SOCIETY TIDINGS

Conference Report: The 12th European Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (EUNOS) Meeting, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 21–24 June 2015

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The 12th Congress of the European Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (EUNOS) met in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 21–24 June 2015 at the Cankarjev Dom Cultural and Congress Centre.

An interesting feature of this meeting was that it was organized in conjunction with the 53rd Symposium of International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (ISCEV) with one joint day. So, EUNOS started on 21 June, followed by ISCEV on 24 June, when both meetings coincided with joint opening, program, and congress dinner (Figures A1 and A2).

The local Congress organizers' team was composed of ophthalmologists and neurophysiologists of Slovenian Society of Ophthalmology and administrative staff from CD Congress Centre, led by Professor Marko Hawlina, MD, PhD, head of neuro-ophthalmology at University Eye Hospital, Ljubljana, Slovenia, and president of Slovenian Society of Ophthalmology.

The first day (Sunday, 21 June) featured an educational program composed of three teaching courses: "Abnormal Eye Movements," given by Christopher Kennard and Chrystalina Antoniades (United Kingdom), "Electrophysiology in neuro-ophthalmology," by Graham Holder (United Kingdom) and Marko Hawlina and Jelka Breclj (Slovenia), and "Nystagmus," by Irene Gottlob and her co-workers Frank Proudlock, Anastasia Pilat, and Rebecca McLean (United Kingdom). The welcome reception led to cheerful conversations and interactions among all attendees at the CD Club of Cankarjev Dom with the jazz band of an virtuoso pianist, Zoran

Škrinjar, who was unfortunately blinded by retinitis pigmentosa upon his completion of conservatorium (Figures A3–A6).

The next two days included special sessions of invited talks. The second day sessions started with headache and intracranial hypertension given by Walter Jay, Anat Kesler, and Kathleen Digre, followed by eye movements and pupil by Christopher Kennard, Chrystalina Antoniades, Eberhart Zrenner, and Fion Bremner. Afternoon sessions started with paediatric neuro-ophthalmology with Klara Landau, Mike Brodsky, Irene Gottlob, Hanna Leiba, and Katharina Gerth Kahlert and optic neuropathies with Anthony Arnold, Carl Arndt, Jette Frederiksen, and Simon Hickman. The day was concluded with lively debate on controversy between ultrasound examination in giant cell arteritis (GCA) promoted by Klara Landau versus classic biopsy defended by Walter Jay. The outcome was that although ultrasound has many new features, it cannot entirely replace biopsy. The group photo was then taken inside as the summer storm was threatening outside (Figure A1). The third day began with mini-symposiums on the projects of the EUNOS research committee led by Susanne Trauzettel Klosinski and on mitochondrial diseases coordinated by Patrick Yu-Wai-Man. Afternoon sessions started with visual neglect and hallucinations with invited talks from Gordon Plant and Paresch Malhotra, followed by the talks on visual rehabilitation by Susanne Trauzettel Klosinski and use of prisms by Fiona Rowe. There were three poster sessions with over 133 posters showcasing clinical and

Received 4 September 2015; accepted 4 September 2015; published online 8 December 2015

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basic research done by EUNOS and ISCEV members (Figures A7 and A8).

On the fourth and joint day with ISCEV, there was a joint opening ceremony where the EUNOS president, Prof. Christopher Kennard, welcomed all EUNOS and ISCEV delegates. The in-coming EUNOS president, Prof. Klara Landau (Switzerland), congratulated Prof. Hawlina and his team from University Eye Hospital, Ljubljana, for the seamless meeting organization and excellent program, and announced the next EUNOS meeting to be in Budapest in 2017. Also, ISCEV president Patrizia Tormene greeted the attendees of both societies, and welcoming messages were rounded by the director of Slovenian Research Agency, Jozsef Györkös.

The joint congress day focused on neuro-ophthalmology conditions where electrophysiology has its role. Professor Graham E. Holder from Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, delivered the William Dawson Memorial Lecture featuring how electrophysiology serves neuro-ophthalmology and explained its use on a number of fascinating cases.

Other invited speakers included Güliden Akdal (Turkey) on Behçet disease, Shlomo Dotan (Israel) on drug toxicity, Thomas Hedges (USA) on ganglion cell complex diseases, Richard Weleber (USA) on paraneoplastic retinopathies, Rob de Keizer (The Netherlands) on orbital tumours, and Eberhart Zrenner (Germany) on current status of microelectronic aids in blind retinitis pigmentosa (RP) patients.

The main social event was joint congress dinner at the Ljubljana Castle, which was festive with introduction by folkloric dances. After the dinner, the best posters of each of the three poster sessions were

announced and awards handed out by the incoming president, Prof. Klara Landau. The best posters were in the poster session 1: *Facial dystonia with facial grimacing and vertical gaze palsy with "Round the Houses" sign in a 29-year-old woman*—Joan Crespi Vidal, Geir Brathen, Petter Quist-Paulsen, Javier Pagonabarraga (Norway); in poster session 2: *Diabetic papillopathy—prognosis regarding coincidence of non-arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy*—Helena Haskaj, Marko Hawlina (Slovenia); and in the session 3, the winning poster was: *The role of B-cells in early onset acute optic neuritis*—Ruth Huna-Baron, Anna Feldman, Michael Gurevich, Anat Achiron (Israel). During the dinner, the extraordinarily talented musicians Janez Dovč and Boštjan Gombač entertained the public, which rounded out a pleasant meeting (Figures A9–A16).

There were approximately 300 attendees on each of the conferences, so over 600 attendees to the joint EUNOS-ISCEV meeting from 40 countries.

EUNOS has over 130 members from all over Europe, but also Qatar, the United States, Egypt, and Canada, and represents neuro-ophthalmology in 30 countries. It has an active board of directors that promote neuro-ophthalmic education, with the next EUNOS update course in 2016 in Zurich. The abstracts of the meeting were published in a special supplement of *Neuro-Ophthalmology* and are available at the following link: <http://informahealthcare.com/doi/abs/10.3109/01658107.2015.1052265?src=recsys>.

Declaration of interest. The author reports no conflicts of interest. The author alone is responsible for the content and writing of the paper.

APPENDIX

FIGURE A1 Group photo of the attendees of the 12th European Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (EUNOS) meeting, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 21–24 June 2015.

FIGURE A2 Prof. Christopher Kennard, president of EUNOS, addressing delegates during the opening ceremony. In the back, Prof. Klara Landau is preparing for her address as incoming president.

FIGURE A3 Group photo after the William W. Dawson Memorial Lecture. From right to left: Klara Landau, incoming president of EUNOS; Marko Hawlina, organizer of 12th EUNOS meeting; Graham Holder, the 2015 William W. Dawson lecturer; Patrizia Tormene, president of ISCEV; and Jelka Brecelj, co-organizer of the 53rd ISCEV symposium.

FIGURE A4 Prof. Marko Hawlina introducing Prof. Graham E. Holder, the 2015 William W. Dawson lecturer.

FIGURE A5 Prof. Klara Landau, incoming president of EUNOS, during her address in front of the logo of 12th EUNOS meeting, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

FIGURE A6 Motivated audience of the meeting in Linhart Hall of Cankarjev Dom Congress Centre.

FIGURE A7 Lively discussions at one of the three poster sessions, which together had 133 posters in three categories.

FIGURE A8 Poster sessions evoked the most interest, as most of the primary research, clinical studies, and cases were presented by posters. The lecture part of the program was composed mostly on invited review lectures. There was also a sponsors' session during the joint day lunch break.

FIGURE A9 From the social aspect, the meeting was very pleasant and attendees enjoyed walking along riverbanks in Ljubljana downtown with hundreds of cafes and restaurants. Ljubljana in translation comes from the word "beloved," as symbolized by the love locks at one of Ljubljanica river's many bridges.

FIGURE A10 A joint congress dinner was held at Ljubljana Castle, allowing for many informal interactions between approximately 600 delegates of both societies.

FIGURE A11 The castle yard was a meeting point before entering the halls, with welcome drinks and folkloric dances offering Slovenian flavors of hospitality.

FIGURE A12 Attendees came from 40 countries; besides Europe, many were from the Americas and Asia and even from recently earthquake-struck Nepal. Lively atmosphere allowed even the youngest to enjoy Ljubljana's safe and relaxed atmosphere.

FIGURE A13 Friendly and pleasant discussions took place and offered opportunities for closer contacts. Graham Holder and Marko Hawlina among the group of young neuroophthalmologists; Martina Jarc Vidmar and Manca Tekavčič from Ljubljana on the left and Neringa Jurkute from Lithuania on the right.

FIGURE A14 The castle interior offered wide selection of Slovenian delicacies and wines with entertainment by Janez Dovč and Boštjan Gombač, members of internationally renowned folk group from Slovenia, Terrafolk.

FIGURE A15 Musicians entertained the delegates, who enjoyed the lively atmosphere.

FIGURE A16 As the high time of the dinner, the best poster awards were handed out by the new EUNOS president, Klara Landau.