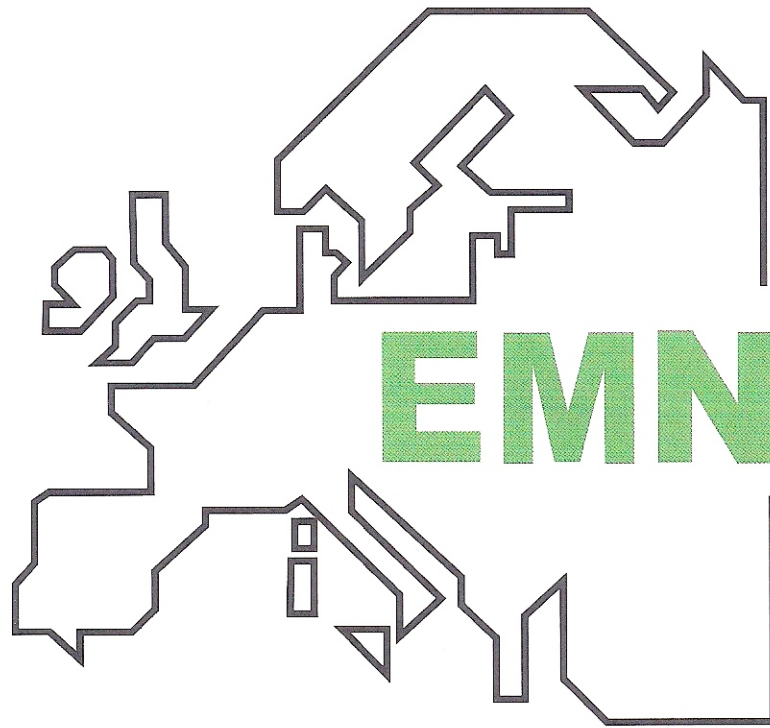


A brief history of the

EMN



Euroacademia
Multidisciplinaria
Neurotraumatologica

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Photography by Klaus von Wild

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PREFACE

This booklet is chiefly aimed at members of the Euroacademia Multidisciplinaria Neurotraumatologica (EMN) which this year celebrates its 10th Anniversary. It is a summing up of its endeavours and an account of events which have taken place over the ten-year period, from the EMN's inception to the present day. The EMN is a society comprising a multidisciplinary group of committed physicians, as well as other non-medical experts, who are interested in all aspects of Traumatic Brain Injury. Ten years may seem too short a time to merit the writing of a *history*, but given the nature of human frailty, however admirable some people's powers of recall might be, important events, ideas and encounters will tend to be forgotten – and thereby, lost. Furthermore, whosoever undertakes to continue recording the activities and events of the society in the future, will surely find the information in this booklet useful.

I have always liked publications which speak of medical achievements, most of which are obviously driven by a scientific urge to make progress, but have found particularly exciting and satisfying those where the human touch is in evidence – the coming together of people who strive for a common aim. Many significant advances owe their success in great measure to just such friendly and fruitful co-operation between enthusiastic professionals, intent on a common objective. That such an ethos existed within the EMN, I realised as soon as I joined the establishment in 1996. I had met Prof. Dr. Hans Erich Diemath at the neurotraumatological scientific meeting in Rome in 1992 and our friendship, forged then, endures still. He was one of the founders of the EMN and invited me to become a member, later secretary and now its historian.

It gives me great pleasure, therefore, to write these lines on the history of the EMN. I am indebted to my colleagues for many constructive suggestions and assistance in this venture. Special thanks go to the first EMN president Prof. Dr. Klaus von Wild and to Hans Erich Diemath, both now honorary presidents of the EMN, who have helped me to produce this booklet for the 10th Anniversary and the 10th EMN Congress in Rotterdam. I also thank Prof. Jean-Luc Truelle for his information on the significant role played by the European Brain Injury Society (EBIS) in its collaborative work with the EMN. Their joint project, started at the congress in Paris, was to usher in a new era in the Quality of Life after Traumatic Brain Injury. Finally, my thanks to Ms. Neda Janković, who reviewed the text and whose kind help is much appreciated.

Matej Lipovšek

Introduction

“Progress in medicine has been, more often than not, the result of specialisation. However, in certain circumstances over-specialisation may well be of no benefit whatsoever to the patient and it is therefore prudent to call on a variety of spheres of expertise with a common professional interest, to join forces,” stated Hans Erich Diemath in his opening remarks on EMN history at the 6th Congress in Moscow in 2001. This perception can be applied equally well to neuro-trauma. But in what way?

It was in the late eighties and early nineties that the increasing morbidity and mortality of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), together with the growing complexity of management, compelled some neurosurgeons in Germany to assemble a group of professionally orientated individuals with an interest in this problem. The first incentives came from these leading German neurosurgeons because of growing concerns at the extent of head and brain trauma, with the idea of dealing with all facets of brain injury at an academic level involving not only medically trained people but also any other experts who, by the nature of their work, have a certain relevancy in the field of neuro-trauma. Despite unremitting attempts and initiatives to raise standards of care in the acute and subsequent post-traumatic stages, the continuing lack of an integrated approach to traumatic brain injury persists. This has long been recognised and widely observed in many countries. In 1993, a Head Injuries Guidelines task-force was formed by the Brain Trauma Foundation in America but, due to a number of problems, it only supported selective neurotrauma research in collaboration with the Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS). Similar activities were already well under way in Europe: in Glasgow (Brian Jennet), Edinburgh (Douglas Miller), Germany (Abbas Karimi) and Italy (Franco Servadei) to name but a few and, by the mid-nineties, certain European medical societies like the EBIS and the EBIC were also engaged in it. All these groups made great advances, through practical experiences and research, and provided basic suggestions and guidelines on the management of TBI, but the present idea and concept of addressing TBI by comprising all aspects concerned, could only be done through a holistic approach. The tenets of the rising association were as follows:

- the advancement of neurotraumatology, practical application, research and teaching.
- intensifying co-operation with scientific academies, societies and associations, research institutions and companies, which are concerned with all aspects of neurotraumatology,
- the (legal) representation of common interests with regard to traumatology versus the authorities, insurance companies, medical personnel representative

bodies and third parties, at an international level, during the entire process of medical treatment and neuro-rehabilitation, right up to the point of final re-integration of the patient into the family and into society.

- communication between European and non-European academies, societies and associations concerned with neurotraumatology, research, practical applications and teaching,
- the organising of international congresses, regional and national work-shops and educational meetings, as well as participation in such events.

In practice all this could only be achieved through regular meetings (congresses and workshops) organised by the newly proposed society. The standards and quality of the presentations at these meetings would be guaranteed by the participation of experts in various fields and academically highly qualified people from different European countries.

The first official founders' meeting was held on 16th September 1994 in Murnau, Germany. The founders and first members were Univ. Prof. Dr. med. H.W. Delank and Univ. Prof. Dr. med. L. Gerhard (both from Hattingen), Dr. med. H. Jaksche (Murnau). Univ. Prof. Dr. med. G. Lausberg (Bochum), Dr. med. A. Ritz (Bremen-Lesum) and Univ. Prof. Dr. med. K. von Wild (Münster). The Protocol was recorded by Dr. Hans Jaksche. Further members who had previously helped to establish the newly founded society were Hofrat Univ. Prof. Dr. med. H.E. Diemath (Salzburg), Univ. Prof. Dr. med. R.W.C. Janzen (Frankfurt) and Dr. med. H.H.Janzik (Bonn). The association was named "Euroakademie für multidisziplinäre Neurotraumatologie" (EMN) followed by e.V. (eingetragener Verein i.e. registered association). For this purpose **Articles of Association** were made, followed by **Standing Orders** of the EMN. Professor Klaus Rudiger Helmut von Wild was unanimously elected as its first president and Professor Hans Erich Diemath its first vice-president.

Sources used:

Available documents obtained as **protocols**, which were written by EMN secretaries in the course of presidium and members' meetings during each EMN Congress, held once every year from 1996 to 2004.

- **Personal contacts** and reports from EMN president Klaus von Wild and honorary EMN president, Hans Erich Diemath.
- **Five publications** which appear as Proceedings and contain selected scientific contributions from:
 - 1996 (Brain Protection in Severe Head Injury; Editors H.E.Diemath, J.Sommerauer, K.R.H. von Wild. Printed by W. Zuckschwerdt Verlag München. Bern. Wien. New York).
 - 1997 (Pathophysiological Principles and Controversies in Neurointensive Care; Editors K.R.H. von Wild. Printed by W. Zuckschwerdt Verlag München. Bern. Wien. New York).
 - (Quality Management in Head Injuries Care; Editors L. Gonzales-Feria, K.R.H. von Wild, H.E. Diemath. Printed by El Productor S.L. in Spain. La Laguna. Tenerife. Canary Islands).
 - (Neurotrauma; Editors A. Potapov, L. Likhterman, K.R.H. von Wild. Printed in Russia by "Antidor" Publishing House Moscow, Russia).
 - (Evidence Based Neurotrauma; Editors A.D. Mendelow, I.R. Chambers, P.J. Crawford, B.A. Gregson, M.A. Barnes, K.R.H. von Wild. Printed as the Proceedings of the Newcastle 7th EMN Congress at the University of Newcastle, England).
 - "Functional Rehabilitation in Neurosurgery and Neurotraumatology" (ed. K.R.H. von Wild) Acta Neurochirurgica Suppl. 79, Springer Verlag Wien 2002.

Photographic material used:

Most of the **photographic material** was kindly provided by K.R.H. von Wild and shows the EMN presidium and rank-and-file members during meetings at

various congresses and workshop gatherings in the last nine years. A description with dates and names is shown in the caption below each picture.

The Establishment of the EMN

The success of any organisation depends on many factors but perhaps one of the most important is that there should exist a genuine affinity, even friendship, between its members (especially those of its leading group) when engaging professionally in the pursuit of a topic of common interest. This has happily been the case with the EMN. It was founded by people not only eminent in their respective fields but also people of great personal charm, who were able to maintain an almost family-like relationship between the members (KvWild, HE Diemath, A-L Christensen, L Gonzales-Feria, G.Lausberg and many others).

The newly established society had to produce a legal framework in order to gain recognition and to function in an official capacity. The necessary formalities appeared in the form of Articles of Association and Standing Orders. Both were edited by Federico Hernandez-Meyer, who for 8 years remained the EMN general secretary and whose work for the EMN, free of charge, has been greatly appreciated. The legal aspects of these documents were drawn up and specifically tailored for the EMN and published by Cerebprotect (Darmstadt) in Münster, Germany in 1995. Hernandez-Meyer was also the first to set up the current EMN front page on the Internet website (see below).

The **Articles of Association** contain 19 paragraphs concerning:

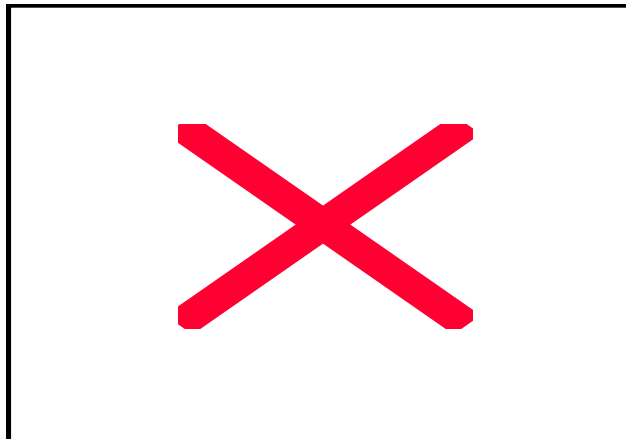
- name
- site
- purpose of the association
- financial assets
- membership
- enrolment of members
- termination of membership
- membership fees
- rights and responsibilities of members
- constitutional bodies of the EMN
- members' meetings
- the executive committee
- the presidium
- the advisory board
- the committees
- voting and elections
- the business year
- dissolution of the EMN
- general provisions and auditing.

The **Standing Orders** of procedure concern 7 matters vital to the functioning of the EMN:

- fundamental (general) issues
- the enrolment of members
- the mode of procedure of the constitutional bodies
- the annual scientific congress
- administration of finances
- external representation of the EMN
- the function of the General Secretary.

EMN on the Internet [<http://www.emn-neurotrauma.de>]

Since the first appearance of the EMN on the Internet in 1997 its website has been changed several times. The latest was done in March 2005 by the General Secretary Prof. Dr. Jan-Peter Jantzen:



and the front page gives all the necessary information:

[Home](#) [about emn/about emn.html](#)

[About EMN](#)

[List of Members](#)

[News / Personalia](#)

[Congresses](#)

[Workshops](#)

[Publications](#)

[Cooperations](#)

[Links](#)

[Imprint](#)

"From the site of the accident to the re-integration of the patient":

The medical care of patients with head injuries, starting at the scene of the accident through to the patients' re-integration into society and into their occupations following successful rehabilitation, can only be solved within the scope of scientific, multidisciplinary dialogue and mutual professional cooperation. It is obvious to the EMN that ancillary specialist areas such as traffic safety, accident research, forensic medicine, pharmacology, environmental protection etc., have also to be involved.

The EMN is there to benefit the public. Its main purpose is the advancement of neurotraumatology in research, practical application and teaching.

The EMN Congresses

1996

The First Scientific Congress of the EMN had its European ‘premiere’ from 16th to 18th May in the beautiful town of Salzburg in Austria. The congress venue was the “Landesnervenklinik Salzburg” Department of Neurosurgery.

The central themes of the congress were:

- *Emergency rescue systems and neuroprotection in traumatic brain injury and*
- *Half a century of head injuries care.*

The president of the Congress, court councillor Univ. Prof. H.E.Diemath, welcomed over 200 participants from all parts of Europe. In his address he described what the EMN symbolised, in the following way: “We are a community of friends – from Tenerife to Russia and from Sweden to Italy. Long before politicians and statesmen hit upon the idea of a United Europe, we were practising the EU in our congresses and conferences! What binds us together is our common aim and we are indeed *a family of true minds* in this our common motherland – Europe.”

The opening speech given by the EMN president Prof. Klaus von Wild conveyed, for the first time in the history of head injury management, the following message: “The medical care of patients with head injuries, starting at the site of the accident right through to the patients’ re-integration into society and into their occupations following successful rehabilitation can, in our opinion, only be solved within the scope of scientific, multidisciplinary dialogue and mutual professional co-operation.”

Before the first congress, the EMN lost one of its valued members, Prof. J. Douglas Miller who died suddenly ... He was a member of the EMN Executive committee and its second treasurer. Douglas Miller was an outstanding clinical scientist and a well-known personality, who contributed a great deal to the perpetual questions of patho-physiological events in traumatic brain injury and the management of head injured patients. The EMN Presidium unanimously agreed that, in his memory, at every future EMN congress a speaker of renown should be invited to present the **Douglas Miller Memorial Lecture**. This honour was first entrusted to Douglas Miller’s own teacher, the distinguished

neurosurgeon Prof. Brian W. Jennett, who presented a lecture entitled: “*Half a Century of Head Injury Care.*”

Part of the tradition at every EMN Congress has been the ceremonial conferment of merit awards on eminent individuals for their lifetime achievements in the profession. On the occasion of this Salzburg congress, the award of EMN **Honorary Membership** was bestowed on Prof. Reinhold A. Frowein.

Late in 1996 W. Zuckschwerdt Verlag published the Proceedings of the first EMN Congress (eds. H.E.Diemath, J.Sommerauer, K.R.H. von Wild), under the title: *Brain Protection in Severe Head Injury.*

The organising committee prepared a wonderful **social programme** for the participants, which included a visit to the Museum in the “Residenz Galerie”. The high point however was an organ recital in the Franciscan church following a **gala dinner** in “Der Residenz”, a very fine stately chamber of the Salzburg Court.

1997

The Second Scientific Congress of the EMN took place in Germany, from 14th to 16th August 1997. The Congress venue was the Westphalian Wilhelm University in Münster. The official reception was held in the Historic Hall of Peace at the Town Hall, where the Peace Treaty of Westphalia was signed in 1648 at the end of the 30 Years War. The greetings and warm welcome were extended to all by a representative of Ms. Marion Tüns, the Lady Mayoress of Münster.

The central theme was:

- *Pathophysiological Principles and Controversies in Neurointensive Care*

Subdivided into three topics:

- Mechanisms of Neuronal Damage
- Strategies in Neurointensive Care
- Outcome of Stroke and Head Injured Patients.

The congress president Prof. Klaus R.H. von Wild, in his opening remarks, welcomed more than 100 participants from all over Europe as well as from the United States. He stressed the importance of the 25-year period since the Nils' Lundberg publication on "*Continuous recording and control of ventricular fluid pressure in neurosurgical practice*" (1960). This work has proved to be of major importance for present day neuro-intensive care management, particularly so in patients after traumatic brain injury. Lundberg's discovery took a very long time to gain sufficient recognition and acceptance in every day practice. At the beginning of the nineteen sixties such a special intensive care unit existed neither in Europe nor in North America. A decisive break-through was achieved in 1965 when a 22-bed neurosurgical intensive care unit was opened by Prof. Hugo Ruf at the J.W.Gouthe University in Frankfurt am Main. This was a genuine milestone on the path to modern neurosurgery, not only in Germany but in Europe in general. As the course of intensive care management (in respect of brain injuries) at individual units in the USA differed somewhat from those in Europe, it logically followed that the central theme of this congress should focus on the existing controversies regarding this problem. The idea of treating patients with severe primary head injuries under largely physiological conditions, in order to prevent secondary damage and tertiary complications, was based on the "Lund concept". The guidelines for such treatment were

presented by Carl Hendrik Nordström in his: *“Treatment of Increased ICP in Severely Head-injured Patients. Guidelines for the Lund Therapy.”*

An inspiring **J. Douglas Miller Memorial Lecture** was delivered by Prof. Albino Bricolo (Verona, Italy), who covered the historical and discussed present and future aspects of neurotraumatology. In his final remarks Bricolo posed the question: “Can the outcome of head injury be improved?” and went on to promote several ideas, as well as to point out how much hard work will still be necessary in order to improve on present results.

The EMN Presidium awarded **Honorary Memberships** to Prof. W. Bryan Jennett and to Dr. Nils Lundberg. Dr. Lundberg, despite his advanced age, continues to display a remarkable intellectual vigour but, unfortunately, was unable to attend the congress in Münster.

In 1998 W. Zuckschwerdt Verlag GmbH published the Proceedings of the 2nd EMN Congress (ed. K.R.H. von Wild in collaboration with C.H. Nordström and Federico Hernandez-Meyer) under the title *Pathophysiological Principles and Controversies in Neurointensive Care*. The book was printed and published in no less than three months after the congress.

An interesting and congenial **social programme** was organised by Klaus von Wild and his wife Dr. Monika von Wild, who invited the participants to their own home for a delightful ‘get together’ garden party with barbecue, enabling EMN members to make many personal contacts in a more informal setting. Monika also organised a visit to the Museum of Modern Art in Münster and a visit to the third “Münster Sculpture Project 1997” where some seventy art objects were on display at various locations in the city, among them the truly impressive sight at lake Aa, with the “Three Giant Balls” creating the background. The highlight of the congress again was the **gala dinner** arranged in the Knights Hall of the Water Castle Hotel in the Court Wilkinghege near Münster.

1998

The Third Scientific Congress of the EMN was held in Zürich, Switzerland from August 27 – 29, 1998.

The congress president, Prof. Dr. med. Ottmar Trentz, welcomed the participants at the University Hospital of Zürich and in his opening address stated: “The meeting is devoted to aspects of spinal cord trauma with the intention of providing an update from leading experts in different fields of injuries to the spinal cord”.

The central theme was:

Update in Spinal Cord Trauma – Basic Research, Diagnosis, Treatment and Rehabilitation.

The contributions were disposed in four groups:

- Basic Research of Spinal Cord Trauma
- Upcoming Techniques and Treatment Protocols in Spinal Surgery
- Rehabilitation of Spinal Cord Injury and, finally
- the Poster session presenting the themes of the scientific sessions.

The scientific program included also Workshops and was divided into three topics:

- Sensory-motor rehabilitation. Neuroprosthesis and locomotor training (organised by Dietz V).
- New diagnostic tools. Imaging and computerized navigation (organised by Nolte LP, Guggenheim N and Visarius H).
- Instrumentation of spinal fractures (organised by Trentz O)

The congress president decided to print the Abstracts of the congress and those were then available at the beginning of the meeting. The printing of Proceedings of the scientific program in book form was not planned for financial reasons.

The Douglas Miller Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Dr. H. Tscherne from Hannover in Germany.

The program for members and guests was structured as follows:

- The annual Presidium and members' meeting followed by the awarding of **Honours**. These were conferred on Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Jean Brihaye from Brussels, Belgium and Prof. em. Dr. med. H. Tscherne.
- The scientific part, consisting of contributions from EMN members, a selection of complementary invited presentations and a "Meet the Experts" poster session with experts from a wide variety of areas.
- Social events offering possibilities for making important personal contacts.

The **gala dinner**, as always, presented the high point of the social events agenda, held this time in a lovely Guildhall Mansion from the 16th century.

1999

The Fourth Scientific Congress of the EMN was held in Spain, Canary Islands, on La Laguna and Santa Cruz de Tenerife, from 1st to 4th February. In a wonderful atmosphere and pleasant climate the congress president, holding also the position of the EMN vice-president, Prof. Dr. Luis Gonzales-Feria, welcomed the participants and addressed those present (among them members and colleagues, Exmo. Sr. Presidente del Gobierno Autonomo de Canarias and Exmo y Magnifico Sr. Rector de la Universidad de La Laguna) with the following words (cit. excerpts from his text):

“Every trauma to the nervous system may be considered as a long chain of events starting at the moment the trauma occurs and ending often many months or years later... Prevention, in terms of education of the people and road and car safety, are of utmost importance... Then, there is the speed and quality of first aid administered at the scene of the accident and in the course of transportation... What occurs during the first days after the injury is also critical... Neurotrauma, once the exclusive domain of Neurosurgery, is now shared with Anaesthetists, Intensive Care specialists, Physiologists and specialists of related basic and technical disciplines....”

The central theme for this meeting was therefore:

- *Quality Management in Head Injuries Care.*

The congress topics also included:

- Satellite Symposia on Craniocervical fractures and
- Antiepileptics in neurotrauma.
- In addition, a special meeting of the Working Group on Neurosurgery of the World Health Organisation (WHO) was held and chaired by its president Prof. Dr. Armando Basso. He was involved with campaigns for the prevention of craniocerebral trauma and training programs for efficient medical care in developing countries.

The scientific program itself was divided into three topics:

- Organization and Health Economics in the Management of Head Injuries Care,
- The Management of Frontobasal(ly) Injured Patients,

- Guidelines for Neurotrauma.

The Douglas Miller Memorial Lecture was presented by Prof. Dr. Armando Basso

The lecture by the EMN's Honorary president, H.E. Diemath, on "*Ethics and Morals in Neurotraumatology*" elicited a significant response. In it he addressed the problem of brain-injured patients and the relevant area of *Reanimation and Persistent Vegetative State (PVS)*. The article was later published in the Proceedings of the EMN Congress 1999.

In the same Proceedings Klaus von Wild, the EMN president, informed the readers about the untimely death of Prof. Dr. D. h.c. mult. Jean Brihaye, who passed away shortly after the Congress in February 1999. Brihaye was one of the most outstanding medical personalities of modern Neurosurgery in the 20th century and could be described as the architect of European neurotraumatology. Brihaye published numerous articles and was involved in educational programs as well as the establishing of European standards for neurosurgeons, through promoting and consolidating international contacts.

Selected Abstracts, presented at the Congress were compiled and edited by A.D. Mendelow in *Acta Neurochirurgica – the European Journal of Neurosurgery* - in Volume 142, No. 8, Springer-Verlag 2000.

It is noteworthy that Luis Gonzales Feria succeeded, for the first time, in making the Congress Report from Tenerife available on the Internet.

A most memorable **social event** was organised by the congress president, best described in his own words: "The Academy is not only a Cartesian scientific forum. It is also a place to cultivate the frequently forgotten world of emotions, in the best Daniel Goleman sense - a place to meet friends with common interests, to share new experiences, to savour new food, enjoy landscapes or listen to new melodies, all of which are just as important if we want to be real human beings and all of it better accomplished within a scientific 'family' such as this family of the EMN". There was a lovely day trip by bus to the region of the highest peak de Teide (3712m), well covered in snow. The **gala dinner** with delicious food was followed by an unforgettable music programme consisting of Spanish national melodies and other international 'light' music, arranged for a well-known ensemble from the Canary Islands.

2000

The Fifth Scientific EMN Congress was held in Paris from 20th to 23rd September. It was organised in conjunction with the European Brain Injury Society (EBIS) and with France Traumatism Cranien. A long-standing interest in holding a joint EMN – EBIS conference had existed in the EBIS, especially since the early period of 1998. The very similar aims and intentions of these two associations finally brought them together for this conference, appropriately at the end of ‘the decade of the brain’.

The theme of the conference was:

- *“How to reduce the handicap of severe traumatic brain injury? Quality and cost of re-entry programmes”.*

The Congress president, Prof. Dr. Jaen-Luc Truelle, welcomed the participants from all over the world. In his inaugural speech he went on to elaborate on the title of the scientific meeting, with special emphasis on current day problems.

Several topics were to be presented:

- How can we evaluate the efficiency of these programmes?
- Do they contribute to the reduction of the handicap and to improvement in the quality of life?
- What are the quality and accreditation criteria of a good re-entry unit?
- What is the cost of these programmes? Is it compensated by the economic advantages of an improved re-entry?
- Is the medico-legal expertise adapted to the specificities of TBI?
- Are the amounts and practical consequences of prejudice compensation adequate today?
- Do we, in the long term, handle the specific needs of severe and mild TBI adequately?

The Douglas Miller Memorial Lecture, which was entrusted to Prof. D.N. Brooks, the president of the EBIS, fitted in most suitably with the scientific content of the Congress. Its title was: “ *What is a good Re-Entry Programme? What are the Key Questions (in good rehabilitation)?* (ref.).

Included in the programme was also a lecture presented by E. Letecheur with the participation of the journalist Mrs. E. Chevrillon: *The Patient's Experience After TBI*. This proved to be very instructive as well as an emotionally moving story.

Several excellent lectures followed, concerning evaluation after TBI. Cohadon (Bordeaux) spoke on *Mending Structures, Regaining Functions*. Kraus (Los Angeles, USA) discussed *Differences in International Patterns in the Epidemiology of TBI*, Neugebauer presented a paper on *How to Assess the TBI's Quality of Life* and De Vrieze (Gent, Belgium) contributed with a talk on *How to Communicate with the Head Injured and their Family*.

Forty lectures in three lecture rooms ran concurrently for two days. At the same time there were 51 posters presented.

It was at this congress that the group of experts on post TBI Quality of Life decided to enlarge the project concerning the need

Towards a specific quality of life tool after traumatic brain injury

remembering Marguerite Yourcenar's saying in *Les Mémoires d'Hadrien*: »Do not forget that despite one's feelings, a human life is not only a strait-line between two perpendiculars, but three lines which are either convergent, divergent or crossing each other: what an individual wanted to be, what he thought he had been and what he (actually) was.«

At the EMN presidium and members' meeting, the new **Honorary Members** formally admitted were: Prof. Anne-Lise Christensen, Neuropsychologist from Gentofte in Denmark, Prof. George A. Zitnay, Ph.D., president of the International Brain Injury Association from Charlottesville, Virginia, USA and Prof. Dr. Alexander N. Konovalov, Director of the Burdenko Neurosurgical Institute in Moscow, Russia.

The **social programme** included excursions to Versailles and the Trianon. A visit was paid to the most prestigious residence of all the courts of Europe, built on the orders of Louis XIV in 1661.

The **gala dinner** took place at "Les jardins de Bagatelle" to the music of traditional French songs from the 19th century.

Workshop

Early in the spring of this year, Prof. Dr. Jacque de Reuck (Neurologist) organised a workshop on the “Guidelines in Neuroimaging”. It was well organised and took place in Gent, Belgium, from 14th to 16th April 2000. Besides referring to the guidelines for neuroradiological investigations at different stages following head injury, the conclusions of this meeting referred to the beneficial use of Information Technology, such as Functional MRI studies, in the objective analyses of post-trauma intracranial functional changes, which can provide indications for the earliest possible neuro-rehabilitation.

2001

The Sixth Scientific EMN Congress was held in Moscow, from 14th to 17th May, under the Congress president Prof. Dr. Alexander A. Potapov from the N.N. Burdenko Neurosurgery Institute. Potapov, together with honorary president Alexander Konovalov, in their welcome address spoke of “the Burdenko Neurosurgery Institute’s long standing tradition of collaboration with other scientists and clinicians who are engaged in studying the brain in search of effective treatment for injuries to the nervous system and its aspiration to provide the best medical care for patients with head injuries, starting at the site of the accident and following through to individual re-integration into society...”

A variety of themes and topics were divided as follows:

- *General Questions*
- *Epidemiology and Prevention of Neurotrauma*
- *Pathophysiology and the Principles of Neurotrauma Management*
- *Spinal Trauma*
- *New Technologies*
- *Guidelines for Neurotrauma Management and*
- *CNS Plasticity and Neurorehabilitation*

A handful of the most important neurotraumatological topics presented and discussed, were covered in Konovalov’s report, which opened with a historical overview of Neurotraumatology in Russia.

The beginning of the congress sprang a pleasant surprise for those attending, when it transpired that the president, Potapov, had arranged for a direct link to be made with the international Space station crew in orbit, expedition commander Jury Usachev and two US flight engineers, James Voss and Susan Helms. Potapov congratulated the international crew on the 40th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin’s first flight into outer space and wished them good health, a successful flight and a happy return to Earth. Jury Usachev, the expedition’s commander, then reciprocated from space with best wishes to all the participants for a successful 6th EMN Congress.

The Proceedings of this congress, together with all the most important contributions, were edited by A. Potapov, L. Likhterman and K.R.H. von Wild and eventually published at the N.N. Burdenko Neurosurgery Institute in 2002 (ref.).

The **social programme** was wonderful and varied. The organising committee arranged a three-day trip to St. Petersburg (where part of the congress took place) by way of a fast night train from Moscow. Visits to several castles and monasteries were arranged and the friendly atmosphere was enhanced by vodka and caviar, not to mention plentiful Russian gastronomic fare. Also, most interesting were visits to the Pushkin Museum, the Hermitage and other smaller galleries."

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Workshops

Two workshops were organised under EMN auspices during 2001. The first of these was on *Early Neurorehabilitation following acute brain disaster*. Speakers from various European countries presented their views and experiences in team management (holistic approach - the most important condition for best treatment results). A comprehensive overview of the concepts, strategies, state of the art and results were discussed and it was stressed again that only a multidisciplinary approach can lead to a final optimal outcome. The meeting took place in Maribor, Slovenia, from 29th to 31st March and was chaired by Matej Lipovšek (Neurosurgeon).

The second workshop was on *Microdialysis in Neurointensive care* at the Clemenshospital, a teaching hospital of the Medical Faculty in Münster, Germany, on 29th November. It was arranged by Klaus von Wild (Neurosurgeon), Ralf Scherer (Anaesthetist) and chaired by Bernd Hoffmann (Neurosurgeon). The main goal was for experts in the field to meet and discuss the advantages, as well as the pitfalls, of intracranial measurement encountered during stages of treatment at the ICU. Since intracranial monitoring is a "must do" procedure, whenever the basic criteria and the technical equipment are at one's disposal, it is important to stress that such procedures should always be performed with an interdisciplinary approach. Only in that way can secondary intracranial complications be diminished or avoided.

2002

The Seventh Scientific Congress of the EMN was held in Newcastle from the 26th to 29th June. The venue was St. James' Park, home of the Newcastle United Football Club. As the congress president, Prof. Dr. A. David Mendelow (Neurosurgeon), put it: "Newcastle is a lively, cosmopolitan city noted for its warm and friendly welcome. This is a fitting venue in which to celebrate teamwork, something that has underlined the success both of the EMN and the Newcastle United football team!"

The main topics were:

- *Evidence Based Neurotrauma, followed by sessions*
- *Spinal and Experimental studies*
- *Imaging and Monitoring in Brain Injury*
- *Organisational, Legal and Ethical Aspects of Brain Injury,*
- *Rehabilitation and*
- *Driving*

Two posters sessions "Meet the Experts" were designed/chaired sessions with the commentary relayed by simultaneous video link into the main auditorium. The contents of the twenty posters were published in the Proceedings.

The Douglas Miller Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Graham Teasdale. An excellent overview of the current state of Neurotrauma and research was presented.

At the Presidium and subsequent members' meeting, new members were admitted. The **Honorary Membership** was conferred on Prof. Dr. Giorgio Brunelli, Prof. of orthopaedics from Brescia, Italy.

It should be mentioned that at the Newcastle Congress certain deficiencies were noted which will required rethinking and some degree of reorganisation. The EMN Presidium set up a Scientific Advisory Board, whose responsibility would be to advise the Presidium and Executive Committee on questions important for the functioning of the EMN with respect to:

- A framework to which every congress president would adhere, fixed dates for deadlines and
- Better interaction between the executive and the congress committees.

Mendelow assured that publications of Abstracts of the contributions were available at the start of the congress. Selected abstracts were published in *Acta Neurochirurgica* (Wien) 2002; 144: A1 – A4.

The editors of the Proceedings “*Evidence Based Neurotrauma*” (A.D.Mendelow, I.R.Chambers, P.J.Crawford, B.A.Gregson, M.A.Barnes and K.R.H. von Wild) produced a so called »white book« and made it available before the EMN Congress in Graz a year later.

2003

A memorable **Eighth EMN Scientific Congress** was held from 21st to 24th May in Graz, Austria and chaired by Prof. Dr. Hans Tritthart, the EMN Vice President (Neurosurgeon and Intensivist). The venue was the Grazer Congress Convention Centre, practically in the middle of the old town.

The congress president, Klaus von Wild, welcomed the participants on the first evening before the start of the scientific programme and, at the Presidium and members' meeting, called on all present to observe a minute's silence in memory of Prof. Nils Lundberg who had passed away in 2002.

Due to the relative uncertainty of the financial budget, something perpetually facing every congress president and his team, Tritthart was compelled to announce that the organisation committee could not afford to publish the "White Book" of Proceedings, which has generally appeared after most of the EMN congresses. His idea was, therefore, to publish just accepted abstracts, in order that young people should gain some benefit from attending the Congress. These contributions were then published in *Acta Neurochirurgica* (Wien) editors Hans Tritthart, David Yates and David Mendelow; 2003 145: 1135-1148.

The main theme of the congress was:

- *Age and Neurotrauma*

subdivided into:

- Neurotrauma in childhood (Epidemiology and prevention, Biomechanical and anatomo-clinical correlations, Management of paediatric neurotrauma),
- Neurotrauma in advanced age (Neurotrauma in patients on anticoagulants, chronic subdural haematoma),

Spinal cord injury:

- Rehabilitation and
- Free communications.

At this meeting several useful recommendations were put forward by the Presidium members. Further collaborative work was planned with other societies since the work between the EBIS and the EMN, in promoting the subject of QOL after TBI, had been shown to be effective. Equally, the activities

embarked on with the European Federation of Neurological Societies, EFNS, (Jacque De Reuck) are expected to be fruitful (see the workshop below).

An important discussion took place regarding the quality of oral presentations, the publishing of contributions and the role of younger members (researchers) who are part of every EMN congress. The Scientific Committee, it was decided, should be responsible for the professional standards of the contributions and the criteria for selection should be left to the Congress president and to this committee. Jacque De Reuck prepared the proposals concerning guidelines for future EMN congresses (see attached file).

The Douglas Miller Memorial Lecture was given by Marek Czosnyka Ph.D, DSc, University of Cambridge Clinical School, Department of Surgery, on *Brain pressure* - a topic which had been of longstanding interest to Douglas Miller himself and close to his heart.

The **social programme** included a reception at the »Schloss Eggenberg«, given by the Governor of Styria. The participants used the old tram to reach the castle where an interesting exhibition was on display viz. the relationships between various languages - reminiscent of the Old Testament story of the Tower of Babel. The **gala dinner** was served in the »Schlosstaverne« castle restaurant.

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Workshop

The workshop on “Spinal Cord Injury” was organised by Jaque De Reuck in conjunction with the EFNS in Helsinki, from 30th August until 2nd September 2003. This successful meeting was chaired by Klaus von Wild and Volker Dietz. (details not available).

2004

The Ninth Scientific EMN Congress was held in Bucharest, Romania, from 19th to 22nd May. The congress president and the EMN vice president, Prof. Dr. Alexander V. Ciurea extended a warm welcome to participants from all over the world.

The Presidium meeting took place at the Crown Plaza Hotel on the first day. The changes proposed concerned members of the Presidium and were accepted and confirmed by unanimous vote at the General Assembly of the EMN members' meeting on the same day. Members of the new EMN Presidium were elected as follows:

Honorary Presidents:	Hans Erich Diemath Klaus von Wild
President:	David Mendelow
Vice presidents:	Hans Tritthart Jean-Luc Truelle Jacques De Reuck
Present Congress President:	Alexander Ciurea
Incoming Congress President:	Andrew Maas
General Secretary:	Jan-Peter Jantzen
Secretary:	Angelika Mautes
Historian:	Matej Lipovšek
Treasurer:	Andreas Unterberg
Second treasurer:	Jaana Sarajuuri
Chairman of the Scientific committee:	Edmund Neugebauer

The main theme of the EMN programme was:

- *Traffic Accidents*

The accompanying topics were:

- *Accident prevention and social cost of brain (TBI) and spinal cord trauma (SCI)*
- *Multidisciplinary approach to traffic accidents: the role of neurosurgeons, neurologists and orthopaedic-trauma physicians*
- *Neuropsychological sequel after brain and SCI,*
- *Recent results in experimental TBI and SCI and neuroprotection*
- *Ethical issues of brain death and donor possibilities.*

The Congress included a workshop on *Quality of Life after Neurotrauma*. It was chaired by Jean-Luc Truelle, with co-chairs Andrew Maas and Eddy Neugebauer.

A.V. Ciurea made most of the presentations available in the form of abstracts at the beginning of the congress. Publication from the congress, however, will be submitted to *Acta Neurochirurgica* in the *European Journal of Neurosurgery* and also the *Romanian Journal of Neurosurgery*, in English.

The Douglas Miller Memorial Lecture was presented by Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ali Raja from Pakistan, who was trained in England and subsequently went on to develop neurosurgical services in his own country. It was interesting to learn how he established first, a neurosurgical department and later, a complete network of neurosurgical services in Pakistan. As always, in any country, the primary need was for neurosurgical diagnostics, treatment and management of head injuries. Ali Raja was called upon to provide such a service in Pakistan and spent many years persevering in this pioneering mission of educating younger physicians - in surroundings very different from those in Europe - eventually with success.

After the congress, in June 2004, the new EMN president, Prof. Dr. David Mendelow from Newcastle, England, addressed every single EMN member by letter. In it he again thanked Klaus von Wild, the past EMN president for his dedication and successful leadership of the EMN from its very beginning and expressed the hope that as the newly elected honorary president, von Wild would continue to serve the EMN in the same way that Hans Erich Diemath had been doing for many years. Mendelow then, addressing the members of the dedicated Presidium, went on to propose the way forward. Vice President Jacques De Reuck, with his knowledge of functional brain imaging using PET scanning and his connections with other European neurological organisations would continue to provide the EMN with valuable advice. Prof. Hans Tritthart, the Vice President, a most committed colleague, would work on maintaining stability in the organisation. Prof. Jean-Luc Truelle, as third Vice President, would be engaged in the evolution of the EMN towards incorporation with other European societies and, as representative of the EBIS, towards the eventual amalgamation of the two organisations.

Mendelow's special mentions were for retiring members of the Presidium. He thanked Luis Gonzales-Feria for his dedication and his memorable conference in Tenerife, Anne-Lise Christensen for promoting the role of Neuropsychology in the EMN, Matej Lipovšek for recording the historical events and Alexander Potapov for organising an outstanding congress in Moscow in 2001. The congresses, said Mendelow, remain the lifeblood of the EMN. The viability of

the organisation depends upon its executive members and the EMN relies for its progress and expects much from the General secretary Jan Peter Jantzen and the secretary Angelika Mautes. Financial stability rests on the shoulders of Andreas Unterberg who, together with Jaana Sarajuuri as second treasurer, has presented a balanced and prudent budget for 2003/2004. He concluded his letter with these words: »I thank you all and hope that I can serve you well as your new president.«

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Three **scientific meetings** were organised in the year

- At the end of March 2004, Klaus von Wild chaired the “5th International Symposium on Experimental Spinal Cord Repair” and the 1st Academia Multidisciplinaria Neurotraumatologica (AMN) Congress in Brescia, Italy. The contributions were subsequently edited by Klaus von Wild and published in the Supplement of Acta Neurochirurgica (Wien) in March of 2005.
- The 76th European Trauma Congress in Prague, 16th – 19th May 2004
- The 8th Congress of the EFNS on Quality of Life after Neurotrauma, in Paris 4th – 7th September 2004. The organisers were Klaus von Wild, Jean-Luc Truelle and Franz Gerstenbrand.

The 10th Anniversary of the EMN

“The EMN has through the years aimed at promoting the overall best outcome for head and spinal cord injured patients and their successful return into everyday life. One of its most important tasks has been to promote the readiness of medical staff and other experts in post-trauma care, to work as a team in particular situations, whether in hospital or later during the rehabilitation period. To achieve this, however, a well co-ordinated programme was required in order to avoid un-necessary treatment measures, which cause additional stress to patients and their families, as well as unnecessary socio-economic costs. The yearly EMN congresses have given incentives for even more intensive cooperation on a multidisciplinary basis. Clearly such extensive programmes and obligations require wider attention and assistance, from the European Union in particular, for the financing of research projects. It is the EMN’s aim to develop a durable basis for assignments in Europe, which as yet has vastly disparate economies. It would be in the interest of the European Community to achieve a balance between the countries within the Union, so that those members of the Euroacademy from economically underprivileged European countries are enabled to participate actively in our common efforts.” These were some of the thoughts Klaus von Wild expressed in his talk on “*A better chance for head and spinal cord injured patients*” in Moscow 2001.

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