

## **2010 Geneva, Switzerland**

14th EFNS Congress, Geneva, Switzerland, 25 - 28 September 2010

### **Welcome Address of the President**

Dear Congress Participant

A warm welcome to the 14th Congress of the European Federation of Neurological Societies held in the beautiful city of Geneva from 25th to 28th September 2010.

We have had more than 1900 abstracts submitted and expect about 5,000 attendees of whom 200 will be holders of EFNS bursaries for neurologists less than 35 years of age. Most of the attendees will be European but we extend a warm welcome to those from other continents.

The scientific sessions will be preceded by a wide-ranging programme of excellent but inexpensive teaching courses from experts who have been selected for their communication skills as well as their knowledge of science and medicine. The programme has been organised by our Teaching Course Committee chaired by Professor Detlef Kömpf from Lübeck, Germany. The teaching courses start on Saturday morning with the now traditional free-of-charge session 'How do I examine'.? -, a reflection of the importance of clinical skills in our subject. There will also be practical courses on clinical neurophysiology, neurosonology and positional vertigo.

For the scientific programme, selected abstracts will be presented in platform or poster sessions built round a framework of 12 main topics and 15 focused workshops. These will be led by world leading researchers and have been selected by our Congress Programme Committee chaired by Professor Gian Luigi Lenzi from Rome, Italy. As usual we welcome the participation of the European Section of the Movement Disorder Society under the Presidency of Professor Alfredo Berardelli from Rome, Italy who have organised a main theme on Parkinson's disease, two teaching courses, a focused workshop and the European Basal Ganglia Club. We also have pharmaceutical company satellite symposia and 7 special sessions organised by our associated societies including the, EUREPA (European Epilepsy Academy) and importantly EFNA (European Federation of Patient Associations), the European organisation for patient support groups. The EFNS Clinical Lecture, one of the highlights of every EFNS congress, will this year be given by the outstanding clinical expert Professor Thomas Brandt from Munich, Germany, on the subject of 'Out of Balance'.

Particularly important are the two tournaments for young neurologists for the 'Uschi Tschabitscher Prizes for Young Neurologists'. The late Uschi Tschabitscher from Vienna, Austria was the much-loved founding executive director of the EFNS to whom we owe our existence as an organisation. There will also be 'Investigator Awards' awarded by each of the scientist panels to be collected at the Closing Ceremony on Tuesday.

The Congress is more than just a collection of lectures and scientific communications, our Council, our standing committees and our scientist panels will meet and conduct their business. The occasion provides important opportunities for European research groups to hold face-to-face meetings and individuals to meet European colleagues.

We thank our hosts, the Swiss Neurological Society, for inviting us to the beautiful international city of Geneva. We look forward to learning more about the greatest of medical specialties, to discovering new ways to help our patients, to renewing old acquaintances and to making new friends.

Richard Hughes  
President EFNS

## **Greetings from Geneva** **By Margitta Seeck**

Dear colleagues,

The 14th EFNS meeting has passed and I hope you all enjoyed your visit in Geneva, located in the French part of Switzerland! The Swiss Neurological Society, which just celebrated its 100th birthday, had the honour to be the host society and we were only too happy to assume this 'responsibility'. This is the first EFNS meeting in Switzerland and given its big success, hopefully, not be the last one.

We had 5100 delegates - this is a significant number of attendees! They had the opportunity to detect a rich and diverse scientific and teaching programme, covering all fields of clinical neurology. During the opening ceremony we heard Professor Theodore Landis on the 'mystic brain' which touches the zone between neurology, psychiatry and philosophy. He is actually a 'local' - the director of the Neurology Clinic at the Geneva University Hospital - and he shared with us his findings and thoughts about the behavioural correlates of brain function and dysfunction.

The other key lecture was given by Professor Thomas Brandt, a leading scientist and clinical neurologist specialized on vertigo. As usual, his talk was captivating and provided us with state-of-art knowledge on the different types and treatments of balance disorders.

In total 12 main topics, 101 short communications, 26 teaching courses, and 11 satellite symposia were presented by speakers from all continents. All topics of today neurology were covered, from a more basic level up to the scientific level, and this was possible with the help of all those distinguished speakers. As in previous years, Professor Richard Hughes from London summed up the event, and did so very elegantly. We also enjoyed a smooth and efficient organisation with rich lunch buffets, so the famous good Swiss food could be discovered onsite. Our thanks goes to the EFNS Head Office, Kenes International and the local and EFNS organization committees for providing us visible but also a lot of invisible help.

The program was very dense, but nevertheless, I hope that you found some time to see Geneva and its surroundings. September is one of the most beautiful months and it is still warm enough, to enjoy a stroll at the lakeside. As you can see in the pictures, not much has changed in all these years, except the creation of the 'jet-d'eau'. It is since 1891 in the present location and it ejects its water since 120 years from this spot, much to the delight of all the visitors.

On behalf of the Swiss Neurological Society, I thank all delegates and speakers for making this event so magnificent and outstanding, and I hope we see each other again in Budapest, 10.-13.9.2011

With warm regards

Professor Margitta Seeck  
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