

DATES

2009

**6TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
ON VASCULAR DEMENTIA**
November 19–22, 2009
Barcelona, Spain
vascular@kenes.com
www.kenes.com/vascular

2010

**6TH WORLD CONGRESS FOR
NEUROREHABILITATION**
March 21–25, 2010
Vienna, Austria
wcnr2010@medacad.org
www.wcnr2010.org

**62ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
NEUROLOGY**
April 10–17, 2010
Toronto, Canada
<http://www.aan.com>

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OCTOBER 2009



Members of the EFNS who had the good fortune to attend the Congress in Florence from 12 to 15 September 2009 will want to join me in thanking Professor Gian Luigi Lenzi and his Congress Programme Committee for an outstanding scientific programme and Professor Antonio Federico and his Local Organising Committee for a superbly run congress. The Congress broke all previous records for attendance and the number of submitted abstracts and included 12 main topics, 15 workshops and 22 teaching courses. One of many highlights of the Congress was the masterly EFNS Lecture on Clinical Neurology by Professor Giacomo Rizzolatti from Parma, Italy who explained the magic of the mirror neurons on which our understanding of others and so even civilisation depend. Another was a brilliant set of performances

by artists demonstrating how to live the Good Life in the face of disability: this was organised by Mrs Mary Baker and the European Federation of Neurological Associations, a Europe-wide patient organisation with which the EFNS has an important and valued relationship. The judges awarded Uschi Tschabitscher prizes for basic and clinical neuroscience and the scientific panels awarded 18 prizes for the best posters or platform presentations in their fields: congratulations to the winners who are listed in this newsletter. Delegates deserve praise for their diligence in keeping the lecture halls full in spite of the cultural temptations and culinary delights of Florence. As a reward, delegates had a wonderful evening strolling round the galleries of the Pitti Palace.

One of the most important results to emerge from the Congress was the announcement at the opening ceremony of an agreement between Professor Jacques De Reuck, our Past President, myself, and the ENS President Professor José Ferro and ENS Secretary General Professor Gustave Moonen to work towards increased collaboration between the EFNS and ENS. A cooperation group of six members of each organisation will meet shortly to advance this agreement.

The EFNS does much more than congresses. We publish a flourishing journal, the *European Journal of Neurology*, whose impact factor has now risen to

EFNS REGIONAL TEACHING

COURSE – ODESSA

April 22–24, 2010

Odessa, Ukraine

<https://www.efns.org/>

EFNS-Regional-Teaching-Course-in-Odessa-Ukraine.308.0.html

ABN ANNUAL MEETING

May 11–14, 2010

Bournemouth International Centre Bournemouth, UK

karen.reeves@theabn.org

<http://www.theabn.org>

12TH CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF AUTONOMIC SOCIETIES

May 12–15, 2010

Taormina, Italy

www.efas2010.org

2.7. We support scientist panels in all the major neurological disciplines. We roll out a postgraduate continued professional development programme in Europe and now in Africa. Further to this an e-learning committee under the chairmanship of Professor Thomas Berger from Innsbruck is developing an e-learning programme which will be hosted on our new website.

The EFNS flourishes and for this we thank the Past President, Professor Jacques De Reuck, for his devotion and hard work which have placed us in such a strong position.

Richard Hughes

EFNS President

PRESIDENTIAL OPENING LECTURE AT THE 13TH EFNS CONGRESS, FLORENCE, ITALY 12–15 SEPTEMBER 2009

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all in this wonderful city of Florence for the 13th Congress of the European Federation of Neurological Societies. We expect the most important attendance in the history of the EFNS, more than 5000 participants, although this congress takes place in a period of a worldwide economic crisis.

However, I hope that the interesting scientific programme and the social events in this historical environment will make you remember this event as one of the highlights of your trips during 2009.

Your travel to Florence offers you also the possibility to explore Tuscany and Umbria, by visiting in an easy way the different surrounding cities such as Pisa, Siena, Perugia and Assisi. Also, tasting the delicious wines and food must increase your marvellous feeling to be in Italy.

This congress would not be possible if we did not have a perfect organization. First of all I wish to thank Professor Antonio Federico and the Local Organizing Committee for their kind hospitality and their excellent collaboration making this congress a great event.

Ms. Lisa Müller and the whole EFNS staff of the offices in Vienna, Florence and Prague have done a great job in order that everything, up to details, is running smoothly.

The organization of the congress by Kenes International is, as always, spotless.

As you know the EFNS organizes successful regional teaching courses in East European countries and last year for the first time in Sub-Saharan Africa. The first one was held in Dakar, Senegal, hosted by Prof. Gallo Diop. The second Sub-Saharan regional teaching course was held this year, in June, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Both events were a great success due to the excellent organization by our chairperson

of the Africa Task Force, Prof. Jean-Michel Vallat, and our liaison officer, Mrs. Evelyn Sipido.

The EFNS has developed a new 5-year action plan in order to improve the relations with the national and international neurological societies, to increase the quality of our congresses, to initiate and revise guidelines for the major neurological disorders and to develop a corporate identity programme and an interactive website.

As usual, the President of the EFNS in his opening speech has to develop a topic of general interest. As this is my last presidential address, I would like to honour all women who have significantly contributed in the past to neurological sciences. Although their contributions were of high scientific value they were not always rewarded accordingly and did not receive the attention that they really deserved. In order to illustrate this underestimation of the scientific work of female medical doctors in the past, I would like to tell you the rather sad story of Bertha De Vriese, a neuro-anatomist, who worked at my University in Ghent, more than 100 years ago. Bertha De Vriese graduated as first female medical doctor with “maxima cum laude” on 20th July 1900 at the Ghent University, at a time when the only official language in Belgium was French. In 1901 she won the inter-university competition for biological sciences with an anatomical essay on blood vessel distribution in human extremities. During 1902, she travelled with the obtained bursary to different laboratories and hospitals in France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and United Kingdom. In 1903 she obtained a temporary mandate of assistant for two years at the Laboratory of Human Anatomy of the Ghent University.

EFNS ACADEMY 2010

May 13–16, 2010

Stare Splavy, Czech Republic

pragueoffice@efns.org

<https://www.efns.org/EFNS-Academy-2010.255.0.html>

19TH EUROPEAN STROKE CONFERENCE (ESC)

May 25–28, 2010

Barcelona, Spain

basel@congrex.com

http://www.eurostroke.eu/current_meeting.html

12TH CONGRESS OF THE PAN ARAB UNION OF NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETIES

May 26–29, 2010

Damascus, Syria

contact@pauns-sy.com

www.pauns-sy.com

The mandate was only one time renewable. During her two mandates, Bertha De Vriese dissected the arteries at the base of several hundred post-mortem brains. Looking to the several variations of the circle of Willis, she described a “primitive type” of arterial vascularisation of the brain in which the cerebral hemispheres are completely supplied by the carotid system and a more “developed type”, in which the supply of the posterior cerebral arteries is taken over by the vertebral-basilar system. She also described several rare vascular variants of the arteries of the brain. This work was published in the “Archives of Biology” in 1904. In 1905, Bertha De Vriese obtained the title of “Special Doctor in Human Anatomy” with a thesis on “Recherches sur la morphologie de l’artère basilaire”. Despite that the scientific value of her work was already universally recognized at that time, she could not obtain a permanent academic position at the Ghent University and had to start a private practice. She married at the age of thirty-seven. Her marriage remained childless. She died in 1958 at the age of eighty.

Her contributions are still cited until now in the scientific literature. The legacy of Bertha De Vriese has also inspired further research on the vascular anatomy of the brain at the Ghent University.

By attributing the name of the “Bertha De Vriese Home” to a new student residency near the University Hospital in 2002 the merits of this extraordinary woman were finally recognized by the academic authorities.

At the end of my talk, I am very happy to announce that the EFNS and the ENS have finally decided to collaborate and to work together to promote and further develop Neurology and Neurological Sciences in Europe. I am particularly grateful and honoured that the President, Prof. José Ferro, and the Secretary-General, Prof. Gustave Moonen, of the ENS have accepted to be present at this opening ceremony. I propose that we call the agreement between the ENS and the EFNS the “Treaty of Florence” as the beginning of a fruitful collaboration, leading to a “European Union of Neurologists”.



Jacques L. De Reuck

EFNS Past President

GREETINGS FROM FLORENCE

Dear Colleagues,

Florence, from the 12–15 September 2009, was the capital of European Neurology. Here was the 13th Congress of the European Federation of Neurological Societies, with the participation of more than 5500 delegates from 99 different countries, including India, Japan, Syria, Iran, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Morocco, Australia, etc.

The host society was the Italian Society of Neurology that was honoured to have this important charge. The Congress Programme Committee was chaired by Prof. Gian Luigi Lenzi.

At the Congress 2500 contributions were presented as oral, posters, and main lectures.

More than 2000 persons participated in the teaching courses.

The opening ceremony was short, but intensive, with the introduction of Prof. Jacques De Reuck, who discussed the new strategy of EFNS, and the role of women in Neurology. He described the good relationship between EFNS and ENS, so that, he said, the Florence Congress, will be remembered as the “Treaty of Florence” where the two societies decided to actively collaborate and perhaps to join in a unique society (both the President and Secretary General of the ENS were present at the Opening Ceremony and, with Prof. J. De Reuck, exchanged EFNS and ENS ties. Prof. De Reuck also

EFNS REGIONAL TEACHING COURSE – CHISINAU
 May 27–29, 2010
 Chisinau, Moldova

<https://www.efns.org/EFNS-Regional-Teaching-Course-in-Chisinau-Moldova.468.0.html>

NEUPSIG 2010 – 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON NEUROPATHIC PAIN
 May 27–30, 2010
 Athens, Greece

neuropathic@kenes.com
<http://www2.kenes.com/neuropathic/Pages/home.aspx>

4TH BALTIC SEA SUMMER SCHOOL ON EPILEPSY
 June 6–11, 2010
 Granavollen, Norway

<http://www.epilepsyacademy.org>

discussed interesting cooperative projects of European neurology with African countries, for facilitating the neurological training in these countries. And in this field the Italian Society of neurology has a leading role, with its support for neurological training in Ethiopia.

In my short welcome address, on behalf of the Italian Society of Neurology, I reminded of the role of Florence in the history of neurosciences, describing among others that the Babinski sign has already been reported in a beautiful painting by Botticelli 400 years before Babinski (fig. 1)

The main themes of the congress in the morning sessions were small vessel diseases,

in the therapy of multiple sclerosis; the new cellular and molecular neuroimaging techniques enabling to perform an early diagnosis in many conditions and to evaluate drug efficacy; movement disorders; dementias and memory troubles, including the rare causes of dementia; the state of art on the use of stem cells in neurological diseases; headache; new treatment for epilepsies; new approach to neuromuscular diseases, etc.

We had many workshops, focused on the most recent topics of the neurological debate, some of them discussing guidelines produced by the different EFNS panels, or on neurodegenerative diseases as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Wernicke’s disease, late onset leucodystrophies, Huntington chorea, mitochondrial dysfunction in the stroke pathogenesis, neuropathic pain, changes in carotid walls in the stroke pathogenesis, etc.

At the closing session the new EFNS President Prof. R. Hughes summed up the main events of the congress. The next congress that will be held in Geneva in 2010 was presented by Prof. Hess.

I hope that you all enjoyed to visit the city of Florence and its museums and galleries. The social event took place at Palazzo Pitti, where guided tours around the museums gave you the possibility to have an idea of the Italian Renaissance; here also live entertainment typical of this period had been organized.

It was a great privilege for Italian neurology to host this important meeting.

For me, as chairman of the Local Organizing Committee and vice-chairman of the Congress Programme Committee, it was a great honour and a unique experience to collaborate with the Scientific and Secretarial EFNS staff as well as with Kenes International.

I hope to see you in Geneva next year.

Prof. Antonio Federico

Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee

an interesting chapter of the cerebrovascular pathology; the use of monoclonal antibodies

USCHI TSCHABITSCHER PRIZE FOR YOUNG NEUROLOGISTS

Another tournament of young neurologists took place at the EFNS Congress in Florence.

In two sessions, twelve young scientists presented their outstanding work.

We congratulate the winner of the session on clinical neurology on Sunday, September 13, 2009

David Bradley, Dublin, Ireland for his presentation *Temporal discrimination*



Fig. 1: S. Botticelli: Lady with baby and two angels (on the right, particular of Babinski sign)

14TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND MOVEMENT DISORDERS
 June 13–17, 2010
 Buenos Aires, Argentina

congress@movementdisorders.org
 http://www.movementdisorders.org/congress/congress10/

20TH MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETY
 June 19–23, 2010
 ICC, Berlin, Germany

info@ensinfo.org
 http://www.congrex.ch/ens2010/

ISPNO 2010 – 14TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PEDIATRIC NEURO-ONCOLOGY
 June 20–23, 2010
 Vienna, Austria

ispno2010@medacad.org
 http://www.ispno2010.com/

thresholds (TDTs) in AOPTD – voxel-based morphometry findings in unaffected relatives.

We congratulate the winner of the session on basic neurology on Monday, September 14, 2009:

Roman Schniepp, Munich, Germany for his presentation *Sequential micro-PET based brain imaging in the unilateral labyrinthectomy rat model: insights to compensatory brain plasticity.*

EFNS INVESTIGATOR AWARDS 2009

We congratulate the winners of the EFNS Investigator Awards 2009!

Alexandra Araujo, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: *Quality of life and motor ability in spinal muscular atrophy* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on ALS

Antonella Biasiotta, Rome, Italy: *Laser evoked potentials as a tool for assessing the efficacy of antinociceptive drugs* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on Neuropathic Pain

Carlo Borsato, Padova, Italy: *Physical activity as an adverse factor in the course of natural history in LGMD2B* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on Muscle disorders

Stine Knudsen, Glostrup, Denmark: *The association between hypocretin-1 deficiency, cataplexy, and REM sleep behaviour disorder (RBD) in narcolepsy* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on Sleep disorders

Maja Kojovic, London, UK: *The syndrome of deafness-dystonia – a case series of 11 patients* awarded by the EFNS/MDS-ES Scientist Panel on Movement disorders

Peter Lackner, Innsbruck, Austria: *IgG-index predicts neurological morbidity in patients with infectious and neoplastic central nervous system diseases* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on Infectious diseases

Aslaug R. Lorentzen, Oslo, Norway: *Killer immunoglobulin-like receptor ligand HLA-Bw4 protects against multiple sclerosis* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on Multiple sclerosis and other demyelinating diseases

Eleftherios Papathanasiou, Nicosia, Cyprus: *A new neurogenic vestibular evoked potential (N6) recorded with the use of air-conducted sound* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on Neuro-ophthalmology/ -otology

Maria Grazia Passarin, Verona, Italy: *Neoplastic meningitis: diagnosis, treatment and survival – a retrospective study in 30 patients* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on Neuro-oncology

Veronica Popescu, Lille, France: *Influence of pre-existing cognitive decline on functional prognosis one year after a spontaneous intracerebral haemorrhage* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on Stroke



IA winners (from left to right): Gordana Zupan, Croatia; Antonella Biasiotta, Italy; Carlo Borsato, Italy; Aslaug R. Lorentzen, Norway; Peter Lackner, Austria; Anika Stroebele, Germany.

**9TH EUROPEAN CONGRESS ON
EPILEPTOLOGY**
June 27–July 1, 2010
Rhodes, Greece
rhodes@epilepsycongress.org
<http://www.epilepsyrhodes2010.org/index.html>

**EFNS REGIONAL TEACHING
COURSE – UFA**
July 8–10, 2010
Ufa, Russia

[https://www.efns.org/
EFNS-Regional-Teaching-Course-
in-Ufa-Russia.470.0.html](https://www.efns.org/EFNS-Regional-Teaching-Course-in-Ufa-Russia.470.0.html)

**EFNS REGIONAL TEACHING
COURSE IN SUB-SAHARAN
AFRICA**

July 8–10, 2010
Abidjan, Ivory Coast

florenceoffice@efns.org
www.efns.org

Kerri Prain, Brisbane, Australia: *Atypical NMO-IgG-like in direct immunofluorescence patterns in acute systemic infections* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on Neuroimmunology

Ernestina Santos, Porto, Portugal: *Late-onset vanishing white matter disease* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on Genetics and metabolic disorders

Stefan Sivak, Martin, Slovakia: *Clinical correlation of traumatic MRI findings in patients with mild traumatic brain injury* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on Neuroimaging and –sonology

Anika Stroebale, Erlangen, Germany: *Theory of mind in mesial temporal lobe epilepsy* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on Epilepsy

Sylvia Van Barneveld, Enschede, The Netherlands: *Evaluation of the “finger*

wrinkling test” awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on ANS

Rik Vandenberghe, Leuven, Belgium: *In-vivo exclusion of Alzheimer’s disease as a cause of primary progressive aphasia* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on Dementia and cognitive neurology

Shoji Yamamoto, Tsukuba, Japan: *Analysis of the neurotoxic effect of nanoparticle-rich diesel exhaust on a mouse brain* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on Substance abuse and neurotoxicology

Gordana Zupan, Rijeka, Croatia: *Effects of PPAR-γ agonist pioglitazone on the hippocampus in traumatic brain injured rats* awarded by the EFNS Scientist Panel on Neurotraumatology

EAYNT ACTIVITIES DURING THE 13TH EFNS CONGRESS IN FLORENCE, ITALY: ONCE AGAIN A MAJOR SUCCESS

There are several reasons why EFNS congresses have gained a special meaning to the European Association of Young Neurologists and Trainees (www.eaynt.org). Prominent guests come to our Club Lounge, a session dedicated to young neurologists followed by a social event takes place and since most recently our delegates get the unique opportunity to actively participate in EFNS Scientist Panels. And the 13th EFNS Congress in Florence was no different.

This year we had the pleasure of welcoming EFNS officials including President Prof. Richard Hughes, the Liaison Committee Chair Prof. Gunhild Waldemar, Congress Programme Committee Chair Prof. Nils Erik Gilhus and the WFN Teaching Course Committee Chair Prof. Wolfgang Grisold at our lounge. The most recent EAYNT activities were presented and ideas for future collaborative projects discussed. EAYNT office members particularly expressed the interest of further strengthening the involvement of EAYNT in scientific activities and the e-learning platform. A major step had been the nomination of delegates to the EFNS Scientist Panels in 2007. While many of our delegates are now actively involved in task forces and will get hands-

on experience by working together in a team with renowned scientists, EAYNT Past President Johann Sellner from the Technische Universität München, Germany already successfully leads the task force on Neuromyelitis optica and guidelines are expected to be available at the end of this year. Our activities were well acknowledged by the EFNS officials and the extent of positive feedback encourages us to further contribute to the EFNS activities. Thus, EAYNT delegates are going to submit 4 proposals for workshops at the EFNS Congress in 2011. We are also trying to increase the importance of guided poster walks for all posters and will propose different ideas to the Scientific Committee. Moreover, three EAYNT members were awarded with prizes for their presentations, worth mentioning Roman Schniepp of Germany who won the basic section of the young neurologists’ tournament. Congratulations!

The EAYNT special session attracted more than 100 participants and was a major success based on the positive feedback and lively discussions. Introductory words by the organizers Johann Sellner and László Sztriha were followed by the award of honorary EAYNT membership to Dr. Walter Struhal of Austria. The first talk was given by Prof. Bastian

DATES

10TH ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE (ICAD)

July 10–15, 2010
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

icad@alz.org
[http://www.alz.org/icad/
overview.asp](http://www.alz.org/icad/overview.asp)

4TH MIGRATION COURSE ON EPILEPSY

August 15–22, 2010
Serock, Poland

<http://www.epilepsyacademy.org>

Bloem from Nijmegen who covered “What I would do if I were you - key issues for a career in clinical neurology”. He grouped his both refreshing and thoughtful recommendations into 14 well remembered points, and further lectured on the missing point 15 at the EAYNT social event. His presentation was followed by a most interesting talk by Prof. Alberto Albanese, Associate Editor of the *European Journal of Neurology* who unravelled the key steps of the editorial processes. We are sure that the attendants will benefit from the hands-on recommendations he provided. Based on a clinical case, EFNS treasurer Professor David B. Vodusek presented the importance of sphincter EMG in the clinical work-up and encouraged young colleagues to consider this diagnostic procedure more frequently. Young colleagues are invited to get in touch with him for a practical training in Ljubljana, e.g. by applying for an EFNS Department to Department grant. The special session was followed by a social event in a traditional Tuscan restaurant, which again

was a good opportunity to meet each other outside the conference halls and make friends with colleagues. Further snapshots of the best moments and information on EAYNT activities during the next months can be found on our web page.

Finally, the new office members of EAYNT for 2009–10 took over and include President László Sztriha (London, UK), Secretary Cristian Falup-Pecurariu (Brasov, Romania), Martin Rakusa (Ljubljana, Slovenia) and Past President Johann Sellner (Munich, Germany). We should express our deepest gratitude to the EFNS officials and the office in Vienna for their continuous support of our activities, and we very much look forward to maintaining our good relationship during all future events. See you again in Geneva!

**Martin Rakusa, László Sztriha,
Cristian Falup-Pecurariu,
Walter Struhal, Johann Sellner**

LETTERS TO THE CONGRESS ORGANISERS...

Dear Colleagues and Organizers of the EFNS Congress in Firenze,

I would like to express my deep satisfaction and gratitude for providing a wonderful opportunity for me to win a bursary and participate in the EFNS Congress 2009. It was very useful for me to visit teaching courses, listen to up-to-date lectures and make poster presentations especially taking into consideration the fact that I am a young neurologist. I want to thank you for the perfect organization and high standards.

Sincerely Yours,

Dr. Yana Motuzova

Dear Sirs,

The WFN Junior Travelling Fellowship enabled me to attend the 13th Congress of the European Federation of Neurological Societies in Florence, Italy. It was a memorable experience for me to attend such a high profile scientific meeting that attracted participants from all over the world; I learned many new things, made new contacts and discovered new opportunities. All the scientific sessions that I had attended were interesting but I will focus on some things at this congress that I am still thinking of:

- 1) EFNS/EFNA special session - the good life - patient self-management arts and education: This event provided insight into ways in which people living with neurological illness can achieve better quality in their lives. It was very good for me to see neurologically diseased patients dancing, playing music and overcoming their disabilities and they looked like completely free.
- 2) Hands-on (Practical demonstration) Early morning Teaching Course; EMG (Reinhard Dengler, Germany); Nerve conduction (Alberto Priori, Italy); Transcranial magnetic stimulation (Kerry Mills, UK)

I am already working in my department in the field of electrophysiology. But it was a good chance to be practically reviewed and learn the common mistakes in EMG, nerve conduction and TMS upon hands and thoughts of excellent Professors in the field of electrophysiology from all over Europe and to get a certificate of attendance.

- 3) My poster presentation - Monday 14th September - Poster session Neuroimaging: With good scientific

discussion with Professor Karl Herholz from University of Manchester Wolfson Molecular Imaging Centre, England. It was my 1st time to have such a discussion with an English Professor and to learn how he evaluates the posters; especially if you see around you many researchers from all over the world with many good ideas and presentations.

pictures, jewelry, fantastic music and actors wearing historic clothes that make you feel the soul of history in the Palazzo.

The mixing of all scientific, mental, social and cultural thoughts during this congress had of course made me more active in dealing with my patients, community, teaching, research, studying to be more updated. I sincerely want to appreciate the WFN for the award of the travelling fellowship without which I wouldn't have been able to attend this congress.

Your assistance has been invaluable so as to present the scientific investigation done in our department that had a good acceptance among our different colleagues from all over the world, making good comments about them.

4) EFNS Social evening in Palazzo Pitti and Boboli Gardens with the beautiful

Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Gamal EL-Sherif,
Mansoura, Egypt

THE EUROPEAN BOARD EXAMINATION IN NEUROLOGY

THE UEMS-EBN EUROPEAN BOARD EXAMINATION: DEVELOPMENT, EXPERIENCE AND FUTURE

Development: Several sections of the UEMS (www.uems.org) have successfully established European board examinations in the past years. Due to the regulations of the EU countries, the certification of specialists is within the national authorities which means that at present the European Board Examination is a sign of excellence in addition to the national certification.

The European Board of Neurology decided in 2006 to develop an examination in Neurology based on the Glasgow Declaration by several sections of UEMS that determines basic rules and procedures for European Board Examinations. The format and the structure were developed by the European Board of Neurology: A three step approach was established:

- 1) the national certification or eligibility for certification as neurologist (confirming training and skills)
- 2) a written examination (MCQ) and
- 3) a structured oral examination.

As an optional feature a short self presentation can be added. The language chosen is English.

In May 2008 UEMS-EBN agreed with the European Federation of Neurological

Societies (www.efns.org) and the European Neurological Society (www.ensinfo.com) to establish a Joint Examination Committee. An important agreement was that the EFNS Scientist Panels' and the ENS Subcommittees' members were asked for contributions to the question and case story pool for the examination. This assures the input from many European neurology specialist panels and the contribution of many different and multinational authors of questions. Additionally, a system of quality assurance, carried out by the Department of Medical Education of the Ege University – Izmir (www.ege.edu.tr), was added. Also it was agreed to arrange the examination alternately at the venue of the ENS Meeting and the EFNS Congresses.

The administration and logistics were provided by UEMS-EBN with the help of the Vienna Medical Academy (www.medacad.org). At the moment the eligibility of candidates is restricted to applicants that are board certified or board certification eligible in an EU or EEA member country. Candidates are also eligible for the European Board Examination in Neurology if they fulfill all the conditions to sit for the particular national examination (if implemented) regardless of whether the candidate has

14TH CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETIES

September 25–28, 2010
Geneva, Switzerland

headoffice@efns.org;
http://www.efns.org/efns2010

WWW.EFNS.ORG/EFNS2010

7th World Stroke Congress
October 13–16, 2010
Seoul, Korea

stroke2010@kenes.com
http://www2.kenes.com/stroke
2010/Pages/Home.aspx

yet taken this examination or not. Also the fulfillment of the conditions to sit for the national examination has to be confirmed by the respective national authority.

The joint UEMS/EBN-ENS-EFNS committee had a fruitful cooperation to make the examination a success.

Question and Case Story Pool: In 2008 the Scientist Panels and Subcommittees submitted 290 MCQs and 34 case stories, by 35 authors from 16 different countries. These submissions were independently reviewed and rated by the members of the UEMS-EBN Examination Committee and the Joint UEMS-EBN/EFNS/ENS Examination Committee (11 persons). 194 MCQs and all case stories that got an average score of 5 or more were selected and reviewed in technical regard by the Department of Medical Education of Ege University Izmir.

Based on their recommendations Professor Mellgren, as chair of the UEMS-EBN Examination Committee and Professor Grisold, President of the UEMS-EBN, then selected 120 MCQs and 4 case stories for the examination and finally edited them.

European Board Examination in Neurology: The first European Board Examination in Neurology was held during the 19th Meeting of ENS on June 19, 2009 in Milan, Italy. During the application period 12 candidates from 8 different countries applied. Of the 7 candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria and accepted, 6 sat at the examination.

The written examination is a MCQ test consisting of 120 questions with 5 answer options of which one is correct. The passing limit for the written examination is 75%. Passing the MCQ test is a prerequisite to be able to proceed for the oral examination.

In the oral examination the candidate has to discuss diagnosis, diagnostics tests and therapy in 4 case vignettes. The case vignettes are handed out half an hour before, to allow preparation. A maximum

of 48 points can be gained from the 4 case vignettes.

In addition, and optionally, the candidate may present himself, either with a neurological case history, scientific results from his work or other neurological achievement made and thus gain 3 extra points.

At the first examination in Milan all candidates succeeded and were conferred the title “Fellow of the European Board of Neurology”. They were awarded a diploma, at the opening of the ENS congress, and are listed on www.uems-neuroboard.org. Within the quality assurance, also evaluation of the examiners and examinees took place, and the questions were evaluated in regard to being “easy” and “difficult”, according to the outcome of the statistical evaluation of the answers.

Future: The second European Board Examination in Neurology will be hosted by the EFNS and will take place during the 14th EFNS Congress on September 24, 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland. The application will be possible from October 20, 2009 to April 18, 2010. The application can be done via www.uems-neuroboard.org which also contains conditions and instructions. Presently up to 40 candidates will be accepted for the second European Board examination in Geneva. Having passed the eligibility criteria, they will be selected on a first-come first-served basis. If the number of applicants exceeds the number planned for the examination in Geneva by a large extent, the possibility of an additional examination will be considered in 2010.

For the next examination the question and case pool will have to be enlarged again, and the committees of the ENS and EFNS will again be asked for help. The guidelines and instructions for the authors will be improved, to increase quality. Submissions will be gathered from November 2009 to January 2010 and will undergo the described quality assessment procedures.



**ECTRIMS 2010:
26TH CONGRESS OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR
TREATMENT AND
RESEARCH IN MS**

October 13-16, 2010
Gothenburg, Sweden

secretariat@ectrims.eu
http://www.ectrims.eu/
conferences.htm

10TH ISNI CONGRESS

October 26-30, 2010
Palau de Congressos
Barcelona, Spain

committee@isni2010.org
http://www.isni2010.org/
index.php

Conclusion: To achieve a European standard in knowledge, skills and attitudes of neurological education the UEMS-EBN examination will be very important. It can be hoped that European national societies will want to use this examination in their national system, either in part, or adapting it, if they have no examination at the time.

Svein Ivar Mellgren MD, Prof
Chair UEMS-EBN Examination
Committee
Wolfgang Grisold, MD, Prof
President UEMS-EBN

EUROPEAN PARKINSON'S DISEASE SUMMER-SCHOOL JULY 2009, ADANA, TURKEY

The European students' associations of nursing, medicine, pharmacy and psychology decided to jointly organize a summer-school around Parkinson's disease revolving around teamwork in healthcare, innovation in education and creativity in research.

Paul de Roos, a junior doctor, who initiated the organization of this event, wished to inspire his peers to engage into an academic career through creation of an inspiring learning environment in which personal motivation and diverse professional backgrounds would stimulate creative, critical and analytical thinking around Parkinson's disease.

The summer-school participants prepared presentations nearly daily to present to experts about their findings on "What is known on Parkinson's disease?", "What is not known?", "What methods can be used to address these unknowns?". As these questions are extremely large of scope, the participants needed to work in teams to prepare the presentations to be presented to the experts. The teamwork process was supervised and coached by experienced student-trainers. Towards the end of the

summer-school the participants designed research project proposals as an outcome of their teamwork. The relevance and quality of the proposals was evaluated by an international panel of patients, experts and interested professionals.

Long term follow up will need to tell us if the students also actually contribute part of their career to Parkinson's disease or to research and if there will be a sustainable notion of the importance of leadership and teamwork in order to "Find the cure". We intend to gather more data to see if these goals will be achieved. As the students appreciated the experience we will organize a second summer-school in Ljubljana, Slovenia (July 19th-27th, 2010). We will also extend our efforts to the field of Dementia, by organizing an event of similar shape in Iasi, Romania.

Upcoming year we look specifically for final year academic students and junior professionals (e.g. neurology residents), as well as for vocational professionals with significant work experience until the age of 35. For more info on outcomes, evaluations and the agenda please visit:

www.parkinsonsummerschool.com
www.dementiasummerschool.com

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGY

The following articles are available free of charge on

<https://www.efns.org/EFNS-Continuing-Medical-Education-online.301.0.html>

Answer all questions correctly and you will receive one hour of CME.

This service is free of charge!

July 2009: EFNS guidelines on the molecular diagnosis of neurogenic disorders: general issues, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease and dystonias, Harbo H.F. et al.

DATES

**42ND DANUBE SYMPOSIUM
AND 10TH CONGRESS
OF THE EUROPEAN
SOCIETY OF CLINICAL
NEUROPHARMACOLOGY**
October 20–23, 2010
Zagreb, Croatia

danube@nepsy.szote.u-szeged.hu
www.szote.u-szeged.hu/neur/
danube
www.escnp.org

**2ND EUROPEAN HEADACHE
AND MIGRAINE TRUST
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
(EHMTIC)**

October 28–31, 2010
Nice, France

sgampel@kenes.com
[http://www2.kenes.com/ehmtic/
Pages/Home.aspx?ref1=db1](http://www2.kenes.com/ehmtic/Pages/Home.aspx?ref1=db1)

August 2009: No increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes for women with myasthenia gravis: a nationwide population-based study, Herg-Ching L. et al.

September 2009: EFNS guideline on the drug treatment of migraine – revised report of an EFNS task force, Evers S. et al.

October 2009: Lesion patterns in patients with cryptogenic stroke with and without right-to-left shunt, Feurer R. et al.

November 2009: Adjustment of treatment increases quality of life in patients with epilepsy. A randomized controlled pragmatic trial, Uijl S.G. et al.

December 2009: EFNS guidelines on the molecular diagnosis of mitochondrial disorders, Finsterer J. et al.

Win the European Handbook for Neurological Management by answering the December 2009 questions.

Everybody, who will answer all questions correctly will receive a 1GB USB stick.

The first 3 persons will receive one copy of the handbook.

Winners will be notified by email and their names will be published in the next issue of the EFNS Newsletter.

We congratulate the winners of the last competition:

Mayté Castro Jiménez, Cuba
Jera Kruja, Albania
Enrico Pedemonte, Italy

TEACHING COURSES OF THE 13TH EFNS CONGRESS ARE ONLINE NOW

The syllabi of the teaching courses are online on our website www.efns.org.

More than 30 authors have provided questions related to their texts.

These MCQs as well as texts are available in the e-education chapter for registered users. All registered users are invited to read the texts and answer the related questions. If all questions will be answered correctly, participants will receive a certificate.

You may purchase the syllabi CD-ROM (€20.-) including all texts of the Florence Teaching Courses via the online shop of the EFNS website.

EFNS FELLOWSHIP 2008

During the last year I have joined the group directed by Dr. Giulio Cossu at the Division of Regenerative Medicine of the San Raffaele Scientific Institute in Milano. This group is specialized in cell therapy for muscular dystrophies: they have described a new type of stem cell, mesoangioblasts that are vessel associated cells, isolable from adult muscular biopsies, which once delivered into dystrophic muscles using intramuscular or intraarterial ways, fuse with resident fibres producing complete morphological and functional recovery.

The opportunity that EFNS has offered to me through the Young Neurologists' Fellowship has meant a radical change in my professional life as I had never been working continuously in a laboratory before. I was basically an attending neurologist, specialized in neuromuscular disorders, but now, after my stay in Milano I can take on new challenges in the basic research world.

To me, the most important knowledge I have acquired during this year has

been the analytical method by which a researcher is able to face a problem, propose work hypothesis and design the experiments needed to obtain reliable results. During these months I have also learned many different techniques, from immunohistochemistry to citometry; from Western Blot to quantitative RT-PCR. I have always had the support of my colleagues in the lab, understanding my problems with some basic concepts about cellular biology and spending their time in helping me to achieve the planned objectives.

In summary, I really recommend to every neurologist to go out of their daily medical routine and get involved in a basic research project for almost a year. This would mean a great effort as a lot of new concepts and a new way to work would have to be learned, but also a great satisfaction, as after a while, one would be able to see neurology with different eyes.

Jordi Díaz Manera,
Spain

**1ST EUROPEAN TRAUMATIC
BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE:
TBI-CHALLENGE.EU 2011**
February 23–26, 2011
Faculty of Law,
Vienna, Austria

nikolaus.steinhoff@hochegg.
lknoe.at

**15TH CONGRESS OF THE
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETIES**
September 10–13, 2011
Budapest, Hungary

headoffice@efns.org;
www.efns.org/efns2011

EFNS EDUCATIONAL GRANTS 2010 – APPLY NOW

EFNS Department – Department Programme 2010

Application deadline:
30 November 2009

On the initiative of the European Co-operation Committee, the EFNS launched the project „Department to Department Co-operation“ in 2001. Since then, the participants have highly appreciated these training activities. A positive evaluation has also been expressed by the heads of the hosting departments.

Therefore, the EFNS Management Committee has decided to increase the grants to 1500 € plus travel expenses up to € 300 (**Note:** € 300.- will only be paid after receipt of your final report), and to honour **80 applicants** each year. The purpose of this award is to support the accommodation and board expenses in the city of practice. The grant is supposed to allow for a visit of a duration up to six weeks. If a participant is able to accept a low budget board, it may be possible to stay longer than six weeks in the hosting department.

Eligible are candidates from all European countries. Applicants must be under the age of 40, fluent in English or in the local language. Awardees from previous years are no more qualified.

For detailed information, as well as the application forms and a list of hosting departments, please visit: <https://www.efns.org/Department-Department-Co-operation-Programme.175.0.html>

EFNS FELLOWSHIP 2010

Application deadline:
31 December 2009

The objective of this programme is to support young and active neurologists wishing to expand their knowledge in neurology by working on scientific projects, and most of all, to study the practice of neurology in different countries, and thereby also creating new and international connections. Accordingly, the research work must be carried out at a European academic neurological department outside the country of residence.

Scientific: Up to eight grants to support young European neurologists to carry out research projects in clinical neurology / neuroscience.

Duration: 3-12 months (ideally 12 months)

Amount: Net salary in accordance with the salary scale of the host institution up

to a maximum of €2,000.- per month plus travel expenses.

Educational: Up to four grants that are particularly dedicated to support young East-European neurologists to get acquainted with the latest European neurological standards at a (clinical) foreign laboratory / research institution.

Duration: up to 6 months

Amount: Net salary in accordance with the salary scale of the host institution up to a maximum of € 1,600.- per month plus travel expenses.

For detailed information, as well as the application forms, please visit: <https://www.efns.org/EFNS-Fellowship-Programme.283.0.html>

EFNS ACADEMY 2010, MAY 13–16

Application deadline:
31 January 2010

Preliminary Programme

1. Movement disorders
2. Autoimmune diseases
3. Spinal cord disorders

Participants can prepare their own cases for demonstration and discussion. Contributions to the optimal organization of neurological care, neurological services and postgraduate education throughout Europe will be presented.

Location: Hotel Bezdez, Staré Splavy, Czech Republic. This site is situated in North Bohemia, about 90 km from Prague, on the shore of the romantic Macha lake.

Capacity: up to 120 participants; Delegates nominated by their national neurological societies will be preferred; individual applications are welcome up to the full capacity. Only participation for the whole course will be accepted. Accommodation, tuition, board and programme are sponsored by the EFNS. Participants pay only for their travel. All participants will receive a syllabi CD-ROM and a certificate after having finished this course.

For detailed information and application forms, please visit: <https://www.efns.org/EFNS-Academy-2010.255.0.html>