

December 1997



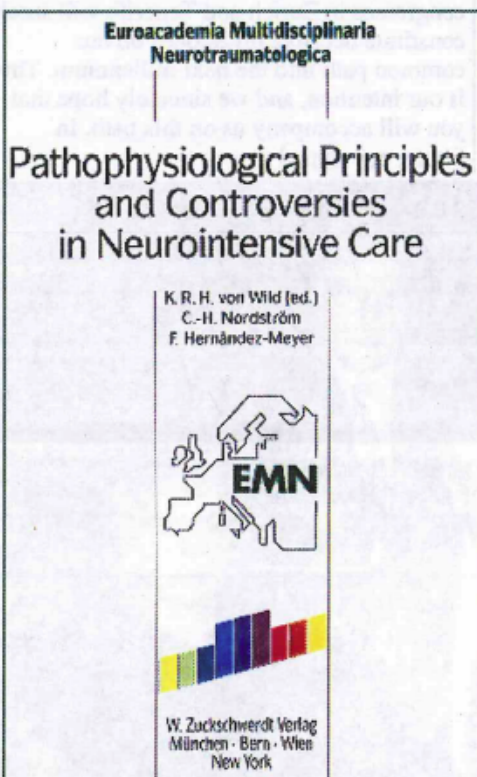
Venue of the 2nd EMN-Congress and the 3rd International Exhibition „Sculptures Project 1997“.

Baroque Castle of the WWU Münster

Dear members, dear friends, in this year that is now drawing to its close, we have come a long way further down the road with our philosophy and vision that form the basis for the EMN. The highpoint was the 2nd EMN Congress. Despite the extremely short time we had available to prepare the congress and also unexpected difficulties in transferring to Münster the speakers originally invited to Lund by colleague Nordström, ultimately we were able not only to see the programme through without making any deletions, but also to realise many other interesting presentations on aspects of pathophysiology and brain protection and on clinically relevant aspects of prevention, therapy, and prognosis of vascular and traumatic brain damage. With their lectures and poster presentations, and skilfully acting as chairpersons of the respective sessions and as convincing moderators in the round-table discussions, but primarily as involved and interested guest speakers, more than 100 active participants from 17 countries were able to make essential contributions towards the quality and liveliness of the scientific programme. The social programme, the art-historic tours through Münster and the international sculpture exhibition, that took place at the same time, provided manifold and, in my opinion, extremely favourable conditions for new personal contacts and friendships. It is in this aspect that we see a special opportunity for our Academy for the multidisciplinary exchange of scientific ideas and - equally as important - for the multinational contacts and acquaintanceships also between our spouses and life companions.

One of the highlights at the start was the J. Douglas Miller Memorial Lecture by our highly esteemed member Albino Bricolo, whom I would like to thank at this occasion for his so personal and highly interesting

presentation. I would also like to mention the award of the honorary membership to Prof. W. Bryan Jennett, who was again able to attend our conference in person, and to Dr. Nils Lundberg, who, his advanced age notwithstanding still displays a remarkable intellectual vivacity, unfortunately could not come to Münster. We all wish both gentlemen continued intellectual freshness and good health, and we hope that we can still count on consulting them for their advice and critical comments due to their large experience.



The papers of the 2nd EMN Congress have been published in English by the W. Zuckschwerdt Verlag, in November 1997. ISBN: 3-88603-620-0

We are proud that we have succeeded in getting our congress book printed in only three months, with the result that our Euroacademia now has two publications regarding current scientific information on the topic of neurotrauma, prevention, therapy, and rehabilitation. It would naturally be desirable to continue this kind of publications in the future if this were possible from the financial viewpoint and from that of the speakers.

I would now like to turn to the annual members' meeting and future EMN activities. The Members' Meeting took place in the run-up to the EMN congress. Sixteen of our current total of 74 members took part, with altogether 22 members having to excuse their absence for important other reasons. This means that the real purpose of the meeting, namely the personal contact, the open and direct exchange of the future activities, which is designed to give impetus to our Academy, was by no means achieved to the full extent, as was not also the presentation of newly appointed members, on which the Members' Meeting passes its decision not least for this reason. For details refer to the minutes, which lists the newly elected members.

As previously in the meeting of the Presidium, during the Members' Meeting we also took very careful consideration of the active involvement of our current members, and endeavoured to make an analysis of reasons why members do not appear at our annual event. As you are aware - and as is formulated in the Articles of Association - the Academy as a scientific society has given itself the task of intensifying and promoting the exchange of scientific experience in direct personal discussions over and beyond physical boundaries so as to firstly initiate new impulses for research and clinical aspects and also to provide new supranational health-political approaches in Europe in an academic context. These results could then be used to create a forum for the exchange of individual research efforts and experiences at the annual congress and to acquaint our-selves with new ideas and other already practised concepts outside our specialist areas as well as negative experience, all as a measure to help us define our current position and to direct our efforts towards the demands of the future.

The latest scientifically discussed and tested results should then be mediated critically by the EMN as new knowledge in corresponding publications, with the co-operation between medical and non-medical scientists in the fields of prevention, therapy, and rehabilitation in the broad spectrum of neurotraumatology in theory providing the ideal preconditions for this objective. The success of this depends in no small way on the members' own personal initiative and their personal intentions for identification with the common tasks and goals of the EMN and not only, as the impression may sometimes be given, on the personal integrity and expert qualification of the individual members. The construction of the Academy and the mode in which new members are accepted by nomination and by majority vote places a high emphasis on the personal involvement of each and every member, no matter how manifold and time-consuming the daily chores and obligations may be. The voluntary nature of membership is thus also associated with a high degree of personal co-operation in shaping the future of the EMN, borne by the conviction of having an opportunity for interdisciplinary co-operation and collegial friendship that is unique in Europe. The appointments for our annual get-togethers should form definite entries in the schedule planners, as are other annual days of honour or festive meetings that we all look forward to long in advance of their actual dates and that we would like to attend come what may.

My impression is that you may not yet have fully realised what implications this idea has

and not only which real opportunities, but also which personal obligations it entails in this form. However, at our Members' Meeting we were all of the opinion that we should emphatically push this idea on forward, and bring it to fruition with the help of all our members. Since we are fully aware that special circumstances may arise unforeseen and make it necessary to revise already-made decisions - and one of these is also your acceptance as a member of the EMN -, on behalf of the Presidium I would like to urgently request that you inform us, within the next four weeks, to the address of our General Secretary, personally of your own opinion in this matter. I should like to emphasise that we all very much hope that you understand our concern here and that you decide to join in personally in furthering the cause of the EMN in the future, too.

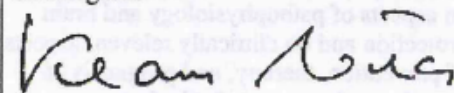
We, too, have had to learn lessons from the experiences of the past years in terms of how to handle an international, European Academy from the organisational, personal, and financial viewpoints. We have thus far succeeded in being able to present a balanced report without having to raise any members' fees. Whether we shall be able to continue to do so must be awaited and will depend to no small extent on your personal contributions as well as of our jointly elaborated concepts and results. Seen in this light, the next two congresses in Zurich and Tenerife will surely constitute decisive milestones on our common path into the next millennium. This is our intention, and we sincerely hope that you will accompany us on this path. In future, our annual

congresses shall be organised in form of a symposium for members and guests interested in the topics in question, with the following 3 main points of emphasis:

1. The annual Members' Meeting with the concluding Douglas Miller Memorial Lecture, and the awarding of honours at the start of the congress.
2. The scientific part itself, in the form of scientific contributions of members of the Euroacademia and also a selection of complementary invited presentations and a "Meet the experts" poster session with your involvement as experts from a wide variety of areas.
3. The social part of the event, with the possibility of a variety of important personal contacts.

Equal emphasis shall be placed on all three parts. In this regard the Presidium thinks that this concept can be very easily realised with your co-operation, and that the members would be pleased to devote these 3 days of their time each year and thus plan their schedules accordingly.

In this sense I would like to cordially wish you all a Merry Christmas, and pass on the wishes of the Presidium to you and your families for a peaceful, healthy, and in all ways successful new year 1998. We look forward to seeing you in Zurich in August. Best regards



Klaus R. H. von Wild



Sheila and Bryan Jennet (EMN honorary member 1997) and Margot Miller (f.l.t.r.) together with Reinhold Frowein (EMN honorary member 1996) (behind)

3rd EMN Congress

Update in Spinal Cord Trauma
Basic research - Diagnosis - Treatment -
Rehabilitation

27. - 29. August 1998

Information and registration:

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For those among us - such as myself - who did not know: the word „Academia“ originates from *Akademias*, the name of the „pleasure garden“ in Athens in which Plato taught.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Federico Hernández-Meyer

General Secretary

EMN in the Internet:

<http://www.shop.de/priv/hp/2197/a>