warm and hospitable manner. At all stages of his professional career, Dr. Kanpolat was a highly regarded neurosurgeon and a very productive tutor.

We will all hold in our memories forever his friendly and kind nature, his passion for knowledge, as well as scientific progression. We have witnessed the passing of a thoroughly outstanding neurosurgeon, academician, mentor, and friend, who contributed a lot to the neurosurgical societies, neurosurgeons, and neurosurgery. He will be missed by many people for a lot of reasons. It is my distinct honor to recollect him in this obituary.

Ali Savas
Department of Neurosurgery
Ankara University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey

PROCEEDINGS of the ESSFN GENERAL ASSEMBLY September 30, 2016, Madrid, Spain

The meeting is opened by the President Prof. Damianos E. Sakas at 16:30.

Minutes of the General Assembly in Maastricht, The Netherlands (19 September, 2014)

The minutes of the General Assembly in Maastricht, 19 September 2014, are approved.

President's report

At the opening of the session, the President proceeds with the formal announcement that, recently, two distinguished colleagues, Prof. Yucel Kanpolat and Prof. Michiel Staal passed away. The President comments that, given that Prof. Ali Savas was not attending the Congress, presented himself the Obituary honoring the late Kanpolat, at the Opening Ceremony, and he is going to do the same by presenting the Obituary honoring the late Staal, at the Closing Ceremony. Moreover, Obituaries on Kanpolat and Staal will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Prof. Sakas comments on the security issues that caused a lot of concern among many members, and the unfortunate circumstances that led to the decision to move the location of the Congress from Istanbul to Madrid. Nevertheless, the President, representing the entire membership, expressed the appreciation of all members to Professor Savas for his hard work up to the point of cancellation of the Congress 2016 in Turkey. Furthermore, Prof. Sakas informs the members that, despite the difficult circumstances, according to estimations of Prof. Barcia, the number of registrations to Congress 2016 in Madrid would be quite high, comparable to that of other recent Congresses.

With regard to the affiliation with WSSFN, the President comments that the collaboration between ESSFN and WSSFN has been very good and that the forthcoming WSSFN Congress in Berlin, in 2017, will be a great opportunity to enhance the relationship of the two societies further.

On the relationship of ESSFN with EANS, Prof. Sakas comments that the two Societies have established a good collaboration particularly in the field of training and education, with either common initiatives or with members of each society participating regularly in the educational programs that are organised by the other society. Furthermore, the two societies continue their close collaboration in the formulation of Training Charters, aiming to stipulate the requirements and guidelines of properly qualified training centers and trainers.

The President informs the Assembly on the progress of the new comprehensive Educational Program co-ordinated

by the Education Committee Chairman, Jean Regis. Since, the previous Congress in Maastricht, courses were organised on Radiosurgery (Marseille, 2015), Research Methods and Psychiatry (Lausanne, 2015), and Pain (Stockholm, 2016); the next Course would be dedicated on Movement Disorders and is scheduled to take place in Malta, in April 2017. Prof. Sakas continues describing that according to the established ESSFN policy, a Research Grant and several Awards will be bestowed during the XXII Congress including: a) two Best Oral Presentation Awards and b) two Best Poster Publications Awards.

The President concludes by informing the members that the Executive Committee will have a new composition because a few colleagues retired and other colleagues will replace them. These proposed changes will be presented to the General Assembly later on during the session.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary comments on the successful organization of a series of Training Courses and the resulting very positive impact on membership; in particular, increased numbers of younger colleagues were attracted to the Society through their participation in the Educational Program and joined ESSFN. The Secretary comments also on the Awards to be bestowed during the XXII Congress, informs the members on the composition of the various Award committees (Research Grant, Best Oral Presentation and Best Poster Presentation) and thanks all Award Committee members for accepting and completing timely the task of selecting the best applications and presentations.

Treasurer's report

The Treasurer informs the Executive Committee that the financial situation of the society is healthy. According to standard practice, the auditors checked the Books of the Society and found them in good order. Following the decision to cancel the Congress in Turkey, there has been an acceptable settlement with the originally selected Congress organiser. This financial impact will be covered by the successful outcome and benefit of the Madrid Congress 2016 which is estimated that it will be quite high. The Treasurer states that the balance will improve when the financial benefit of the current XXII Congress is transferred to the account of the Society. The Treasurer concludes by informing the General Assembly that the current number of ESSFN paying members is well above the number of paying members required by Karger in order to allow access to the digital archives of the journal Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. Then, the Treasurer informs on

the discontinuation of membership of those who despite repeated contacts, have not paid their membership fees for a period longer than six years.

Membership

As stated above, the membership remains strong. Nevertheless, the President proposes that all non-member participants to the current Congress should be contacted by e-mail after the Congress and be encouraged to become members of the Society.

Website

The website has been expanded to include material related to the Educational Program and announcements of scientific events. Prof. Sakas reiterates that all colleagues who have in their possession important documents such as files, photographs, etc of historical interest related to either the Society or to functional neurosurgery, in general, should digitalize them and make them available for the "Archives of ESSFN".

Newsletter

The President announces that the next issue (No 12) will be in circulation in the second semester of 2017 and the contents would include: the standard reports by the President, Secretary and Treasurer, obituaries to colleagues who recently passed away and advertisements of activities of the Society. Furthermore, Prof. Sakas encourages the members to submit to him information on scientific or social activities taking place in their regions that they would like to see included in the Newsletter.

Journal Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

The President states that the collaboration of ESSFN with Karger and the representation of the activities of the Society in its official journal is quite good. Prof. Sakas informs the participants that the Abstracts of the current Congress will be also published in the journal Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. In order to minimize costs no printed reprints will be produced.

Training Charter on Spasticity Surgery Added Competence

The President informs the participants of the Assembly that the Training Charter on Spasticity Surgery has been formulated with the contribution of members of the ESSFN Board and other colleagues with expertise in spasticity surgery such as Profs. Marc Sindou and Patrick Mertens. The document, a combined project of ESSFN, EANS Section of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery and UEMS, received the final approval at the Meeting of the UEMS Section of Neurosurgery in Athens during the EANS Congress in early September 2016. Similarly, to the other previously published Charters on the fields of Movement Disorders, Pain and Epilepsy, the text on Spasticity will be submitted for publication to Acta Neurochirurgica.

ESSFN Training Courses

The Chairman of the Educational Committee, Jean Regis, describes that since the previous General Assembly in

September 2014, three additional Training Courses have been organized on the following fields: a) Radiosurgery (Marseille, 2015), Psychosurgery and Research (Lausanne, 2015) and c) Pain (Stockholm, 2016). The next Course will cover the field of Movement Disorders and take place in Malta in April 2017

Changes in the Composition of the Executive Committee

The President informs the members that there will be a number of changes in the composition of the ESSFN Executive Committee. Prof. Sakas continues by announcing that Bulgaria has currently at least five members in ESSFN. Hence, at the Executive Committee Meeting on September 29, 2016, the members decided that Bulgaria will be represented, from now onwards in the ESSFN Executive Committee. Dr. Krassimir Minkin is going to be the representative of Bulgaria. Dr Krassimir Minkin, makes a short address to the members, commenting on the neurosurgical activity in Bulgaria, thanks the Board and the Executive Committee members for their support and expresses his enthusiasm to work for the aims and goals of the Society.

The President proceeds by announcing the replacement of long-serving Executive Committee members with new colleagues. In particular, two colleagues, namely Francois Alesch and Jorge Guridi are going to retire from their positions. Prof. Sakas expresses the gratitude of the Society to the retiring member from the committee, Prof. Francois Alesch for his many years of service in the Executive Committee and the Society in general. Prof. Alesch will be replaced by Dr. Brigitte Gatterbauer. The other change will take place in the representation of Spain. According to a decision of the Spanish colleagues, the President of the Spanish Society for Functional Neurosurgery, should also be the country's representative in the Executive Committee of ESSFN. Given that, Prof. Barcia has recently succeeded Prof. Guridi as President of the Spanish Society, he will also be replacing him as representative of Spain in the Executive Committee. Prof. Sakas thanks Prof. Guridi for his service in the Executive Committee and expresses the hope and wish of all members that he will continue to contribute to the ESSFN Educational Committee and other Society's affairs. Both Prof. Alesch and Prof. Guridi comment on their good memories from the years they served in the Executive Committee, the collaboration and friendship with the other officers and members of the Committee. At this point, the President asks all members whether any colleague wishes to propose somebody else in the place of the above mentioned colleagues or has any objection on the already proposed members for the Executive Committee. It becomes apparent that there is a consensus and unanimous agreement among all members on the proposed changes. All three new members and the changes in the composition of the Executive Committee are accepted by the General Assembly with no other proposals.

ESSFN Congress 2016

The Secretary announces that, according to information provided by Prof. Juan Barcia, Chairman of Congress

2016, there have been so far more than 500 registered colleagues, before the Opening Ceremony, thus, estimating that the final total number of registrations would exceed 550. Members express their satisfaction on this very positive development for the Society.

ESSFN Congress 2018

The President describes that following the change of venue of Congress 2016 from Istanbul to Madrid (the city that had been selected to host the Congress 2018), the Society faced the problem of “not having a selected city” for Congress 2018. The option of organizing the Congress 2018 in Marseille (the city that had been selected to host Congress 2020), was not feasible for technical reasons – as it was described by Prof. Regis (Chairman of Congress 2020 in Marseille). In view of the unavailability of Marseille for 2018, Prof. Regis took the initiative of investigating other options. Discussions took place with Prof. Marwan Hariz and Prof. Keith Mathews, who both expressed their willingness to organize the Congress 2018 at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh. At the Executive Committee meeting, of 29/9/2016 - in which the Honorary Presidents Yves Lazorthes and Joackim Krauss also participated -, after extensive discussion, the members approved this selection of Edinburgh as the host-city by a process that differs from established procedure in selecting the congress host-cities, and decided that Congress 2018 should take place in Edinburgh with Prof Hariz and Mathews as Chairs of the Organizing Committee. Profs. Hariz and Mathews are invited to make a short address. They state that this Congress will be a British project and express their vision with regard to its content and organization. They thank the Executive Committee members for their decision and invite all Society members to Edinburgh. The President expresses the gratitude of the Society to Profs. Hariz and Mathews and his certainty that both of them, - with the assistance of the ESSFN Board -, will spare no effort in order to provide an exciting scientific program, and a highly enjoyable social experience.

ESSFN Congress 2020

The President informs the participants that the Executive Committee during its Meeting of 29/9/2016, confirmed the decision that Congress 2020 will take place in Marseille. Prof Regis comments that he is looking forward to organizing Congress 2020 in Marseille in a very special and unique venue, namely the FARO overlooking the old port of Marseille. He delivers a short presentation providing some useful information on general organizational matters related to ESSFN Congress 2020.

Protocol for selecting the host-cities of ESSFN Congress

At this point, the President comments that during the General Assembly of ESSFN in Rimini, Italy, on 7-10-2008, colleagues raised the question of what is the process for selection of the successful applicant for organizing an ESSFN Congress. In order to prevent any further complaints for arbitrariness, the Executive Committee of ESSFN, with

Yves Lazorthes presiding, decided to establish a process that ESSFN should adhere to for selecting a Congress site. The protocol describing this process should be followed at all times, in order to run this important society affair in a proper institutionalised manner and prevent any fair complaint among other colleagues. This process includes the following stages: a) submission of applications by interested members, b) evaluation and prioritization of the applications by the Board, c) Proposal of the Board to the Executive Committee meeting on the basis of prioritization, d) discussion of the applications and the prioritization of the Board at the Executive Committee and selection of the host-city by secret ballot, and e) Presentation of the selection of the Executive Committee to the General Assembly for the ultimate approval. In particular, the abstract from the Minutes of the Executive Committee with regard to this decision has as follows: *“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.”* (Minutes Executive Committee, Athens, September 23, 2010). This decision was approved unanimously by the General Assembly of ESSFN on September 24, 2010, Athens, Greece. However, in the particular case of Congress 2018, the deviation from this protocol became absolutely necessary because of the unusual circumstances described above. Hopefully, such situation and change from the established process will not be necessary in the future.

ESSFN Congress 2022

The President informs the Assembly that, currently, the only application for 2022 is Budapest. The other members are asked whether they would they be willing to host the Congress 2022 in their countries. Dr. Istvan Valalik delivers a short address to the members and confirms his interest in hosting ESSFN Congress 2022 in Budapest, Hungary.

Matters arising

No other issues are raised.

Date of next meeting

The next General Assembly will take place in Edinburgh, during the XXIII ESSFN Congress, in 2018.

FUNCTIONAL NEUROSURGERY IN BULGARIA

Functional neurosurgery was introduced in Bulgaria shortly after the world functional neurosurgery big bang in the 1950s of 20th century. Dr. Savov performed the first stereotactic pallidotomy in 1962 and until 1977 Dr. Yulzari collected almost 100 stereotactic procedures for movement disorders using the Guillot stereotactic frame and technique. Dr. Karagiozov created the first epilepsy surgery team in 70s and achieved impressive results in the pre-CT era. These pioneers of Bulgarian functional neurosurgery presented their experience mainly on local congresses and published in non-referred journals. Unfortunately, this successful early experience was not developed and was not transmitted. Bulgarian functional neurosurgery school failed to be created in the 20th century.



Stereotactic biopsies using the Leksell frame were introduced by Dr. Karakostov in 1996 and provided a base for the further development of functional neurosurgery. Dr. Minkin has had the opportunity to accomplish a two-years fellowship in the Department of Neurosurgery in "St. Anne" Hospital, Paris between 2003-2005 and 6 months in the Department of Functional Neurosurgery in "Timone" Hospital, Marseille in 2007. These two impressive functional neurosurgery schools have shared generously not only knowledge and knowhow but transmitted the most important element - the seed of enthusiasm.

Contemporary functional neurosurgery in Bulgaria was initially focused on epilepsy surgery. Our epilepsy surgery team was created in 2007 and stereotactic EEG, PET and SISCOM became part of the presurgical workup. Nowadays, epilepsy surgery activity includes 25 epilepsy surgeries and 15 SEEG procedures per year. Our team became part of the world functional neurosurgery publishing in referred journals, presenting in international forums and participating in international projects. The first DBS for movement disorders in Bulgaria was performed in 2011 and until now 50 patients with Parkinson's disease or dystonia were treated with DBS. Pain treatment includes predominantly microvascular trigeminal nerve decompression, percutaneous glycerololysis and rare cases of spinal cord stimulation, DREZ and cordotomy. Functional radiosurgery is the next project waiting to be started in the near future.

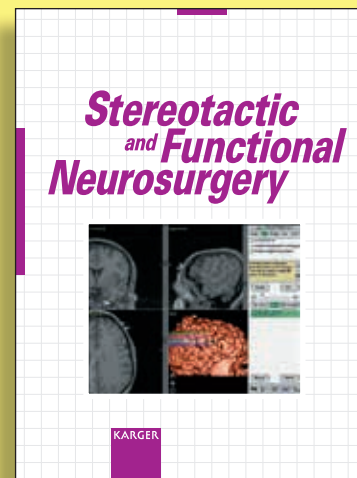
Contemporary functional neurosurgery in Bulgaria is growing fast and became a school for multidisciplinary patient management and scientific research. We hope that Bulgarian membership in ESSFN will be beneficial for Bulgarian functional neurosurgery but also for ESSFN.

Dr. Krasimir Minkin

Official Journal of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

Impact Factor: 1.849 (2011)



All ESSFN members receive free online access to the journal. In addition the printed subscription version is offered at a reduced rate of € 120.00 per year.

An Order Form can be found on the ESSFN Website under official journal www.essfn.org

Editor-in-Chief

D.W. Roberts, Lebanon, N.H.

Official Journal of the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

Official Journal of the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

Official Journal of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

KARGER

More information at www.karger.com/sfn

ESSFN Hands On Course Stereotactic & Functional Neurosurgery Fundamentals



30 OCTOBER - 1ST NOVEMBER, 2017
HOTEL AULAC - LAUSANNE, Switzerland

www.essfntrainingcourse.mcocongres.com/en/




BASICS OF STEREOTACTIC AND FUNCTIONAL NEUROSURGERY AND BASIC RESEARCH

ORGANIZED BY THE EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE ESSFN: Jean Régis (France), Jocelyne Bloch (Switzerland), Stephan Chabardes (France), Angelo Franzini (Italy), Jorge Guridi (Spain), Joachim Krauss (Germany), Massimo Sceratti (Italy), Gaston Schechtman (Sweden), Ludvik Zrinzo (UK)

INVITED FACULTY: David Benninger (Switzerland), Jocelyne Bloch (Switzerland), Stephan Chabardes (France), Laura Cif (France), Bogdan Draganski (Switzerland), Angelo Franzini (Italy), Antonio Goncalves Ferreira (Portugal), Jorge Guridi (Spain), Marwan Hariz (UK), Elena Jiltsova (Sweden), Jean-François Knebel (Switzerland), Joachim Krauss (Germany), Eduardo Martin Moraud (Switzerland), Etienne Pralong (Switzerland), Jean Régis (France), Damianos Sakas (Greece), Gaston Schechtmann (Sweden)

ESSFN OFFICERS: D. Sakas (Greece), A. Goncalves (Portugal), R. Schuurman (The Netherlands), J. Régis (France), J. Bloch (Switzerland)



ESSFN HANDS-ON COURSES 2003 - 2017

Date	Neurosurgical Field	City	Co-ordinator
2003, October 17-18	Movement Disorders Surgery	Tolochenaz, Switzerland	Prof. Andries Bosch
2005, September 15-16	Surgery for pain	Toulouse, France	Prof. Yves Lazorthes
2007, November 12-14	Radiosurgery	Marseilles, France	Prof. Jean Régis
2009, October 8-10	Deep brain stimulation for movement disorders	Tolochenaz, Switzerland	Prof. Marc Levivier
2011, October 27-29	Epilepsy Surgery	Ghent, Belgium	Prof. Dirk Van Roost
2013, October 9-12	Epilepsy Surgery	Ghent, Belgium	Prof. Dirk Van Roost
2014, April 28-30	Stereotactic & Functional Neurosurgery Fundamentals	Marseille, France	Prof. Jean Régis
2015, May 11-13	Psychosurgery and research	Lausanne, Switzerland	Prof. Jocelyne Bloch
2015, September 21-23	Radiosurgery	Marseille, France	Prof. Jean Régis
2016, May 23-25	Pain and spasticity	Stockholm, Sweden	Prof. Gaston Schechtmann
2017, April 4-6	Movement Disorders	Valletta, Malta	Mr. Ludvic Zrinzo
2017, October 30-November 1	Stereotactic & Functional Neurosurgery Fundamentals	Lausanne, Switzerland	Prof. Jocelyne Bloch