Dear Readers,

Below you will read about the successful completion of several neuropathology sessions organized by Euro-CNS representatives and held at the European Congress of Pathology (September 2 – 6, Amsterdam), a well-attended conference of the Austrian and Hungarian Neuropathologists in Budapest (September 7), and the final program of the updated Euro-CNS course on Neurodegenerative Diseases (October 25 – 27), as organized by Wilfred den Dunnen and Gabor Kovacs.

If you have any news or updates related to neuropathology that you think would be suitable to include in our news issues, please do not hesitate to send it to us.

With warm regards,

The Euro-CNS News Editorial Team

Report on the 4th conference of the Hungarian and Austrian Neuropathological Societies (SHANC-4)

On September 7, the biennial joint meeting of Hungarian and Austrian neuropathologists took place for the fourth time in Budapest, the Hungarian capital. The organizers of the conference were Tibor Hortobágyi and Johannes Hainfellner, as presidents of the Hungarian and Austrian Neuropathological Societies respectively, and Gábor G. Kovács, Secretary General of the Hungarian Society, member of the Austrian Society, and main organizer of the first and second joint conference in 2011 and 2013. As a short note for the historians, the meeting took place at the 150th anniversary of the Austrian-Hungarian reconciliation following the 1848 – 1849 Hungarian revolution which led to the birth of the Austro-Hungarian dual monarchy in 1867.

Fifty participants attended the conference, which focused on case discussions and consultations on specific and general aspects of neuropathology relevant to the daily diagnostic practice. The conference was recognized as an official event of the Clinical Neuroscience Committee of the Medical Division of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Numerous active members of this traditional Hungarian scientific organization (established in 1825, at a time when Austria and Hungary had a close and special relationship) attended the meeting. Although the majority of participants were from Hungary and Austria, there were several neuropathologists from other Central European countries (Czech Republic, Slovenia, Poland, Germany) and from the United Kingdom and Spain as well.

The lectures and presentations were delivered in an informal way, allowing interaction with the audience. The conference offered plenty of excellent opportunities to establish links between neuropathologists. The lunch and coffee breaks, and the social evening in a local restaurant with Hungarian folk dance presented by the eminent folk dance group and music ensemble “Csíllagszemű” offered plenty of opportunities for personal interactions and entertainment.

The lovely early autumn weather in Budapest and the beautiful historic environment contributed to the pleasant stay of the participants. The meeting took place in the Castle District, in the Buda part of the capital on the right side of the Danube, with easy access by train and car from Austria and major Hungarian cities and also from Liszt Ferenc Airport.

The next conference is scheduled for 2019 as a Central European Neuropathology Conference – participants are welcome to attend this friendly and informal meeting which is predominantly aimed at addressing topics relevant to daily neuropathology diagnostic practice.

Submitted by
Tibor Hortobágyi,
Hungary

Figure 1. Part of the faculty and delegates at SHANC-4. Source: Tibor Hortobágyi.
The European Congress of Pathology was held at the RAI convention center in Amsterdam from September 2 – 6, 2017. Details of the neuropathology part of the program were published in the last issue of Clinical Neuropathology. Euro-CNS had organized four platform sessions and two poster sessions devoted to neuropathology. To our delight, the number of attendants was consistent and the audience appeared to be genuinely interested.

Platform sessions

The neuropathology program started on Tuesday morning (5th) with a session titled “How to handle neuropathological issues at autopsy?” Wilfred den Dunnen (the Netherlands) started with a very clear talk presenting the fundamentals of central nervous system autopsy and brain cutting. Then Belat Kubat (the Netherlands) offered a large panel of illustrations to focus on forensic neuropathology. Marianna Bugiani (the Netherlands) gave comprehensive information on the neuropathological examination in fetuses and children. Martin Lammens (Belgium) underlined the contribution of autopsy in the approach of neuromuscular disorders, and Eleonora Aronica (the Netherlands) shared her knowledge on epilepsy. Annemiek Rozemuller-Kwakkel (the Netherlands) ended the session with the fundamentals of neurodegenerative disorders. Attendants indicated they were very satisfied regarding the clarity of the presentations and the considerable amount of practical information given during this session.

The program also included two sessions focusing on neuro-oncological pathology.

The first session (September 5, 2017) was entitled “The pathological diagnosis of CNS tumors: tips and tricks for a down to earth approach”. In this session Pieter Wesseling (the Netherlands), Christian Hartmann (Germany), and Torsten Pietsch (Germany) gave lectures on the integrated morphological and molecular diagnosis that had been introduced in the WHO 2016 classification of CNS tumors, and on how immunohistochemistry can be used to assess the molecular status of a subset of these tumors. Subsequently Felix Sahm (Germany) gave a talk on methylation profiling as a very promising novel tool for a (non-morphological!) tissue-based diagnosis of CNS tumors. The second session (September 6, 2017) was a videomicroscopy session during the next morning where Hartmann, Wesseling, and Pietsch demonstrated how microscopy including immunohistochemistry can be used to reach a definitive, “WHO 2016 diagnosis” in a series of gliomas and embryonal CNS tumors. Both sessions were well attended and based on the lively discussions during the sessions and the comments afterwards, we believe they were well appreciated.

On Tuesday afternoon (September 5, 2017) there was a session on the new insights in the pathology of inflammatory myopathies. Jonathan Baets from Antwerp started with a clinician’s point of view on inflammatory myopathies. Debora Pehl from Berlin gave a lecture on the recently published classification of inflammatory myopathies including inflammatory necrotizing myopathies based on antibodies. Benno Küsters from Nijmegen continued with a presentation on the most recent findings in the pathology of inclusion body myositis. Jan De Bleecker from Ghent closed with a nice presentation of the clinicopathological pitfalls in the diagnosis of myositis. This very specialized short symposium was well attended by an audience of more than 40 connoisseurs.

Posters

There were 53 neuropathology posters. During the first poster session in the morning, the chairpersons made a pre-selection of the best posters which were presented during the “best poster session in the afternoon”, with a best poster prize.

Keynote Lecture

Not organized by Euro-CNS, but worth mentioning is the very well received “duo-keynote lecture” on Sunday September 3 entitled “Leukodystrophies: from oligodendrocytes and myelin to astrocytes” by Prof. Marjo van der Knaap and Dr. Marianna Bugiani (pediatric neurologist resp. neuropathologist of VU University Medical Center Amsterdam).

The Euro-CNS representatives at the Congress considered the whole congress organization satisfactory and the venue excellent.
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United Kingdom: Paul Ince

Meeting Calendar

March 13 – 16, 2018, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (registration open)
Basic in Course Neuropathology

June 27 – 29, 2018, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
CME Training Course “Developmental Neuropathology”

July 7 – 11, 2018, Berlin, Germany
11th FENS Forum of Neuroscience
http://forum2018.fens.org/

September 23 – 27, 2018, Tokyo, Japan
19th International Congress of Neuropathology, Tokyo, Japan
http://icn2018.umin.jp/

June 3 – 6, 2020, Odense, Denmark
12th European Congress of Neuropathology
www.euro-cns.org/events/other-meetings

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EURO-CNS CME COURSE
Neurodegenerative Diseases
October 25 – 27, 2017
Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

08:00 – 09:00  Registration
09:00 – 09:05  Introduction
09:05 – 09:50  Neurodegeneration, general introduction (cellular pathology, biology & pathophysiology of neurodegenerative diseases)
Prof. Charles Duyckaerts (Paris)
09:50 – 10:30  Approach to neuropathological diagnostics: Sampling, morphology & immunohistochemistry, aspects of Brain banking.
Dr. Gabor G. Kovacs (Vienna)
10:30 – 10:45  Coffee Break
10:45 – 11:30  Slide session
11:30 – 12:15  Motorneuron disorders
Prof. Paul Ince (Sheffield)
12:15 – 13:00  Slide Session
13:00 – 14:00  Lunch
14:00 – 14:45  Alzheimer’s disease
Prof. Charles Duyckaerts
14:45 – 15:00  Coffee Break
15:00 – 16:00  Slide session
16:00 – 16:45  Synucleinopathies including Parkinson/Parkinsonism
Prof. Paul Ince
16:45 – 17:30  Slide Session

Thursday, October 26, 2017

08:30 – 09:15  Vascular dementia
Prof. Paul Ince (Sheffield)
09:15 – 09:45  AD staging
Dr. Gabor G. Kovacs (Vienna)
09:45 – 10:00  Coffee Break
10:00 – 10:45  Slide session
10:45 – 11:30  Frontotemporal lobar degeneration with emphasis on non-tau subtypes  
Prof. Manuela Neumann (Tübingen)

11:30 – 12:15  Prion diseases  
Dr. Ellen Gelpi (Barcelona)

12:15 – 13:00  Slide session

13:00 – 14:00  Lunch

14:00 – 14:45  Tauopathies: PSP and CBD  
Prof. Tamas Revesz (London)

14:45 – 15:30  Tauopathies: AGD, Pick’s disease, globular glial tauopathies, MAPT mutations and other forms  
Dr. Gabor G. Kovacs (Vienna)

15:30 – 15:50  Practical approach to diagnostics including comorbidity  
Dr. Gabor G. Kovacs (Vienna)

15:50 – 16:00  Coffee Break

16:00 – 16:45  Slide session

16:45 - 17:30  Genomic approach to neurodegenerative diseases (25 min)  
Neurodegeneration with brain iron accumulation as an example (20 min)  
Dr. Henry Houlden (London)

20:00  Dinner

**Friday, October 27, 2017**

09:00 – 09:45  Hyperkinesia, clinical aspects  
Dr. Fiorella Contarino (Amsterdam)

09:45 – 10:30  Neuropath of hyperkinesia  
Dr. Wilfred den Dunnen (Groningen)

10:30 – 10:45  Coffee Break

10:45 – 11:30  Slide session

11:30 – 12:15  Cerebellar Ataxias, clinical aspects  
Dr. Fiorella Contarino

12:15 – 13:15  Lunch

13:15 – 14:15  Neuropath of ataxias & molecular biology of repeat disorders  
Dr. Wilfred den Dunnen

14:15 – 15:00  Overview of neurodegenerative conditions in childhood  
Prof. Hans H. Goebel (Mainz/Berlin)

15:00 – 15:15  Coffee Break

15:15 – 17:00  Evaluation & Slide session