

Report of the 1st ESO-ESMINT-ESNR Stroke Winter School

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The 1st ESO-ESMINT-ESNR Stroke Winter School was held in Bern, Switzerland from the 4th to 7th of February 2014. The local organizing committee were Prof. Jan Gralla, Prof. Heinrich Mattle, PD Dr. Pasquale Mordasini and PD Dr. Urs Fischer. They were actively supported by Lynn Gasser, Martin Zbinden and Helena Gerber.

The first difficult task was to select 40 participants from many more applicants, but eventually 40 enthusiastic young doctors – 20 pairs of rising neurologists and neuroradiologists - arrived in Bern from 13 different countries: UK, Serbia, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Croatia, Italy, Austria, Denmark, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, and the Netherlands.

The primary aim of the first ESO-ESMINT-ESNR Stroke Winter School was to bring together young European stroke physicians and neuroradiologists in order to enhance interdisciplinary management of patients with acute ischaemic stroke.

The Stroke Winter School started on the 4th of February 2014 with the welcome of the president of the European Stroke Organisation (ESO), **Prof. Michael Brainin**, the president of the European Society of Minimal Invasive Neurological Therapy (ESMINT), **Prof. Christoph Cognard**, and the chairman of the Interventional Neuroradiology Section of the European Society of Neuroradiology (ESNR), **Prof. Michael Söderman**. Prof. Michael Brainin opened the session with a presentation on the global burden of stroke.

The 32 speakers (11 from EU, 21 from Switzerland) including neurologists, interventional and non-interventional neuroradiologists, neurosurgeons, internal medicine specialists, anesthesiologists, rehabilitation specialists led challenging discussions. The teaching program included 39 lectures and 8 tutorials. The main focus of the lectures was interdisciplinary treatment of acute stroke. There were sessions on acute stroke imaging, acute treatment strategies including endovascular approaches, stroke treatment in difficult circumstances and needs to set up an interdisciplinary stroke center. In the afternoon tutorials were given separately for neuroradiologists and neurologists. Neuroradiologists had the opportunity for structured hands-on teaching on endovascular procedures with animal models and management of complications of endovascular treatment. In addition, they were taught the clinical examination (NIHSS) by neurologists. Neurologists could learn neuroangiography on a model and were taught CT and MRI interpretations by neuroradiologists. Both groups visited the stroke unit and had interdisciplinary case discussion.

A special highlight for the interventional neuroradiologists were the hands-on teaching sessions with the animal model. Small groups of 5 participants were given the opportunity to perform diagnostic angiography and endovascular treatment procedures such as thrombectomy with multiple devices.

During the Stroke Winter School a faculty meeting was held with members of the ESO, ESMINT and ESNR in order to discuss future common strategies to enhance the quality of stroke management. Topics were guideline papers, studies, potential joint conferences and workshops.

During the Stroke Winter School participants and faculty had three joint dinners to favour socialization.

The following sponsors contributed to the realization of the stroke winter school: Covidien, Stryker, MicroVention, Penumbra, Daichii-Sankyo, Codman, and Bayer.

The local organizing committee thanks all the invited speakers for giving time and efforts to the winter school, for coming to Bern, and for delivering high quality lectures. Their interest and passion to teach the upcoming generation of neurologists and neuroradiologists was clearly visible.

After the success of this 1st ESO-ESMINT-ESNR Stroke Winter School there will be a 2nd ESO-ESMINT-ESNR Stroke Winter School from the 3rd of February 2015 to the 6th of February 2015 in Bern!

