

14th ESO Stroke Summer School



27th of June to 3rd of July 2010, Warsaw, POLAND

Course report and evaluation

The 14th European Stroke Organisation Stroke Summer School was held between 27th of June and 3rd of July 2010 in Warsaw, Poland. We were fortunate to hold the event in the Gromada Hotel with all participants and speakers accommodated in the place allowing easy communication between teachers and trainees. The venue was located in the city centre with easy access to most touristic sites and easy connections to social event places. We also enjoyed lovely warm summer during whole week.

Participants and faculty members

We have received almost 100 applications, most of high standard. Following Bylaws of the ESO Stroke Summer School we needed to limit the number of participants to ensure the effective educational character of the meeting. After considering current professional status, career intentions, publications, recommendation and place of work (Europe being favoured), 45 applicants from 23 countries were selected by a panel of two assessors.

We would like to take that opportunity to thank once again all speakers who agreed to come and support the meeting. International faculty was really very notable with 19 leading European stroke experts accompanied with 10 Polish clinical leaders.

Programme

We started at 9 am each morning (although some participants started a bit earlier with hands-on workshop using the EV3 Solitaire stent on a flow model in virtual reality which was available for three mornings) and ended the sessions around 5.30 pm.

The program covered the following burning issues in stroke medicine: epidemiology and risk factors, including genetic aspects, diagnosis of stroke (including symptomatology, pathology and diagnostic techniques i.e. neuroimaging, neurosonology), acute stroke treatment (special focus on thrombolysis and other pharmacological and non-pharmacological revascularisation strategies) stroke care organisation, stroke prevention, stroke complications and sequelae, rehabilitation and stroke research methodology. Lectures lasted

45 minutes, including discussion, and were very well appreciated by participants who also found them very practical as many case reports were presented. On Saturday students were visiting Neurorehabilitation Unit and had a chance to familiarize with cognitive function exercises used in stroke patients treatment.

Most participants arrived on Sunday and took part in the Welcome Reception that evening. The social program was very loaded as on Monday we took part in a piano concert of Chopin masterpieces provided in a charming Porczynski's Gallery, following by a Get-Together party on Wednesday with typical Polish cuisine, visit to Frederick Chopin Museum on Thursday and Farewell Party in Brewery Restaurant with dancing till late night. Only on Tuesday afternoon participants were free to explore the city.

Evaluation

We received back 38 evaluation sheets similar to the ones used previously for EUSI/ESO Stroke Summer Schools, asking each delegate's opinion on organisation, selection of topics covered, time allowed for discussion, whether the course was adequately clinically orientated and their overall satisfaction.

Scoring of excellent/very good for following questions was noted:

- organisation: 29/8
- selection of topics: 14/21
- time for discussion: 18/14
- course adequately clinically orientated: 32/5
- social programme: 26/11
- overall satisfaction: 27/9.

Most delegates stress the valuable scientific programme picking some especially interesting and well prepared presentations. They were also happy with localisation and social events provided. We received many comments like along the lines of "excellent speakers and speeches, a beautiful town with nice people".

Comment from the organisers

We feel honoured to have hosted this event – all the speakers and participants. We also used opportunity to increased awareness of stroke. Professors Hacke, Lees and Michel had short enouncement on stroke as an important cardiovascular disease during short news of Stroke Summer School broadcasted in day news service in Polsat television.

As some not-qualified applicants complained about the qualification process a more standardised process with direct involvement of ESO should be considered.

The organisers are grateful to the ESO, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bayer Schering Pharma, Allergan and Sanofi-Aventis for their generous support.

Local Organisers:

Anna Członkowska

Maciej Niewada

Adam Kobayashi

Iwona Sarzyńska-Długosz

Marta Skowrońska

A list of participants and faculty members can be found on the website www.stroke-warsaw2010.pl as well as the full programme, all presentations in form of pdf downloadable files, photo gallery, who is who on below attached photo, and much more.

