SOCIETY TIDINGS

Report on the 13th European Neuro-Ophthalmology Society Meeting by the Congress Chair

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Chair of the 13th EUNOS Congress

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The 13th EUNOS conference took place in the Danubius Health Spa Resort Hévia Conference Center situated on the East side of the River Danube across from St. Margaret Island and offered a serene setting for the meeting in the bustling city of Budapest (Figure 1).

The theme of the conference focused on the various causes and conditions of the major neuro-ophthalmic disorders, especially as addressed by evolving imaging techniques like adaptive optics presented by distinguished speakers during the “Neuro-ophthalmic applications of eye and brain imaging” symposium, and debated during the “Beyond idiopathic intracranial hypertension: High and low cerebrospinal fluid pressure syndromes” symposium (Figure 2).

The merit of the meeting was dedicated to the benefit of our patients, and this was highlighted by the attendance and presentations of 4 Leber hereditary optic neuropathy patient representatives from four European countries (Figure 3).

The first day of the meeting kicked off with two teaching courses with hot topics: “Emergency neuro-ophthalmology” and “Interactive workshop: Practical tools & tricks” (Figure 4). Also, we had the first ever “Research Symposium” in the history of EUNOS, which was dedicated to optic nerve disorders.

The scientific program included seven symposia and three mini-symposia and was provided by 50 speakers, from inside and outside the realm of EUNOS. Moreover, we had four keynote speakers,

three of them graduates of the local Semmelweis University. The first keynote lecture by Botond Roska, a mathematician-neuroscientist, on “Restoring Vision Using Optogenetics” brought futuristic gene therapy from the bench to the bedside with the hope of curing incurable disorders of the visual system. The second keynote lecture by Randy H. Kardon on “Assessment of Progressive Neuron Loss in Veterans with Mild Traumatic Brain Injury by OCT of Inner Retinal Layer Thickness Over Time” provided support to the progressive neurodegenerative nature of this increasingly prevalent condition. Professor Kardon bestowed two additional lectures during the meeting, the first as part of the “Eye Pain and Alikes” symposium, titled “The Face Doesn’t Lie: Objective Measures of Photosensitivity”, and the second as part of the “Neuro-ophthalmic applications of eye and brain imaging” symposium, titled “Laser Speckle Blood Flow and OCT Angiography: New Aspects of Imaging Ocular Blood Flow in Neuro-ophthalmology”. The third keynote lecture was a compassionate presentation on the successful but bold treatment of a patient inflicted by the devastating and incurable “Radiation Optic Neuropathy” by László Mechtler during the “Neuro-ophthalmic Complications of Neoplastic Disease” symposium. The fourth keynote lecture was conferred by Balázs Rózsa, a physicist-neuroscientist, and introduced us to the maze of dendritic and simultaneous network imaging using organic dyes and genetically encoded sensors with his lecture titled “Fast 3D Imaging of

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Colour versions of one or more of the figures in the article can be found online at www.tandfonline.com/ioph.

It was my greatest pleasure to host over 400 colleagues from 43 countries and to see them greeting their old friends and making new ones. We had a truly international conference with attendees from all corners of the world.

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Figure 1. Dr. Gabriella Szatmáry, 13th EUNOS conference chair in front of the meeting hotel in Budapest, Hungary.

Figure 2. Lecture hall.

Figure 3. Two Leber hereditary optic neuropathy patient representatives and two neuro-ophthalmologists during the meeting.

Figure 4. Teaching course on emergency neuro-ophthalmology.

Neuronal and Dendritic Spine Assemblies in the Visual Cortex to Understand Neuronal Computation in Behaving Animals”.

The Welcome Reception, apart from offering insight to the famous Hungarian cuisine with feature dishes such as Szilvásváradí smoked trout, mangalica pork chop with wild mushrooms, goose liver pâté, and duck drumstick, included a remembrance of the 216th anniversary of Hungarian ophthalmology by Professor János Németh. This was followed by presentation of Professor László Csiba who paid tribute to those Hungarians who contributed to the field of neurology, just to mention a few: Rezső Bálint, Róbert

Bárány, József Baló, János Szentágothai, Ernő Jendrassik, and the Nobel Prize winner Albert Szent-Györgyi. Finally, beautiful performances by musicians from the local Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music entertained the audience with such well-known pieces as the Hungarian Dance and Rhapsody, and the Csárdás.

The Gala of the conference took place on the third evening of the meeting on the Európa Congressboat while voyaging downstream the Danube River from the Hévia Hotel on the North to the Palais des Arts MŰPA Budapest on the South. During the gala, from the 125 accepted abstracts of the conference (Figure 5), awards were given to the presenters of the best three

Figure 5. Attendees at one of the poster sessions.

abstracts, the best abstract by a young neuro-ophthalmologist, and best oral presentation, by the President of EUNOS, Klara Landau, and Chair of EUNOS 2017, Gabriella Szatmary. In addition, Leadership Award was given to Professor Márta Janáky, the 1st President of the Neuro-Ophthalmology Section of the Hungarian Ophthalmology Society for her teaching in the field and contribution to the establishment of Neuro-Ophthalmology License examination in Hungary (Figure 6). While tasting some of the famous Hungarian dishes and sipping on a glass of Tokaji wine, attendees enjoyed the best panorama of the city along with a guided tour full of historical facts.

Nearby attractions of the conference hotel included the Hungarian Parliament, the 3rd largest parliament building in the world, which showcases such treasures as the crown of St. Stephen, the first king of Hungary, the “Settlement of the Magyars in Hungary” painting by Mihály Munkácsy commemorating the one-thousand anniversary of Hungary in 1896. Other close by hotspots included the St. Stephen’s Basilica, where the hand of the first Hungarian king is exhibited, the Heroes Square, and the Millennium Underground Railway, the 1st subway line in continental Europe. A “must see and try” in Budapest, which is nicknamed as the thermal spa capital of the world, is one of the many thermal baths, like the one named after Széchenyi and St. Gellért.

With this recap of the highlights of the meeting, I would like to thank all the sponsors who with their

generous support contributed to the success of the meeting, including Santhera Pharmaceuticals Ltd., GenSight Biologics, Otometrics, Imagine Eyes, Metrovision, and exhibitors, including Santhera Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Cambridge Research Systems, GenSight Biologics, Otometrics, Metrovision, Roland Consult Stasche&Finger GmbH.

The Congress Program has already been published online by Taylor & Francis in the NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY JOURNAL Supplement dedicated to the meeting where the entire program can be found. Presentations from the meeting are available at the new EUNOS website for registrants and members: www.eunosweb.eu.

The meeting program was accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) for a maximum of 25 European CME credits (ECMEC®s) with equivalent credit given to US and Canadian attendees, for which visit: www.ama-assn.org/go/internationalcme! All participants of the meeting have received a Certificate of Attendance.

I hope the merit of the 13th EUNOS Congress benefited all who participated and the patients we serve!

I would like to thank all who with their organization, presentations, and participation contributed to the attainment and future prosperity of the conference with many more EUNOS meetings to come (Figure 7)!

Figure 6. Professor Janáky receiving leadership award.

Figure 7. EUNOS 2017 attendees on group photo.