



## Communications of the European Neurological Society

### Address for Correspondence:

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### I. ENS Business Meeting in Lisbon

The ENS 2011 Business Meeting took place during the 21st Annual Meeting of the ENS in Lisbon, Portugal, on Tuesday 31 May 2011. The meeting was conducted by Prof. Zohar Argov, President of the ENS and Prof. Gustave Moonen, Secretary General of the Society.

#### • Welcome Address: Z. Argov

Z. Argov welcomed all members to this year's ENS Business Meeting. He noted that this year's Annual Meeting was the most successful ENS congress to date in terms of attendance. Z. Argov continued by expressing his appreciation to J. Ferro, Lisbon, the local organising committee and to the Congrex team for their excellent organisation of the 21st meeting.

#### • Election of Two New Executive Committee Members: G. Moonen

The election was necessary due to two members leaving the ENS Executive Committee, namely J. Ferro and A. Steck. G. Moonen thanked them for the excellent services they had performed for the Society.

All members of the ENS present at the Business Meeting were

subsequently invited to vote for two of the total number of candidates.

Elected to the ENS Executive Committee for the period 2011–2015 were: A. Verdelho and M. Dietrich.

#### • Financial Report of the Treasurer: A. Steck

A. Steck continued the Business Meeting by pointing out that the finances are healthy. He informed that the financial books of the ENS had been audited by an independent accounting firm, which certified that the accounts are correct. The financial report was unanimously approved by the ENS members attending the Business Meeting.

G. Moonen subsequently thanked A. Steck for his excellent work as treasurer over many years. A. Steck followed by thanking Congrex Switzerland Ltd. for the administrative support in handling the finances.

#### • Report of the Chair of the 21st Meeting: J. Ferro

**Attendance** A total of 3,427 participants attended this year's meeting. This represents the highest number of participants ever recorded at an Annual Meeting of the ENS.

**Country statistics** Out of a total of 79 countries, the 10 with the highest numbers of participants were: Germany, France, Portugal, Greece, Switzerland, Romania, Italy, Turkey, Netherlands and United Kingdom.<sup>1</sup>

**Young neurologists in training programme** J. Ferro informed the audience that this grant includes four nights of accommodation, free registration and three free teaching courses. A total of 471 grant applications were received, and 284 grants with accommodation were given. A further 85 grants without accommodation were given to Portuguese young neurologists.

#### • Report of Scientific Programme Director: C. Bassetti

C. Bassetti noted that, for the first time, the Annual Meeting of the ENS was scheduled as a 4-day congress. C. Bassetti continued by describing the abstract statistics of the Lisbon meeting 2011. A total of 953 abstracts were submitted. This number is much higher than the 842 abstracts recorded for 2010. The abstract rejection rate

<sup>1</sup> Readers interested in graphic presentations of the 21st ENS Meeting statistics, which were published in the August 2011 issue of the *Journal of Neurology*, may refer to: Communications of the European Neurological Society, I. Statistics of the 21st ENS Meeting in Lisbon, J Neurol (2011)8. 258.

was 16%, which resulted in a very high scientific level of presentations. The topics cerebrovascular disorders, multiple sclerosis and dementia/higher cortical functions were the subjects of the highest numbers of abstract submissions. C. Bassetti pointed out that researchers in some other fields, such as epilepsy, movement disorders or neuro-epidemiology, should be encouraged to submit more abstracts.

#### • Report of Teaching Course Director: M. Filippi

The ENS 2011 meeting offered 22 teaching courses, all of which had very high attendance. The highest attendance recorded was for the full-day course “Current Treatments in Neurology”. Besides the teaching courses, nine workshops were conducted during this year’s Annual Meeting. M. Filippi noted that the inputs for the teaching courses and workshops came from the ENS Subcommittees and the ENS Executive Committee.

#### • Report on ENS Fellowship: H. Reichmann

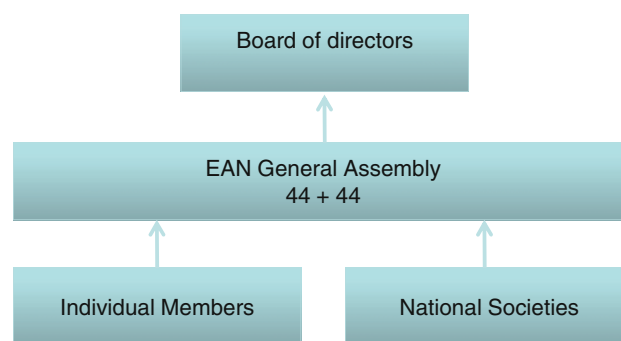
H. Reichmann emphasised that the ENS is proud to support young researchers. The main aim of the ENS fellowships is to support science-based investigations in neurology. He noted that there are now two application deadlines per year, in May and October. H. Reichmann continued by giving an overview of the rejection/acceptance rates of fellowship applications over the past 5 years. For example, for 2010, out of a total of 22 applications, seven fellowships were awarded and 15 applications were rejected.

#### • ENS–EFNS Cooperation: G. Moonen

G. Moonen presented an outline of the ENS–EFNS collaboration, noting that the first ENS–EFNS cooperation

started with the European Board Examination in which common guidelines were developed. In 2009, an ENS–EFNS task force was created in order to discuss the future cooperation of the two societies. The ENS task force members are G. Moonen, C. Bassetti and J. Ferro; the EFNS task force members are J. De Reuck, G. Waldemar and D. Kömpf. In 2010 it was decided that the first joint ENS–EFNS meeting should be held in 2015. G. Moonen continued by pointing out that the task force collaboration should be deepened by unifying the forces of European neurology to create a new society designated the European Academy of Neurology (EAN).

The ENS–EFNS task force recommends that the structure of the EAN should be the following:



Proposed organisation of the EAN. The Academy’s General Assembly will be composed of 44 members each from the ENS and the EFNS

Participants of the ENS Business Meeting in Lisbon voted, nearly unanimously, to authorise the ENS–EFNS task force to continue the procedure to create a new society, the EAN.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> In the meantime, the establishment of a new society has proceeded rapidly since the Business Meeting was held in Lisbon, 31 May 2011. During the 15th Congress of the EFNS in Budapest, Hungary, 10–13 September 2011, Zohar Argov, ENS President; Gustave Moonen, Secretary General ENS; Richard Hughes, EFNS President and Detlef Kömpf, Secretary General EFNS, signed a historic agreement to merge the two societies. Readers interested in more information on the signing of the Agreement may refer to

#### • *Journal of Neurology*: G. Said

The impact factor of the journal is slightly up. G. Said will step down as joint editor, and M. Filippi and M. Strupp will become the new joint editors together with the current joint editor R. Barker.

#### • Report on ENS Subcommittees: C. Bassetti

C. Bassetti reported that there are 22 Subcommittees at the moment and their activities are growing. As for the ENS 2012 scientific programme, 62 suggestions were received and 33 accepted by the ENS Executive Committee. He noted that the ENS Executive Committee has finalised bylaws for the Subcommittees and they will be published soon on the ENS website.

C. Bassetti pointed out, however, that communication between the Subcommittees and the Executive Committee still has to be improved.

#### Comments:

S. Papageorgiou: It should be considered to reduce the number of Subcommittees.

Footnote 2 continued  
the November 2011 issue of the *Journal of Neurology*: Communications of the European Neurological Society, I. ENS and EFNS sign historical agreement to merge the two societies, J Neurol (2011)11. 258.

Z. Argov: The Executive Committee will decide this at the next EC meeting in Paris.

E. Nobile-Orazio: The Subcommittee meetings should be held in good slots and supported with lunch/coffee.

J. Valls-Solé: As for the ENS 2012 programme, no suggestions from the Subcommittee on Clinical Neurophysiology were accepted. He stressed that it is very important for neurologists to receive training in clinical neurophysiology.

### • Report on the European Board Examination in Neurology:

#### A. Steck

The 3rd European Board Examination in Neurology took place in Lisbon a day before the start of the ENS congress. There were 18 candidates. A. Steck pointed out this exam is prepared in collaboration between the ENS, EFNS and EBN, and has no legal recognition. However, the exam is now officially recognised in Austria. Hopefully, more and more countries will recognise this exam. A. Steck added that the aim in the future is to carry out the skill examination in different countries; the EBN exam should become the official knowledge examination.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Readers interested in more information on the European Board Examination in Neurology may refer to the October edition of the *Journal of Neurology: Communications of the European Neurological Society*, 1.



*Third UEMS–EBN European Board Examination in Neurology in Lisbon, J Neurol (2011)10. 258.* This report is also available on the ENS website: <http://www.ensinfo.org>; click the rubric ‘European board examination in neurology’.

## II. Preliminary Programme of the 22nd ENS Meeting in Prague Now Online

The Preliminary Programme and Abstract Submission Procedure for the Twenty-second Meeting of the European Neurological Society, scheduled to take place in Prague, Czech Republic, on 9–12 June 2012, is now available on the ENS website. Refer to <http://www.ensinfo.org>; click on ENS Congresses, followed by Next Congress and ENS Meeting 2012. Online registration is available on this website.

For information on the venue of the 22nd Meeting, which is Prague Congress Centre, Prague, Czech Republic, please refer to <http://www.kcp.cz>.

### Dates to remember:

Abstract Submission Deadline: 26 January 2012

Early Registration Deadline: 22 March 2012

Twenty-second Meeting (9–12 June 2012, Prague, Czech Republic) has issued a call for papers. The deadline for abstract submission is 26 January 2012. More information concerning the application procedure, such as guidelines for abstract preparation and submission, as well as the topics of presentation, can be obtained on the website of the ENS at: <http://www.ensinfo.org>.

## IV. ‘Young Neurologist in Training Offer’ Deadline is 18 January 2012 for Attendance at Prague Meeting

The ENS is pleased to offer once again a limited number of grants to support young neurologists to attend the 22nd ENS Meeting, which is scheduled to take place in Prague, Czech Republic, 9–12 June 2012. This Young Neurologist in Training offer includes:

- Free congress registration
- Free admission to three half-day teaching courses



## III. Abstract Submission Deadline for 22nd ENS Meeting: 26 January 2012

The Scientific Committee of the European Neurological Society’s

### • Free accommodation from Saturday to Tuesday

for European neurologists in training born on or after 1 January 1977.

Applicants should provide a letter from the chairperson of their

department to certify that they are in training, as well as a copy of their valid passport.

Application is only available online at <http://www.ensinfo.org> from October 2011 onwards.

The deadline for applications: 18 January 2012. Applications without the required documents or arriving after this date will not be considered. Separately to this offer, young colleagues who have an abstract accepted for presentation at the ENS meeting may also apply for a travel grant.

#### **V. Travel Grant to Attend 22nd ENS Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic**

The European Neurological Society will support young scientists (born on

or after 1 January 1977) who wish to attend the 22nd ENS Meeting in Prague, with a travel grant. Scientists with an excellent abstract accepted for presentation at the meeting will be considered for a travel grant. This is separate from and independent of the application for the Young Neurologist in Training offer; see topic IV above. Interested scientists should click the appropriate checkbox during the online abstract submission process. You will be required to upload a copy of your passport as proof of eligibility. Prepare this document in one of the following formats: MS Word document, gif, jpg or pdf file.

If you have difficulties uploading your passport copy, please contact the Abstracts Hotline on +41 (0) 61 686 77 22. Applications without passport

copy or arriving after 26 January 2012 will not be considered.

Online application only: available at <http://www.ensinfo.org>.

#### **VI. Early Registration Fee for Prague Meeting**

In order to profit from the early registration fee for the 22nd Meeting of the ENS in Prague, register online at the ENS Congress website <http://www.congrex.ch/ens2012> by 22 March 2012.