



DANUBE NEUROLOGY NEWSLETTER

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International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and
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1. Report about the establishment of Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis (SMS) under the Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences (by Professor László Vécsei and Anett Járdánházy)

We are happy to inform you about the establishment of Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis (SMS) under the Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences. The first step is to organise survey at national levels related to (1) MS Registry, (2) CSF analysis and special molecular biomarkers and (3) MRI imaging. Thereafter, it is suggested to publish these national data. Furthermore, it would be important to collaborate with each other in the future.

Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis

Austrian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis

Professor Thomas Berger: MS Registry, Molecular Biomarkers thomas.berger@meduniwien.ac.at

Dr Gabriel Bsteh: Registry gabriel.bsteh@meduniwien.ac.at

Dr Harald Hegen: Molecular Biomarkers harald.hegen@i-med.ac.at

Croatian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis

Professor Vanja Basic Kes: MS Registry kesvanja@gmail.com

Professor Mario Habek: Molecular Biomarkers mario.habek@mef.hr

Dr Lucija Zadro Matovina: MRI imaging lucija.zadro@gmail.com

Czech Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis

Dr Jan Kolcava: MS Registry kolcava.jan@fnbrno.cz

Dr Pavel Stourac: Molecular Biomarkers Stourac.Pavel@fnbrno.cz

Dr Jan Kocica: MRI imaging kocica.jan@fnbrno.cz

Hungarian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis

Associate Professor Krisztina Bencsik: MS Registry bencsik.krisztina@med.u-szeged.hu

Professor László Vécsei: Molecular Biomarkers vecsei.laszlo@med.u-szeged.hu

Associate Professor Tamás Zsigmond Kincses: MRI imaging kincses.zsigmond.tamas@szte.hu

Polish Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis:

Professor Waldemar Broła: MS Registry wbrola@wp.pl

Professor Konrad Rejdak: Molecular Biomarkers k.rejdak@umlub.pl

Dr Malgorzata Siger: MRI imaging gosia_siger@yahoo.com

Romanian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis

Professor Cristina Tiu: MS Registry cristinatieu@yahoo.com

Professor Rodica Balasa: Molecular Biomarkers rodica.balasa@umftgm.ro

Dr Simona Petrescu: MRI imaging simonapetrescu@yahoo.com

Serbian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis

Professor Tatjana Pekmezovic: MS Registry pekmezovic@sezampro.rs

Professor Jelena Drulovic: Molecular Biomarkers drulovicjelena@gmail.com

Professor Sarlota Mesaros: MRI imaging sharlotam@gmail.com

Slovakian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis

Professor Peter Turcani: MS Registry turcani1@gmail.com

Associate Professor Jarmila Szilasiová: Molecular Biomarkers szilasiovaj@gmail.com

Associate Professor Nora Klimová MRI imaging klimova@fnspresov.sk

Slovenian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis

Dr Alenka Horvat Ledinek: MS Registry alenka.horvat@kclj.si

Associate Professor Uros Rot: Molecular Biomarkers uros.rot@kclj.si

Dr Jozef Magdic: MRI imaging jozef_magdic@yahoo.com

Collaborating European MS Centers

Collaborating MS Registry Center

Professor Melinda Magyari

Danish Multiple Sclerosis Center,

Department of Neurology,

Head of the Danish Multiple Sclerosis Registry,

Copenhagen University Hospital, Rigshospitalet

Copenhagen, Denmark

Collaborating MS Molecular Biomarker Center

Professor Bernhard Hammer

Past-President ofECTRIMS

Head of Department of Neurology

Technical University

Munich, Germany

Collaborating MS MRI Imaging Center

Professor Christian Enzinger

Co-Chair of MAGNISM

Department of Neurology Medical University of Graz

Graz, Austria

2. COVID-19 outbreak affected the neurophysiology services too (by Professor Sándor Beniczky)



Sándor Beniczky MD, PhD, FEAN, Professor, Department of Neurology, Aarhus University Hospital, Head of Clinical Neurophysiology Department, Danish Epilepsy Centre, Filadelfia

The pandemic affected not only the life of millions of people infected with the virus, but also other patients, due to the reorganization of the healthcare system in almost all countries. In Denmark, this impacted on neurophysiology services too. During the spring outbreak, in most hospitals, all non-

acute procedures were put on hold. This had potentially detrimental consequences for large patients groups. For example, canceling long-term video EEG monitoring of patients with epilepsy who were not seizure free delayed the detailed diagnosis and hence switching the patients to optimal pharmacological or surgical therapy. However, some units, Epilepsy Monitoring Units, like at the national center, managed to continue work, adopting special safety measures.

The experience from the spring outbreak helped designing the measures in the second wave. Although these measures were much less restrictive than during the spring, they were more specifically targeted, and so far, they proved to be efficient. In spite of the high flow in the non-COVID related health services, due to the safety measures, the infection rate seems to be controlled, so that the system can manage both the pandemic and the other healthcare tasks.

One of the advantages of the global crises was the boom of telemedicine and remote health technologies. In clinical neurophysiology, this led to increase in the use of home video-EEG monitoring, as an alternative to in-hospital Epilepsy Monitoring Units, for a select group of patients, who do not need tapering of the antiseizure medication. Along with other advances in telemedicine, this development will be here to stay, also after the end of the pandemic.

3. In memoriam: Professor Ovidiu Alexandru Bajenaru (1957-2020) (by Professor Dafin Muresanu)



It is with great grief that we announce the loss of our friend and mentor, professor Dr. Ovidiu Alexandru Băjenaru. It would be difficult to write of our beloved colleague in these pages without betraying emotion. A brilliant neurologist, researcher, teacher, husband, father, he leaves behind a profound legacy of perhaps the most influential contemporary figure in Romanian neurology.

We remember and cherish some of his most important achievements over his long and fruitful career. Professor Băjenaru is the founding president of the Romanian Society of Neurology (RSN), organization which he has formally led for 12 years. In this position, he has contributed decisively to the advancement of science and education in our field. He spearheaded the development of a vision for clinical neurology in our country, based on the conceptual changes determined by colossal advances in neuroscience and modern medical technologies, and integrated using traditional clinical training. Professor Ovidiu Băjenaru represented Romania at top-notch medical forums. He was Romania's official representative at the World Federation of Neurology (since 2001), the European Stroke Organization, and the European Union of Medical Specialists (Board of Neurology permanent representative of Romania since 2008). Dr. Băjenaru was also a corresponding member of the Romanian Academy (since 2016), as well as a member of the Romanian Group of Brain Research (since 2016), member in the Bureau of Medical Services (since 2018), member of the Academy of Medical Sciences (since 2013). His primary areas of interest were neurodegenerative diseases (particularly Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease), muscular dystonia and other motor behavior abnormalities, cerebrovascular diseases, multiple sclerosis and sleep pathology in neurological disorders and medical conditions – all fields in which he became a leading authority. His scientific activity includes over 500 presentations at national and international events, as well as over 50 international multicentric clinical trials as principal investigator. Professor Băjenaru coordinated the interdisciplinary medical group for the treatment by deep brain stimulation for Parkinson's disease (neurology, neurosurgery, medical imaging) from the Bucharest Emergency University Hospital (since 2006), the first Romanian medical group for the interventional treatment of epilepsy (since 2009), and the national health programs for neurological disorders of the National Health Insurance House and the Romanian Ministry of Health (since 2014). Between 2008-2014, he was the President of the Neurology and Pediatric Neurology Commission at the Romanian Ministry of Health. Among his original scientific contributions, as part his doctoral thesis defended in 1993, he introduced for the first time in Romania the concept of incipient cognitive impairment, referring to patients with cerebrovascular and coronary diseases who develop neurocognitive disorders, as a

condition preceding the onset of dementia. He has also promoted the implementation of systematic neurocognitive evaluation for patients with neurological and vascular diseases, as well as their treatment, in the current pursuit/activity of the neurologists in Romania. Dr. Băjenaru conducted the first brain connectomics study in the context of a neurological condition (Parkinson's Disease) in Romania. Under the coordination of professor Băjenaru, a modern school of clinicians and researchers in neurosciences was born, forming several professors and heads of clinics and departments in Bucharest. Throughout his career, he has received numerous awards that certify the effort made and the unquestionable dedication which he had in helping those in need. Among the awards and distinctions received we mention the Romanian Patriarchate Award "100 years of Modern Medicine in the capital of united Romania" (2018). The Excellence Award for the entire activity in the field of Neurology in Romania of the Academica Foundation (2016), the Excellence Award for the whole of the activity of the Foundation Prof. Dr. Marin Voiculescu "(2015), Excellence Award of the International Brain Foundation and the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences - for his activity in the field of neurology in Romania, (2014); Doctor Honoris Causa of the "Ovidius" University of Constanța, Romania (2006); Award of Excellence in Neurology in Romania - for scientific and educational activity at national level, 2005, 2006 and 2011; Romanian Society of Internal Medicine Award for the most active scientific collaborator in a related specialty, 2008, 2012; Excellency prize of the International Society for the Study of Neuroprotection and Neuroplasticity, 2011; Excellence Award for medical activity awarded by the Romanian Ministry of Health in 2015. He was an influencing neurologist, a fantastic colleague and a dear friend. It is a great loss for all of us that he has passed away at such a young age. Although he is no longer with us, his powerful impact on our field will last for a very long time. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family in this time of grief. He will be greatly missed. May his soul rest in peace.

4. Special Danube Symposium Session during III Neuro Forum conference (26.09.2020) in Lublin, Poland (by Professor Konrad Rejdak)

It is our pleasure to inform that Special Danube Symposium Session was held during III Virtual Neuro Forum conference (26.09.2020) in Lublin, Poland. The conference was organised under the auspices of the Rector of Medical University of Lublin by the Department of Neurology Medical University of Lublin and Lublin Branch of Polish Neurological Society.

The scientific programme focused on the newest aspects of multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, headache, and stroke but also included the special session on neurorehabilitation. There was also an interactive case reports session by experts in different fields of the clinical neurology.

Special Danube lectures were given by prof. Amos Korczyn (Israel) and prof. Dorota Religa (Sweden) during session on dementia as a special guest.

The meeting was very successful with around 300 online participants including students and residents who were given a free admission to the scientific part of the meeting (there were also around 30 participants personally attending the meeting).

Prof. dr. Konrad Rejdak

Head of the Department of Neurology; Medical Univeristy of Lublin.

President-Elect of Polish Neurological Society



Speakers and participants of Neuro Forum conference with special Danube Session (Lublin 26.09.2020).

5. CONy 2021

Date: March 18-21, 2021

Place: RIXOS Hotel, Dubrovnik, Croatia

President: Amos Korczyn

Co-Chairs: Natan Bornstein and Vida Demarin



6. Future Conferences, Meetings, Courses and Symposia of the International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education

Announcement for International Danube Neurology Symposium during 24th Congress of the Polish Neurological Society to be held on September 22nd-25th 2021 in Lublin, Poland

Dear Colleagues,

This our pleasure to inform that **International Danube Neurology Symposium** will take place on 23-24th of June 2021 **during 24th Congress of The Polish Neurological Society** in Lublin. The Symposium will be organised by the Department of Neurology Medical University of Lublin and Lublin Branch of Polish Neurological Society under the auspices of the International Danube

Symposium for Continuing Education in Neurological Sciences and Rector of Medical University of Lublin.

The scientific program will focus on the new developments in multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, headache, movement disorder, stroke and other disciplines. The special Danube Symposium plenary session will be held but also special lectures by Danube Symposium affiliated experts will be given throughout scientific programme. The highest educative and scientific level of this conference will be guaranteed by the attendance of internationally recognised experts.

The final decision on the format of the conference (virtual and/or direct attendance) will be made based on the updated pandemic situation in the beginning of the new 2021.

Prof. Konrad Rejdak
Chair of the Organizing Committee
President-Elect of Polish Neurological Society

7. Present and Future Activities of the International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education

- The **International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education** 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 **EAN** in the Danube-countries.

8. Finances of the International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education

According to previous decision of the Danube Neurology Curatorium Meeting, the financial sources of the International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education 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.

9. Web-site of the International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education

The home-page of the International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education consists of:

- the contents of all Newsletter (Nr.1-31)
- Managing and Executive Board Members of the International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education
- Past and future Symposia, Conferences, Meetings
- Other further important information.