



Society News

European Confederation
of Neuropathological
Societies

Dear Readers,

In the news ahead of you, we pay special attention to the role of Euro-CNS and neuropathology in the context of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS). Euro-CNS representation is sought by the UEMS Pathology Board to represent the views of neuropathology on the basis of advisory/observer status. The Pathology Board has drafted a European Training Requirements (ETR) document, to which the Euro-CNS president, Paul Ince, contributed the text that you will find below.

In addition, we publish the reports from two participants of the Euro-CNS Course “Forensic Neuropathology” that was held in Amsterdam from April 3 – 5, 2019. Lastly, the detailed program of the upcoming Euro-CNS course “Leukoencephalopathies” (Amsterdam) is included for your information.

With kind regards

*The Euro-CNS News
Editorial Team*

Neuropathology and the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS)

UEMS is a non-governmental medical organization set up to represent a transnational view among the medical specialties to the European Union. It has three stated areas of expertise: CME/

CPD, Postgraduate Training, Quality Assurance. It operates via a Board structure for each medical discipline, with representation from all appropriate national bodies. It appears to have emerged 61 years ago as a reaction to the realities of the European Union rather than at the behest of the EU. It currently has 34 member countries, rather more than the existing 28 EU member states.

A major preoccupation of UEMS is the harmonization of specialist training, and by implication assessment, which is an obvious and desirable goal in view of the culture of freedom of movement for employment that exists within the EU. To this end it has pursued a policy of developing “European Training Requirements” statements within each of its Boards. A large number of these have been drafted, gone through extensive scrutiny and discussion at Board and Council level and are now adopted as formal UEMS statements. They can be accessed via the UEMS internet site.

Historically, Euro-CNS was adopted by the UEMS Pathology Board as its Subspecialty Board for Neuropathology. This was revoked some years ago, but Euro-CNS representation is still sought by the Pathology Board to represent the views of neuropathology on the basis of advisory/observer status. The Pathology Board has been one of the last to develop an ETR document but is now vigorously pursuing that goal. Euro-CNS was invited to contribute a section to the nascent ETR in a section devoted to “histopathology subspecialties”. The Euro-CNS Executive drafted the following text that was included in full in the ETR draft discussed at the most recent Pathology Board meeting in May 2019 with Euro-CNS in attendance:

Neuropathology refers to the study of diseases of the central nervous system (CNS) and adjacent anatomical structures, the peripheral nervous system (PNS), and skeletal muscle. The core competencies of fully trained Neuropathologists include autopsy examination, together with microscopical examination and diagnosis of CNS, PNS, and neuromuscular disease (augmented by modern molecular pathology techniques) in adults and children. Neuropathologists may have additional training

and competency in ocular pathology although it is recognized that this specialist field is also practiced as a monospecialty interest, or by general histopathologists, in some European countries.

Neuropathology has achieved specialist status in some European countries where assessment and accreditation are well developed. In some other countries, there are similar training pathways and mechanisms for assessment of competencies and accreditation in the context of subspecialty status. However in many European countries there is no formal training pathway and no mechanism whereby aspiring Neuropathologists can achieve formal recognition of their specialist competencies.

Neuropathology is a component of clinical neuroscience based on the application of methods common to anatomical pathology/morbid anatomy and histopathology. Neuropathologists therefore require core competencies and training in these disciplines, and core knowledge of general and systemic pathology, together with enhanced training in the clinical pathology of neurological and neurosurgical disease. In addition, Neuropathologists require broad knowledge of clinical (including imaging) neuroscience so that training is best delivered within the environment of specialist Clinical Neuroscience Centers. Neuropathology is a subspecialty that evolved from both histopathological and clinical neuroscience roots. Reflecting this, current neuropathology practice across Europe includes medical practitioners whose basic training was in pathology and those whose basic training was in a clinical neuroscience specialty. Neuropathology training, in terms of the development of high level competencies in diagnostic practice, has of necessity been adapted to the differing needs of entrants, some (coming from clinical neuroscience) requiring training in core pathological knowledge and skills, whilst others (coming from core pathology training) requiring training in clinical neuroscience.

European countries in which formal neuropathology training pathways exist, generally require a period of at least 3 years of subspecialty training in addition to any previous



training in general pathology or clinical neuroscience.

Co-ordination and fostering neuropathology practice, training and assessment has been a core mission of the European Confederation of Neuropathological Societies (Euro-CNS). In particular, Euro-CNS recognized the lack of assessment opportunities for neuropathology across most of Europe. It therefore developed the European Fellowship in Neuropathology (EFN) examination that is delivered annually. The examination is largely informed by, and at the standard of, the UK Royal College of Pathologists Fellowship part 2 examinations in Neuropathology. EFN, under the supervision of the Euro-CNS Examination Committee, is delivered by selected major European neuroscience Centers. It is a single examination, over two days, and integrates both some assessment of knowledge, and multiple modules requiring the demonstration of high-level competencies (neurosurgical diagnosis, intra-operative diagnosis, neuromuscular pathology, pediatric neuropathology, morbid anatomical dissection of the brain, and the interpretation of macroscopic appearances in brain tissue). Candidates are required to demonstrate and document an appropriate period of neuropathology training before they are accepted for examination, usually with accompanying verification of training from senior colleagues. Over 12 years, the pass rate is around 60%, and 19 European Fellows in Neuropathology have successfully achieved a pass in the examination.

It must also be recognized that elements of Neuropathology, especially diagnostic surgical neuro-oncology or neuromuscular pathology, are delivered in some European centers as a subspecialty interest of general histopathologists or neurologists who have not undergone any formal assessment of their competency. Whilst the EFN examination contains distinct modules as listed above these are not individually available to candidates, who must sit the entire examination.

Applications of advanced molecular pathology data, including genetic data, have become central to neuropathological diagnosis. Neuropathology training and competencies must therefore include appropriate knowledge and understanding of these data, their commissioning, and the ability to synthesize multiple data modalities in the process of integrated reporting.

It remains to be seen if this text will survive the full development of the pathology (i.e., Histopathology/Morbid anatomy) ETR. Involvement of Euro-CNS in the Pathology boards activities over many years has revealed the tensions that exist within that community regarding the definition of subspecialty status. Many board members openly regard neuropathology as having no more differentiated status than, for example, gastrointestinal pathology. Indeed, the lack of a robust definition of what constitutes a subspecialty, rather than a monospecialist interest, is highlighted by the list of potential subspecialties that may be reflected in the final ETR. These include entities defined by techniques (cytopathology, molecular pathology) and entities defined by an organ system (neuropathology, breast pathology, dermatopathology). These issues are unresolved, so that Euro-CNS will continue to engage with the UEMS Pathology Board to try to ensure that its neuropathology training recommendations retain a breadth and flexibility that reflect the needs of the diverse neuropathology community in Europe.

A further activity of the Pathology Board is the development of a progress test for pathology trainees. This will include both MCQ-type knowledge testing and interpretive diagnostic testing likely based on digital pathology. The progress test for general histopathologists will include some neuropathology content. Euro-CNS has been asked to assist in the development of this content, especially a bank of MCQ questions. If any of our membership is interested in developing MCQ questions, then the Euro-CNS Examinations and Training committees would be very pleased to hear from you.

*Paul Ince, UK
Euro-CNS President
2018 – 2020*

Two participant reports on the Euro-CNS Training Course “Forensic Neuropathology” (Amsterdam, April 3 – 5, 2019)

By Julia Keith, Canada

In April 2019, I had the pleasure of attending my first Euro-CNS course in Amsterdam. I had previously heard positive descriptions from Canadian and American Neuropathology colleagues of their experiences taking various Euro-CNS courses, and I felt that the 40th Euro-CNS course was a wonderful opportunity to refresh and update my Forensic Neuropathology knowledge. On balance, I found the 40th Euro-CNS course to be well worth the trip across the pond.

The major strength of the course was its practical utility. Many sessions focused on common pitfalls in Forensic Neuropathology where practitioners get themselves into trouble, and provided practical advice for systemic approaches and appropriate language applicable to these scenarios. For example, significant time was spent discussing patterns of axonal injury, the terms “coup and contrecoup” contusions, histologic dating of peridural hemorrhages, and approaches to SUDEP and traumatic SAH cases. The program content around each of these topics yielded “a-ha!” moments for me which will certainly translate into a change in my own practice and teaching.

The vast majority of faculty presenters were European Neuropathologists with extensive Forensic Pathology experience and expertise; their presentations were engaging, and the informal panel discussions and interactive portions of the programming were very valuable. The only content expertise not well represented among the program faculty was penetrating head trauma; the course program may benefit in the future from including some North American firearm expertise.

The audience was split between Neuropathologists, often balancing Forensic Neuropathology work with



a full spectrum surgical and autopsy Neuropathology practice, and Forensic Pathologists looking to handle the Neuropathology of their own cases with greater comfort and expertise. The program and presenters managed to effectively balance the educational needs of these two groups of learners. Upon reflecting on my experience in Amsterdam, I wonder why all of us in attendance didn't capitalize on a collective opportunity to foster dialogue about the indications for and value of mutual consultation and collaboration between these two specialties.

In summary, I am grateful for the opportunity to have attended this useful, practical course in Forensic Neuropathology, and I look forward to returning to Amsterdam to experience future Euro-CNS programs.

*Julia Keith,
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Thea Teune, the Netherlands

Every single Euro-CNS course is excellent. Unique in the offered combination of presentations, slides available for review (with more than adequate microscopes, review time, and plenty of slides) and occasionally hands-on gross specimens. The signature course book enables reviewing slides and cases at leisure as it were, enabling participants to select cases of interest, dictated by the ample amount of cases. The organization is flawless, with first-class secretarial support. Compared to the first edition, the program has improved by reducing the number of presentations and the number of speakers. Several speakers cover multiple subjects, from basics (how to handle specimens) to recent developments (antibodies, theories, models), within their field of expertise. All use PowerPoint slides to illustrate the top-

ics. Of lately, presentations are distributed on a flash drive; this is both an environmentally friendly development, as well as a means of stimulating active participation and alertness. Cases discussed are carefully selected as most likely to be encountered in daily practice, the occasional white raven as a special treat. This course focused on the CNS effects of trauma, axonal injury, drug abuse, sidestepping in the differentials with neurodegenerative changes, inflammation, vasculopathy, and normal aging. Epilepsy, sudden death and the role of (forensic) neuropathology were covered, with special attention to reporting cases in the medico-legal setting. An intermezzo on (computer) models and toxicology from specialists from the Technical University and Department of Pharmacology with updates of recent developments and interpretations of reports was very illustrative. The radiological perspective was touched upon. All presentations were supplementary with little overlap. The latest papers were presented, reviews were recommended, caveats for interpreting papers were discussed. All speakers obliged to the disclosure agreement. A new element, a quiz at the end of each day, was introduced, in order to stimulate discussion and interaction with the speakers, who all were experts in their fields. As it goes, some are more eloquent than others, but all managed to keep their presentation in line with the PowerPoint presentation whilst refraining from merely reading out loud the contents. Digitized slides (already available before the actual course) were tested, and proved, in my opinion, to be sufficient and comparable with actual slides. Downside: a laptop or tablet is needed during the course (a mobile phone screen is not sufficient), and seating arrangements and the number of electrical plugs don't allow for easy recharging. The feedback form enabled each participant to outline subjects for future courses and to comment on the course at hand. The course has improved compared to the first edition, and it is clear that comments, suggestions, and feedback are taken seriously to maintain the quality of the course.

Since my first Euro-CNS course (I think it was on muscle pathology, somewhere in the 90s), I've clearly

become a fan, and haven't been disappointed.

*Thea Teune, MD,
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The next Euro-CNS Neuropathology courses

"Leukoencephalopathies", June 26 – 28, 2019, Amsterdam Medical Center, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

"Muscle and Nerve Pathology", September 25 – 27, 2019, Charité Medical University, Berlin, Germany.

For information please see the Euro-CNS website: www.euro-cns.org

Meeting Calendar

June 26 – 28, 2019, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Euro-CNS Neuropathology Course
"Leukoencephalopathies"
www.euro-cns.org/events/cme-training-courses

September 7 – 11, 2019, Nice, France
31st European Congress of Pathology
<https://www.esp-congress.org>

September 19 – 21, 2019, Magdeburg, Germany
Annual meeting of the German Society for Neuropathology and Neuroanatomy
<https://www.dgmn-conference.de/>

September 19 – 22, 2019, Lyon, France
The 14th EANO annual meeting
<https://www.eano.eu/eano2019/>

September 25 – 27, 2019, Berlin, Germany
Euro-CNS CME Course
"Muscle & Nerve Pathology"
www.euro-cns.org/events/cme-training-courses

October 4 – 5, 2019, Marseille, France
9th Annual Brain Metastases Research and Emerging Therapy Conference
<http://brain-mets.com/>



November 15, 2019,
Warsaw, Poland
"Neuropathology. Neuroge-
netics 2019"
<http://neuropath2019.pl/>

June 3 – 6, 2020, Odense, Denmark
12th European Congress of
Neuropathology
<http://www.ecnp2020.dk/>

July 11 – 15, 2020, Glasgow, UK
12th FENS Forum
<https://forum2020.fens.org/>

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Finland:
Maria Gardberg

Norway:
Bård Kronen Krossnes

Sweden:
Elisabeth Englund

The Netherlands:
Johan M. Kros and
Wilfred den Dunnen

Slovenia:
Mara Popovic and
Jernej Mlakar

Spain:
Miguel Angel Idoate and
Alberto Rábano

Switzerland:
Enikő Kövari and
Markus Tolnay

Turkey (associated society):
Büge Öz and
Figen Söylemezoğlu

United Kingdom:
Paul Ince



Euro-CNS CME course Leukoencephalopathies

June 26 – 28, 2019

Academic Medical Center,
Amsterdam, the Netherlands



PROGRAM

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

- 08:30 – 09:15 Registration
09:15 – 09:45 Introduction – Dr. Marianna Bugiani and/or Dr. Wilfred den Dunnen
09:45 – 10:30 Clinical approach to childhood leukodystrophies – Dr. Marianna Bugiani
10:30 – 10:45 Coffee/tea
10:45 – 11:30 Case discussion/slide session
11:30 – 12:15 Neuropathological approach to childhood leukodystrophies – Dr. Marianna Bugiani
12:15 – 13:00 Neuroimaging of white matter disease – Dr. Nicole Wolf
13:00 – 14:00 Lunch
14:00 – 14:45 Oligodendroglial/myelin leukodystrophy – Dr. Marianna Bugiani
14:45 – 15:30 Perinatal white matter injury – Dr. Marianna Bugiani
15:30 – 15:45 Coffee/tea
15:45 – 17:00 Case discussion/slide session

Thursday, June 27, 2019

- 08:30 – 09:15 Acquired vascular leukodystrophies – Prof. Harry Vinters
09:15 – 10:00 Leukodystrophies due to disturbed axon – glial interaction – Dr. Marianna Bugiani
10:00 – 10:15 Coffee/tea
10:15 – 11:00 Case discussion/slide session
11:00 – 11:45 Normal histology of the white matter, including ultrastructure – Prof. Charles
ffrench-Constant
11:45 – 12:30 Astroglial leukodystrophies – Dr. Marianna Bugiani
12:30 – 13:30 Lunch
13:30 – 14:00 Auto-immune disorders 1: MS and subtypes – Prof. Christine Stadelmann-Nessler
14:00 – 14:30 Encephalitis 1: PML, SSPE – Prof. Harry Vinters
14:30 – 15:00 Auto-immune disorders 2: other demyelinating disorders – Prof. Christine Stadelmann-
Nessler
15:00 – 15:15 Coffee/tea
15:15 – 15:45 Case discussion/slide session
15:45 – 16:15 Encephalitis 2: HIV, malaria, others – Prof. Harry Vinters
16:15 – 17:00 Case discussion/slide session
18:00 Course Dinner

Friday, June 28, 2019

- 09:00 – 09:45 Hereditary vascular leukodystrophies: CADASIL, CARASIL – Prof. Harry Vinters
09:45 – 10:30 Traumatic white matter injury – Prof. Colin Smith
10:30 – 10:45 coffee/tea
10:45 – 11:30 Case discussion/slide session
11:30 – 12:00 Toxic white matter injury – Prof. Colin Smith
12:00 – 12:30 Amyloid angiopathies – Prof. Tamas Revesz
12:30 – 13:30 Lunch
13:30 – 16:00 Case discussion/slide session