



# DANUBE NEUROLOGY NEWSLETTER

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INTERNATIONAL DANUBE NEUROLOGY SYMPOSIUM FOR  
NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

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**International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and  
Continuing Education:**

**<http://danubeneurology.eu>**

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### **1. Short report about the activity of the Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis (SMS) under the Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences** (by Professor László Vécsei and Anett Járdánházy)

We would like to inform you about the activity of the 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 in different countries (altogether around 100 million people). We have sent questionnaires to the MS centers in the participating countries, and we are happy to inform you that we have already received back the majority of the completed questionnaires. Thereafter, it is suggested to publish these regional data. The next two steps will be the (2) MRI imaging and (3) CSF analysis and special molecular biomarkers surveys. 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](mailto:thomas.berger@meduniwien.ac.at)

Dr Gabriel Bsteh: Registry [gabriel.bsteh@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:gabriel.bsteh@meduniwien.ac.at)

Dr Harald Hegen: Molecular Biomarkers [harald.hegen@i-med.ac.at](mailto:harald.hegen@i-med.ac.at)

##### **Croatian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis**

Professor Vanja Basic Kes: MS Registry [kesvanja@gmail.com](mailto:kesvanja@gmail.com)

Professor Mario Habek: Molecular Biomarkers [mario.habek@mef.hr](mailto:mario.habek@mef.hr)

Dr Lucija Zadro Matovina: MRI imaging [lucija.zadro@gmail.com](mailto:lucija.zadro@gmail.com)

##### **Czech Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis**

Dr Jan Kolcava: MS Registry [kolcava.jan@fnbrno.cz](mailto:kolcava.jan@fnbrno.cz)

Dr Pavel Stourac: Molecular Biomarkers [Stourac.Pavel@fnbrno.cz](mailto:Stourac.Pavel@fnbrno.cz)

Dr Jan Kocica: MRI imaging [kocica.jan@fnbrno.cz](mailto:kocica.jan@fnbrno.cz)

##### **Hungarian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis**

Associate Professor Krisztina Bencsik: MS Registry [bencsik.krisztina@med.u-szeged.hu](mailto:bencsik.krisztina@med.u-szeged.hu)

Professor László Vécsei: Molecular Biomarkers [vecsei.laszlo@med.u-szeged.hu](mailto:vecsei.laszlo@med.u-szeged.hu)

Associate Professor Tamás Zsigmond Kincses: MRI imaging [kincses.zsigmond.tamas@szte.hu](mailto:kincses.zsigmond.tamas@szte.hu)

##### **Polish Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis:**

Professor Waldemar Broła: MS Registry [wbrola@wp.pl](mailto:wbrola@wp.pl)

Professor Konrad Rejdak: Molecular Biomarkers [k.rejdak@umlub.pl](mailto:k.rejdak@umlub.pl)

Dr Malgorzata Siger: MRI imaging [gosia\\_siger@yahoo.com](mailto:gosia_siger@yahoo.com)

##### **Romanian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis**

Professor Cristina Tiu: MS Registry [cristinatieu@yahoo.com](mailto:cristinatieu@yahoo.com)

Professor Rodica Balasa: Molecular Biomarkers [rodica.balasa@umftgm.ro](mailto:rodica.balasa@umftgm.ro)

Dr Simona Petrescu: MRI imaging [simonapetrescu@yahoo.com](mailto:simonapetrescu@yahoo.com)

### **Serbian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis**

Professor Tatjana Pekmezovic: MS Registry [pekmezovic@sezampro.rs](mailto:pekmezovic@sezampro.rs)

Professor Jelena Drulovic: Molecular Biomarkers [drulovicjelena@gmail.com](mailto:drulovicjelena@gmail.com)

Professor Sarlota Mesaros: MRI imaging [sharlotam@gmail.com](mailto:sharlotam@gmail.com)

### **Slovakian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis**

Professor Peter Turcani: MS Registry [turcani1@gmail.com](mailto:turcani1@gmail.com)

Associate Professor Jarmila Szilasiová: Molecular Biomarkers [szilasiovaj@gmail.com](mailto:szilasiovaj@gmail.com)

Associate Professor Nora Klimová MRI imaging [klimova@fnspresov.sk](mailto:klimova@fnspresov.sk)

### **Slovenian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis**

Dr Alenka Horvat Ledinek: MS Registry [alenka.horvat@kclj.si](mailto:alenka.horvat@kclj.si)

Associate Professor Uros Rot: Molecular Biomarkers [uros.rot@kclj.si](mailto:uros.rot@kclj.si)

Dr Jozef Magdic: MRI imaging [jozef\\_magdic@yahoo.com](mailto: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. The Department Visit Program of the WFN (by Professor Wolfgang Grisold, Secretary General of the WFN)**



Email: [wolfgang.grisold@wfneurology.org](mailto:wolfgang.grisold@wfneurology.org), Tel.: +43 676 4416140

In addition to the WFN Teaching Centres (<https://wfneurology.org/activities/education/neurological-department-visits>) which are located in Africa (Rabat, Cairo, Senegal, Cape town) and Mexico, the WFN has also inspired a successful Department Visit program. The purpose is to enable young neurologists from low and lower-middle-income countries to stay up to 6 weeks in a department in Europe or Canada. These short visits help to understand different health systems, structures, therapies and above all create contacts and communication between the visitors and the hosts.



The invitation to a Department Visit is officially announced on the WFN website, and applications are invited. A committee composed of the WFN Education committee, the African Academy of Neurology/the Pan American Federation of Neurological Societies and the hosting society independently look at the application and select a suitable candidate. The process of announcing and inviting is done by the WFN.

The first country to participate was Turkey and has strongly continued to do so. Other European countries who have participated are Austria, Germany, Italy, and Norway. For Latin American applicants and African applicants, the Department of Neurology at the Montreal Neurologic Institute volunteered.

What are the duties of the host country?

The national neurological society decides to participate in the department visit program. The suitable academic sites will be determined by the host country. It may be an advantage, that many of the Danube State member countries do already have English speaking university training. The hosts also supply the WFN with a short description in which training centre the visit will be, and what specialties can be found.

The Department Visit program is upon invitation of the hosting country's society, who covers also the costs. From the experience of the past years, travel would be between 2500-3000 \$, accommodation should be at the student home level, and most meals can be taken usually in the hospital facility. A small bursary for breakfast, food, and drinks are suggested. An insurance for the duration of the stay needs to be booked. In most parts of Europe, the costs were between 4000-6000 E.

The hosting department will communicate and explain the local and national health system, allow experience in outpatient, inpatient, emergency, and neurointensive care, as well as rehabilitation. The local technologies and procedures should be explained and available to the visitor. Communication is important and an English-Speaking tutor will be helpful.

Usually, the WFN visitors are allowed to give a short lecture on their own country, university, and the local need, which is very informative for the host country.

Once the visit is over, the candidate needs to write a report to the WFN and is encouraged to send a short report to World neurology. Presently there are several reports in the past issues of WN, which can be found at the following link: <https://worldneurologyonline.com/?s=department+visit> .

To illustrate the activities a summary of the activities between 2016 and 2021 is provided.

**Info on the WFN Department visit Program.**

2016 -2021 (Paused in 2020)

Information from 2014- 2016 still pending and will be added.

Host	2016-2019
<b>Turkey</b>	10
<b>Austria</b>	8
<b>Germany</b>	6
<b>Norway</b>	6
<b>Italy</b>	4
<b>Canada</b>	6
Total	40

**Attendees (\*) from:**

**African Countries:**

Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda

**Americas:**

Brazil, Columbia, Mexico

(\*) only countries are listed. Some countries sent several visitors

The area of the Danube group has a long tradition of neurology, and many countries have English Training courses for students. The WFN will appreciate your interest to participate in this exciting program, and the program is not only interesting for the visitors, but also for the hosting faculty.

**3. WFN News (by Kimberly Karlshoej)**

**WFN News**

**Summary of WFN and IGAP to date**

One of the many important roles that the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) has had in its sixty-five year history, is the involvement with neurological activities at the World Health Organisation (WHO) in WFN 's official capacity as a Non-State Actor in official relations with the WHO. This status provides WFN with opportunities to contribute to the development of international classifications, policies and action plans.

On November 12, 2020, the WHO Executive Board accepted the recommendation of the World Health Assembly (WHA) to adopt Resolution WHA73.10. This Resolution called for the development of an Intersectoral Global Action Plan (IGAP) to tackle epilepsy and other neurological disorders through comprehensive actions to detect, prevent, care, treat and rehabilitate people with epilepsy and other neurological disorders, as well as ensuring their social, economic, educational and inclusion needs. The WFN with the ILAE played a key role at the WHA and EB meetings in November 2020 and January 2021.

The Resolution (WHA73.10) to develop an IGAP is significant in that neurological disorders are openly recognized by the WHO Member States in line with the Global Burden of Neurological Disorders (2018) finding of them being the leading cause of disability-adjusted-life-years and the second leading cause of death.

The first stage after the Resolution was the WHO's circulation of a discussion paper. The WFN presented its comments on the discussion paper during virtual and web-based consultations and with several neurologists from both within WFN and from other Global Neurology Alliance (GNA) partners proposed amendments for IGAP.

WFN comments to the paper were submitted to the WHO in writing. The WHO then developed the first draft of the IGAP based on the input received on the discussion paper. This document outlines the scope, vision, goal and strategic objectives as well as specific actions for Member States, the WHO Secretariat and international and national partners.

Further consultation on this first draft document began during July 2021 and WFN contributed two submissions; one with the ILAE and ICNA and one with key members of the GNA. The outcomes of the consultations will now function as input for the WHO Secretariat to prepare a revised draft of the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and other Neurological Disorders that will be submitted for review at the 150th session of the Executive Board in May 2022.

Kimberly Karlshoej  
Strategy and Programme Director  
World Federation of Neurology  
[WFNeurology.org](http://WFNeurology.org)



#### **4. Letter from Morris Freedman MD, FRCPC, FAAN on behalf of the WFN eLearning Working Group**

Dear Dr Vecsei,

Kimberly Karlshoej suggested that we contact you on behalf the WFN regarding a new initiative aimed at facilitating access and dissemination of quality educational neurology content in the form of recurring sessions such as rounds and seminars. The idea is to post links on the WFN website to recurring events that span all of the subspecialties in neurology, along with links to recordings of these events so that the material can be accessed at any time. Access to the educational material would be free of charge.

We are approaching you because you are a leader in your field and are well-positioned to identify individuals who organize recurring educational events at sites within the United States that meet the criteria below and who may be interested in participating in the pilot project.

For the pilot project, the educational activities would ideally meet the following criteria:

1. Recurrent and held at least once a month
2. Recorded for future viewing
3. Accredited by an official body such as a hospital, university, or national specialty society
4. Reviewed by the WFN eLearning Working Group for approval

The pilot will run for 6 months and will be followed by a formal evaluation. The WFN will then decide whether to continue and expand the e-Learning initiative.

We appreciate that our request might pose significant challenges in these difficult times. However, we hope that you will be able to collaborate with us on the pilot for this exciting new initiative. Please let us know whether you are interested in working with us on this pilot project by helping us identify site(s) in the Danube region that might like to participate. I am happy to set up a Zoom call to discuss.

Best wishes,

Morris Freedman MD, FRCPC,  
FAAN on behalf of the WFN eLearning Working Group

#### **5. International Danube Session during 24<sup>th</sup> National Meeting of the Polish Neurological Society (15.09.2021 -18.09.2021) (by Professor Konrad Rejdak)**





Dear Colleagues,

The Polish Neurological Society acknowledges that COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease) has created disruption in the world. The Polish Neurological Society would like to confirm and emphasize that our number one priority is the health and safety of our delegates. To this effect, Executive Committee of PoINS has made decision that conference 24<sup>th</sup> National Meeting of the Polish Neurological Society will be held on 15.09.2021 -18.09.2021 and will have online format. The venue of the congress will be located in Marriott Hotel in Warsaw. All lectures will be broadcasted via internet to participants.

**The Special Danube Symposium Platform Session will be held on Saturday (18<sup>th</sup> of September at 13:15-15:15) with the participation of distinguished experts representing International Danube Society.**

**The programme of the International Danube Symposium Platform Session:**

Chair: prof. Laszlo Vecsei, prof. Konrad Rejdak

Lectures:

Prof. Amos Korczyn (Israel): "Update on dementia treatment"

Prof. Natan Bornstein (Israel): "Recent progress in stroke management"

Prof. Laszlo Vecsei (Hungary): "Biomarkers for MS- recent developments"

Prof. Tim von Oertzen (Austria): "Update on epilepsy management"

Prof. Ewa Papuc (Poland): "Dementia with Lewy Bodies and Parkinson's disease dementia- two independent disorders or one clinical entity within clinical spectrum of synucleinopathies"

**In addition, other lectures are included throughout the congress programme:**

**Opening Ceremony (Wednesday; 15<sup>th</sup> of September at 18:00-20:00)**

Prof. Dafin Muresanu (Romania): The mission of EAN for European neurologists and neurology

Prof. Gavin Giovannoni (UK): Preclinical phase of MS

Prof. Zbigniew Wszolek (USA): Biomarkers in spinocerebellar ataxias type 3 (SCA3) and type 7 (SCA7)

All lectures would be broadcasted via internet to participants.

Dear Colleagues, we are making efforts to deliver to all members of International Danube Society free voucher to enable You to connect with us and follow selected sessions with Danube Lectures in English.

**The mail with the link to the congress website will be sent out early September.**

Please join us during 24<sup>th</sup> National Meeting of the Polish Neurological Society.



Link:

<https://www.termedia.pl/Konferencja-24th-Congress-of-the-Polish-PROGRAM,1496,15836.html>

With kind regards,  
Prof. Konrad Rejdak  
President-Elect of the Polish Neurological Society  
Chair of the Organizing and Scientific Committee

## 6. Headache Education in Africa Program Agenda



All times are in Central Africa Time (CAT)

### Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

2:00 pm – 2:05 pm **Opening Remarks**

*Dr. Augustina CHARWAY-FELLI (Ghana) AFAN, President-Elect  
Univ. Prof. Dr. Wolfgang GRISOLD, FAAN (Austria) WFN, Secretary General  
and Congress Committee Vice Chair*

2:05 pm – 2:25 pm **Approach to the Patient with Headache: Taking History, Examination, and Evaluation**

*Prof. Calixte KUATE, MD (Cameroon) AFAN*

2:25 pm – 2:40 pm Live Discussion/ Question and Answer

2:40 pm – 3:00 pm\* **Interview with a Patient (French Parallel Session)**

*Prof. Riadh GOUIDER, (Tunisia) AFAN*

*Dr. Augustina CHARWAY-FELLI (Ghana) AFAN*

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm Live Discussion/Question and Answer

3:15 pm – 3:45 pm **Classification, Diagnosis, & Pathophysiology**

*Prof. Peter J. GOADSBY, M, PhD (United Kingdom) President, AHS*

3:45 pm – 4:00 pm Live Discussion/Question and Answer

4:00 pm – 4:10 pm **Seeking Medical Attention with Headache**

*Audrey CRAVEN (Migraine Association Ireland)*

4:10 pm – 4:40 pm **Emergency Room: Red Flags and Management of Headache**

*Prof. Frank Ojini (Nigeria) AFAN*

4:40 pm – 4:55 pm Live Discussion/Question and Answer

4:55 pm – 5:00 pm **Closing Remarks**

*David W. DODICK, MD (United States) IHS-GPAC*

### Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

2:00 pm – 2:05 pm **Opening Remarks**

*Augustina CHARWAY-FELLI/ Wolfgang GRISOLD, AFAN & WFN*

2:05 pm – 2:10 pm Video

2:10 pm – 2:30 pm **Pathophysiology and Pharmacology of Migraine**

*Prof. Cristina TASSORELLI, MD, PhD (Italy) President-Elect, IHS*

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm Live Discussion/Question and Answer

2:45 pm – 3:05 pm\* **Evaluation of Migraine/Diagnostic Criteria\* (French Parallel Session)**

*Prof. Ramez REDA MOUSTAFA, MD (Egypt) AFAN*

*Marieme Soda DIOP-SENE, MD (Senegal) AFAN*

3:05 pm – 3:15 pm Live Discussion/ Question and Answer

- 3:15 pm – 3:55 pm\* **Management of Migraine: The Evidence and Clinical Pearls\* (French Parallel Session)**  
*Dr. Sarah MISBAH EL-SADIG (Sudan) AFAN*  
*Paul Macaire OSSOU-NGUIET (Republic of the Congo) AFAN*
- 3:55 pm – 4:10 pm Live Discussion/Question and Answer
- 4:10 pm – 4:30 pm **Special Topics**  
*Prof. Messoud ASHINA, MD. PhD (Denmark) President, IHS*
- 4:30 pm – 4:45 pm Live Discussion/Question and Answer
- 4:45 pm – 4:55 pm **Global Impact of Migraine/ Patient Advocacy**  
*Prof. Riadh GOUIDER, (Tunisia) AFAN*  
*David W. DODICK, MD (United States) Chair, IHS-GPAC*
- 4:55 pm – 5:00 pm **Closing Remarks**  
*David W. DODICK, MD (United States) Chair, IHS-GPAC*

## 7. CONy 2021 Congress

Information about the CONy 2021 Congress is available at the following newsletter link: <https://eviewd.com/X9bx5FoGU> [1]

## 8. 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 **WFN** and **EAN** in the Danube-countries.

## 9. 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.

## 10. 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.1-32)
- 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.