



Society News

European Confederation
of Neuropathological
Societies

Dear Colleagues,

This is already the last issue of 2021, a very difficult year, where we could not report on many activities other than the Congress. Notwithstanding all problems, Euro-CNS is proud that the European Congress of Neuropathology could be held this year in a virtual way. The Euro-CNS Courses in neuropathology are bound to re-start in 2022, possibly in a virtual format first. Euro-CNS was also involved in organizing joint neuropathology sessions of the European Congress of Pathology, and recently held its annual Council meeting in Copenhagen in a hybrid way so that also those who could not travel, could attend. You will find a short report of this Council meeting below.

We wish you a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

*With kind regards,
The Euro-CNS News Team*

Report on the meetings of the Euro-CNS Council, Copenhagen, October 2, 2021

The meeting was held at the spacious DGI-Byen Conference Center in Copenhagen. The Executive Committee meeting was held “in person” in the morning, and the Council meeting took place in the afternoon, in a “hybrid” format. The Executive Committee and one councilor sat at a round conference table with an extra screen, camera and microphone/speaker that was set up expertly by the center’s technician. Seven councilors attended via Zoom.

Welcome and society update: After the welcome by president Martin Lammens, each councilor reported on the current situation and status of neuropathology in their respective country or region. Most countries did not see major changes. Because of the COVID-19 situation, virtual or hybrid meetings have become the standard.

Minutes of the previous Council (Zoom) meeting on June 29, 2021: approved without further changes.

Treasurer’s report: Martin Lammens reported on the financial situation of Euro-CNS from 2019 to September 2021. At the end of 2019, the balance on the account was 10,000 Euro more than in the beginning of the year, thanks to membership payments and a contribution from course profits. In 2020, the amount on the bank account dropped by 17,500 Euro to 14,700 Euro, because of high operational cost (congress organization with a postponed congress) and because of the absence of educational activities and any profits. By September 2021 the situation improved as the congress was held after all in a virtual way and thanks to its huge success, Euro-CNS could be reimbursed for all its congress related expenses, thus ending with a positive balance of 29,000 Euro on September 25, 2021. Martin also reported on the payment of membership dues of its affiliated members. Most societies had paid until 2020, and several pending payments for 2021 are on their way. For societies that, due to internal or financial difficulties, had not been able to pay their dues for several years, a solution will be sought to keep them affiliated with Euro-CNS. It was decided to approach neuropathologists in several European countries that are currently not affiliated with Euro-CNS and see if there is a way to have them join Euro-CNS.

Editor’s report: Editor-in-Chief Johannes Hainfellner reiterated that Clinical Neuropathology is the official organ of Euro-CNS, it is indexed in Pubmed, and has an impact factor over time ranging between 1.0 and 1.5 (being an inclusive community-based journal with an educational focus, raising the impact factor has not been a major strategic goal). Euro-

CNS members have received free online access for several years in a row (kindly sponsored by Euro-CNS and the Publisher). The Journal’s executive advisory board has 23 colleagues, and the advisory board consists of 19 colleagues. There are 400 reviewers in the system. The spectrum of articles includes originals, case studies, letters to the Editor, historical notes, meeting reports, congress abstracts, editorials, and the Euro-CNS Newsletter. Between 2010 and September 2021, 1,110 submissions had been received, 513 were accepted and published, in addition to 71 editorials, 71 Euro-CNS News, and 21 congress abstract issues. As to the near future, Johannes announced that the editorship will be transferred to Christian Mawrin of Magdeburg, Germany during 2022. He hopes to maintain free online access for Euro-CNS members, and install CME points for literature study.

Updated Report on the European Congress of Neuropathology by Bjarne Winther Kristensen

Bjarne presented an updated overview of actual expenses and income of the event, showing a positive result of 10,000 Euro. This was considered an exceptional achievement, as the non-refundable cost of the original (cancelled) event was over 40,000 Euro and was completely absorbed by the actual, virtual congress budget. By having the Euro-CNS office handle registrations and abstracts at cost price, handling expenses were kept lower than usual. The cost of the virtual service providers was 67,000 Euro, covered by sponsorship of the Lundbeck Foundation and virtual exhibitors. Another pleasant surprise was that after the event, the recorded sessions were still viewed regularly. During the event, there were 4,713 unique views. Views of Zoom-based sessions were not known/included. After the event, between June 4 and September 29, there were 984 unique views of the recorded sessions. Also the abstract and program book were downloaded frequently after the event, and the online scientific quiz



was also popular among post-event users. Posters had been visited 7,871 times, most of them during the event. Seeing the use and demand, it was decided to try keeping the recordings available until at least January 2022 (once permission of faculty has been obtained).

The Next European Congress of Neuropathology 2025

There is no applicant at the moment. The previous applicant had withdrawn due to all uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Those interested to host the event (live, virtual, or hybrid) are requested to contact the Euro-CNS office.

International Congress of Neuropathology 2023

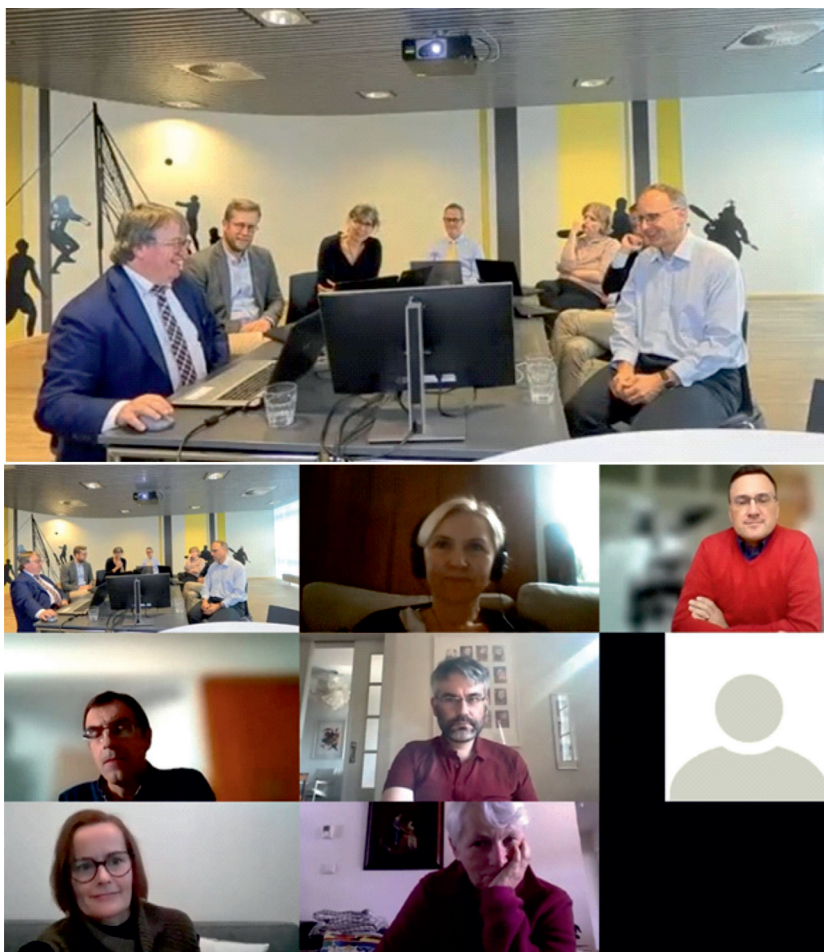
Christian Mawrin reported that a website had been constructed and asked the councilors to take a look at www.icn2023.de. Promotion of the meeting, which will be held from September 13 – 16, 2023 in Berlin and most likely organized as a hybrid event, will start soon. The program has not been established yet.

Euro-CNS Courses

The Chairman of the educational committee, Wilfred den Dunnen, had informed that he is looking into the options of holding a virtual basic course in neuropathology early in 2022. This was the course that was originally going to take place in Aachen in March 2020 but had been canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

European Examination in Neuropathology

Chairman of the Examination Committee, Tibor Hortobágyi, reported that the new date for the European Examination had been scheduled on November 25 – 27 in Vienna. Candidates of the canceled examination in 2020 had been invited to sit the exam.



Participants at the hybrid Euro-CNS Council meeting in Copenhagen, 2 November 2021

Any new applicants are asked to contact the Euro-CNS office.

Euro-CNS Fellowship Training Program

One application had been received. The Euro-CNS Executive Committee will assist in identifying a suitable training center and then assess the application from there.

European Society of Pathology/European Congress of Pathology

Martin Lammens reported on the successful involvement of Euro-CNS in the most recent European Congress of Pathology that had been held from August 29 – 31, 2021 in a virtual format. Euro-CNS had co-organized two sessions: one on research on autopsy material together with the ESP Autopsy, Molecular, and Cardiovascular working groups, and one on

bone and soft tissue tumors, in cooperation with the ESP Soft Tissue & Bone Pathology working group. Euro-CNS has been invited again to organize/co-organize one or more neuropathology sessions at the next European Congress of Pathology in Basel, Switzerland.

European Association of Neurology (EAN) and Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS)

Both EAN and FENS had a virtual booth at the 12th virtual ECNP (offered Euro-CNS). EAN had also formally endorsed the 12th ECNP. There is a partnership agreement with EAN where EAN and Euro-CNS are committed to work together and create space for an EAN/Euro-CNS lecture or workshop at their respective congresses. For the 12th ECNP that had been too late as the program was already finished by the time the agreement was signed. FENS needs the e-mail addresses of the Eu-

ro-CNS members in order to give them access to their benefits (including online access to the FENS journal and to reduced event fees).

Date of next Euro-CNS Executive Committee and Council Meeting

Possibly in spring 2022 in Amsterdam (in person/hybrid meeting), and possibly in Berlin 2023 at the occasion of the International Congress of Neuropathology.

Quiz #10 Clinical Neuropathology

Below you will find Clinical Neuropathology Review Quiz #10, carefully compiled by Dr. Ingeborg Fischer (Aarau, Switzerland). The questions refer to the papers and editorial of this issue of *Clinical Neuropathology* (Volume 40, No. 6/2021, November/December). We recommend making the quiz online, so that you will see your score and the correct answers right away: <https://www.euro-cns.org/journal/journal-quiz/>

1. Which of the following inflammation-related antigens is consistently expressed in the sarcolemma in alpha and gamma-sarcoglycanopathies?

- a – Membrane attack complex (C5b-C9)
- b – CD4
- c – CD8
- d – MHC I
- e – p62

2. Which of the following statements regarding muscle biopsy findings in patients with Myasthenia gravis is correct?

- a – Histopathological features are characteristic and extensively published
- b – A significant percentage of patients have histopathological findings
- c – The histology is never normal in biopsies from affected patients

- d – Angulated fibers have not been documented
- e – “Ragged red fibers” can never be seen

3. Genetic variations in *PLEKHG5* are associated with which of the following?

- a – Lower motor neuron disease
- b – Autosomal recessive inheritance
- c – Charcot Marie Tooth disease
- d – Abnormal myelination in nerve biopsy
- e – All of the above

4. The serum levels of which of the following is NOT positively correlated with cerebrovascular hemorrhage?

- a – HDL
- b – LDL
- c – Ferritin
- d – Neuron specific enolase
- e – S100 β

5. Which of the following is an independent risk factor of cognitive impairment in patients with cerebral hemorrhage?

- a – Ferritin levels
- b – Neuron-specific enolase levels
- c – S100 β levels
- d – Smoking
- e – All of the above

6. What percentage of pregnancies is approximately complicated by CMV infection?

- a – Less than 0.1%
- b – 1 – 5%
- c – 5 – 10%
- d – 10 – 20%
- e – More than 20%

7. Neuropathological findings in congenital CMV infection include which of the following?

- a – Periventricular cysts
- b – Microcalcifications
- c – Polymicrogyria
- d – Neuroglial heterotopia
- e – All of the above

8. Which of the following compartments or cells in the CNS may be infected by CMV?

- a – Cortex
- b – White matter
- c – Endothelial cells
- d – Ependymal cells
- e – All of the above

9. Which of the following immunohistochemical markers is typically positive in anaplastic large cell lymphomas?

- a – CD20
- b – CD34
- c – CD30
- d – CD42b
- e – CD117

10. Which of the following statements regarding von Hippel-Lindau syndrome is NOT correct?

- a – It is associated with renal cell carcinoma
- b – It is associated with hemangioblastomas of the cerebellum
- c – It is due to an activating mutation of the *VHL* gene
- d – It is inherited in an autosomal dominant fashion
- e – Neuroendocrine tumors of the pancreas are more frequent in *VHL* patients

Quiz submitted by
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