



DANUBE NEUROLOGY NEWSLETTER

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Danube Neurology Association web-site:
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1. Obituary of Professor Heinz Schulze (by Professor Franz Gerstenbrand)

Professor Heinz Schulze, emerited director of the Neurological University Clinic of the Charité Berlin left us. Heinz went away in the silent form as he lived in the last years after his active time. In neuroscience Prof. Schulze chose the difficult chapter of disturbance in the higher and highest brain functions, following the Central European Neuropathological School of Wilhelm Griesinger and Theodor Meynert. A large number of scientific papers were published from him and his pupils about his scientific work partly based on the use of incoming new neuroimaging methods performed in the special established neuroradiological department of the Neurological Clinic, organized by Dagobert Müller.

In the period when Germany was divided in two parts, Heinz Schulze encouraged the colleagues of the German Democratic Republic to visit scientific events, congresses and symposia in Western Europe and took over the political responsibility of their decision to go back to their country. After every travel of his colleagues to a neurological event in Western Countries Heinz had to write a right colored report, knowing to have all the responsibility not alone for future trips, but also for their further career.

As a founding member of the Danube Neurology he was one of the important bridge builders during this period in the development of European Neurology introducing the exchanges for both sides. Heinz was a member of the first hour in the Danube Neurology and one of the important bridge builders during the first development of the important Central European Neurological Association, which was the basis for the European Federation of Neurological Societies, now starting as the European Academy for Neurology in a successful common future.

Heinz was an excellent clinical neurologist, following the topical oriented neurology based on neuropathological findings, being on the steps to the new chapter of neuroimaging and neuro functional evidence. He was an excellent teacher able to enthuse his medical students for neurology even with some dramatic influenced background.

Neurology is losing a great clinician, I'm a losing an intimate friend and a common fighter to enlarge neurology in a leading position in medicine.



Professor Heinz Schulze

2. Summary of the 9th World Congress On Controversies In Neurology (CONy) (by Professor Emeritus Amos D Korczyn)



This CONy congress, the ninth in an annual series, took place in Budapest last March, honoring the tradition by which burning issues in neurology are being discussed in a friendly, yet at times heated, debate format. The idea behind this format is that people are tired of frontal lectures which so often present a one-sided view of a topic. Listening to debates, on the other hand, exposes the audience to balanced pro and con views of the issue under discussion. This format forces the speakers to present their side briefly but concisely, and allows each side to expose weaknesses in the counter view.

At an age when evidence-based medicine is so predominant, clinicians must be made aware of the limitations of consensus statements and official guidelines. The same is of course true about various hypotheses, formulations and suggestions which unfortunately too frequently become accepted, perhaps because of the power of the personalities behind them. The success of this approach is highlighted by the fact that, each of the meetings held so far, succeeded in attracting around 1000 participants. The impressive turnout was able to listen to talks delivered by key opinion leaders in the various fields of neurology.

The first day of the congress in Budapest consisted of plenary talks which were aimed at the audience at large, regardless of sub specialty. These included talks by the two CONy chairpersons,

Laszlo Vecsei of Szeged, who spoke about the kynurenine system in the brain, which may have a role in different neurological diseases like migraine and stroke but also in neurodegenerative diseases like Huntington's disease, and by Amos Korczyn of Tel Aviv who focused on "Unexplained Medical Symptoms", which highlighted the difficulties we still face in trying to bridge the mind and the body. Other exciting talks were delivered by Sabina Alam, who asked whether the peer-review system is obsolete, Michael Sperling who discussed the wide spectrum of electrical brain simulation to treat diseases beyond Parkinson's, like epilepsy and others, and Marcelo Bigal, who introduced the new concept of antibodies against the CGRP system to treat migraine, Joab Chapman on the coagulation system in brain diseases (and he did not talk specifically on stroke), Tiago Outeiro on Epigenetics in neurodegenerative diseases, and several others.

On the subsequent days, there were parallel sessions on multiple sclerosis, headache, dementia and neuro-ophthalmology, on day 2, and on stroke, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy and neurorehabilitation on day 3. Each of these sessions lasted for almost a full day, with up to ten debates in each. A typical debate would extend for an hour; after an introduction of the topic to be covered, each of the opponents would present his (his or her) views, followed by comments and questions from the floor and later their rebuttals, followed by a "take home" summary.

It is impossible in a short paper to mention all the various debates. These can be seen on the official CONy website, for the full Scientific Program, please click here:

<http://www.comtecmed.com/cony/2015/program.aspx>, where also webcasts of several debates can be seen and heard.



The next CONy congress will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, on March 17-20, 2016



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3. Summary of the 11th International Danube Teaching Course in Kazimierz (by Professor Konrad Rejdak, MD, PhD)

11th International Danube Teaching Course took place on 13-15 May 2015 in Kazimierz Dolny – historical centre of medieval culture of Poland.

The meeting was organised under the auspices of the International Danube Symposium for Continuing Education in Neurological Sciences, Department of Neurology Medical University of Lublin (Head: Prof dr K. Rejdak) and Lublin Branch of Polish Neurological Society (Prof dr Z. Stelmasiak).

The scientific programme focused on the newest aspects of multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, headache and child neurology but also included the special session on stem cell therapy. The highest educative and scientific level of this conference was guaranteed by the attendance of many internationally recognised experts and scientists from the country and abroad including prof. F. Gerstenbrandt, prof. A. Korczyn, prof. G. Bauer, prof. P. Sorensen, prof. I. Blatt, prof M. Brazdil and others.

There were 7 Danube Lectures: by

Prof. F. Gerstenbrandt – Hyperbaric Oxygenation Therapy - a good possibility in neurorehabilitation, but not enough accepted and generally used

Prof. A. Korczyn – Medically unexplained symptoms

Prof. A. Słowik – Asymptomatic Carotid Artery Disease Update: Surgery, Stent or Watchful Waiting?

Prof. K. Selmaj – Future trend in MS therapy – the rule of generic drugs

Prof. P. S. Sørensen – Neutralizing antibodies to biological MS therapies

Prof. G. Bauer – Locked-in syndrome and related conditions

Prof. I. Blatt – Status Epilepticus

Prof. M. Brázdil – Epileptic seizures arising from the anterior cingulate cortex

Moreover the program included 6 scientific sessions: neuroprotection (3 lectures), multiple sclerosis (6 lectures), stroke and ultrasound examination (5 lectures), child neurology (3 lectures) and epilepsy (9 lectures).

The meeting was very successful with around 450 participants including students and residents who were given a free admission to the scientific part of the meeting.



Photo: (from left) dr Szczepanska-Szerej, prof. K. Rejdak, prof. F. Gerstenbrandt, prof A. Korczyn, prof. Z. Stelmasiak, prof. P. Nowacki, prof. K. Mitosek-Szewczyk

4. Programme of the 47th International Danube Neurology Symposium (by Professor Hans-Peter Hartung, MD, PhD)

Friday, 25. 09. 2015

08:30 - 11:30 1st Session – Stroke-Update 2015

16:30 - 20:30 2nd Session – Neurodegeneration

Saturday, 26. 09. 2015

08:30 - 11:30 3rd Session – Update Multiple Sclerosis

12:30 - 16:00 4th Session – Update Neurology

5. Invitation and preliminary programme of the 48th International Danube Neurology Symposium (by Professor Zvezdan Pirtosek, MD, PhD)

In 2005 Ljubljana hosted the 37th International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education. A decade is over. The Symposium and ourselves, we all are all ten years wiser and older. What about neurology? Understanding of pathological mechanisms, diagnostic skills, management possibilities and ethical (self)questioning - where are we now, ten years later? To find answers, or to be left with questions, to reinforce your neuro-optimism or justify a neuro-pessimism, may I warmly invite you to

THE LJUBLJANA DANUBE SYMPOSIUM – TEN YEARS AFTER

October 6-8th 2016

Ljubljana, a charming mid-European capital will host the 48th get-together, addressing largely the same topics as discussed in 2005, but from the perspective of a decade later.

Main topics:

- The Danube Lecture
- Management of acute ischaemic stroke in Danube countries & beyond
- Management of carotid disease in Danube countries & beyond
- Atrial fibrillation treatment in Danube countries & beyond
- Pathophysiology of cortical motor disorders
- Functional neuroimaging
- Satellite symposium on new diagnostic and treatment aspects of neurological disorders
- Recent findings in experimental and clinical neurology
- Hand-over clinics – Transition from paediatric to adult neurology
- Paediatric neurological disorders at the end of adolescence
- Satellite symposium on new and emerging indications for botulinum toxin treatment
- Migraine
- Satellite symposium on dementia: What is new about Alzheimer's disease?
- Bridging neurology and psychiatry
- Demyelinating disease
- Satellite symposium on MS treatment
- Polyneuropathies
- Ethical issues in neurology

Also, after a decade:

- Young neurologists (YNT) get-together
- Specialist nurses in neurology
- Personal neurological letters from Danube countries and beyond
- Basal ganglia video dinner
- Poster highlights

6. The role of clinical neurophysiology in Denmark: organization and scientific activity (by Sándor Beniczky, MD, PhD)

Clinical Neurophysiology in Denmark is a sub-specialty of Neurology. During the 5-year training in neurology, residents spend 6 month, full-time at a clinical neurophysiology department. Those who decide to specialize in clinical neurophysiology after becoming neurologist have to go through additional 30 month full-time training in clinical neurophysiology. The training program includes a checklist comprising 60 items. The training is supervised and approved by the Danish Society for Clinical Neurophysiology. In the largest university hospitals (in Copenhagen and Aarhus) and at the Danish Epilepsy Centre (Dianalund), Clinical Neurophysiology is a department of its own. In the other hospitals, it is part of the neurology department. The Danish Epilepsy Society focuses both on education and on organization issues for clinical neurophysiology. The society holds meetings / national congress twice a year. Most of the clinical neurophysiologists in Denmark are also involved in research activities. The main topics are: studies of membrane excitability (Copenhagen), sleep medicine (Copenhagen/ Glostrup), epilepsy surgery (Copenhagen and Dianalund), ALS/EMG-based on a national and international database (Aarhus), magnetoencephalography (Aarhus), EEG source imaging (Dianalund) and seizure detection (Dianalund).

7. Future Conferences, Meetings, Courses and Symposia of the International Danube Neurology Association

7.1. The 47th International Danube Neurology Symposium

Time: 2015 **Organized by:** Professor Hans-Peter Hartung (Düsseldorf, Germany) **E-mail:** hans-peter.hartung@uni-duesseldorf.de

7.2. The 48th International Danube Neurology Symposium

Time: 2016 **Organized by:** Professor Zvezdan Pirtosek (Ljubljana, Slovenia) **E-mail:** zpirtosek@gmail.com

7.3. The 49th International Danube Neurology Symposium

Time: 2017 **Applicant:** Professor Samuel Komoly (Pécs, Hungary) **E-mail:** komoly.samuel@pte.hu

7.4. The 50th International Danube Neurology Symposium

Time: 2018 **Applicant:** Professor Laszlo Csiba (Debrecen, Hungary) **E-mail:** csiba@med.unideb.hu

8. Present and Future Activities of the International Danube Neurology Association

- The **Danube Neurology Association** fosters and coordinates fellowship programs for young neurologists from Danube Countries
- Coordination of future **Danube Neurology Symposia**
- The **Danube Neurology Newsletter** is available free of charge (also downloadable) on Internet in electronic version
- Information about future events (**Calendar of events**)
- We also consider as our task to help with the activity of the **EFNS** in the Danube-countries.

9. Finances of the International Danube Neurology Association

According to previous decision of the Danube Neurology Curatorium Meeting, the financial sources of the International Danube Neurology Association from all kinds of symposia, conferences, meetings, teaching/training or other kinds of courses under the roof and auspices of our organization, are as follows: According to a final report of the meetings, symposia, etc. to be handed in electronically to the Head Office in Szeged, Hungary, the financial surplus of all meetings should be divided 70:30 between the Local Organizers and the permanent International Danube Neurology Symposium Head Office in Szeged, Hungary. Or the amount of min. EUR 2,500 is to be transferred – together with the financial report – to the Head Office according to our invoice.

10. Web-site of the International Danube Neurology Association

The home-page of the **International Danube Neurology Association** consists of:

- the contents of all Newsletter (Nr.1-24)
- Managing and Executive Board Members of Danube Neurology Association
- Past and future Symposia, Conferences, Meetings
- Other further important information.