

EFNS Regional Teaching Course in the Ukraine, May 2005 Report from the local organizer.

We are so proud that the first Ukrainian EFNS Teaching Course took place in Odessa, 20-23 May 2005. Odessa is home of a long and successful tradition of neurology. Ukraine has one of the oldest neurological societies. We will celebrate our 100th anniversary in October 2005. The idea was to help neurologists from this part of Europe to bring their current knowledge and capabilities to the European standards. (Because of the historical and political past we have had less access to modern developments in neurological sciences.)

The aim was the transfer of new concepts from basic neuroscience to clinical routine, to provide up-to-date information and promote international research and clinical collaboration, and to develop and establish the necessary diagnostic procedures and organisational structures to implement these new strategies country-wide for the benefit of all patients.

The EFNS TC received much interest from practitioners and scientists. There were more than 360 participants from different parts of Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, and even from Canada.

Nine professors from Western Europe nominated by the EFNS, and leading neurologists from the Ukraine presented their lectures.

The TC proposed a wide range of discussion topics. The programme included lectures on the topics stroke, epilepsy, neurooncology, muscle disorders and neurophysiological diagnostics.

Prof. Pavel Kalvach (Czech Republic), Vice-president of the EFNS, opened the course and informed about EFNS activities.

Vida Demarin (Croatia), Jacques L. de Reuck (Belgium), Pavel Kalvach (Czech Republic), Anatoliy Son and Valentine Yavorskaya (Ukraine) presented the latest achievements in the field of cerebrovascular diseases.

Wolfgang Grisold (Austria) provided new diagnostic possibilities in neurooncology. Irina Bogdanova (Ukraine) mentioned the peculiarities of modern forms of extra pyramidal pathology. Per Soelberg-Sorensen (Denmark) informed about the latest achievements in diagnostic and treatment of multiple sclerosis.

Laszlo Csiba (Hungary) emphasized the role of ultrasonography in clinical trials and clinical monitoring.

Hermann Stefan and Paul Boon paid attention to pre-surgical evaluation and epilepsy surgery for medically refractory partial epilepsy.

Alexey Shandra underlined the role of pro-and anti epileptogenic systems in pathogenesis of epilepsy. Gerhard Luef reviewed strategies for modern antiepileptic drugs.

The Teaching Course materials were translated into Russian to facilitate the comprehension of information, and handed out to all participants. All lectures have been recorded on CD and these were distributed to the participants.

In addition, the participants took part in a diverse social and cultural programme. During the course professors and participants visited memorial places of Odessa (e.g. the Art Gallery and theater), enjoyed rafting on the seashore of Odessa gulf, and also got a taste for the national food and wine.

The closing ceremony of the TC was ended by a wonderful concert of famous philharmonic artists, which filled the auditorium with folk music, national costumes and traditions.

We would like to express our gratitude to the EFNS, especially Mrs. Elisabeth Müller, Prof. Pavel Kalvach, the Vice President of the EFNS and the EFNS Management Committee for generously supporting the initiatives of the TC. We are very thankful to all the invited speakers for their wonderful and inspiring lectures.

Special thanks also go to all pharmaceutical companies, which gave us financial support. The general opinion of our participants is that the Teaching Course was a great success. We very much look forward to continuing our activity and collaboration with EFNS. We hope it becomes a good tradition to organize Teaching Courses in Odessa and we hope that such meetings will stimulate our professional knowledge and skills. We cordially invite everybody to visit our country once again.

Anatoliy Son - MD, Professor, Chairman, of Neurosurgery and Neurology

Liliya Zvyagina - MD, course coordinator, director of WHO CC Maritime medicine
on behalf of the organising committee.