

## Meeting Report: The 16<sup>th</sup> ESO Stroke Summer School 25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> of June, 2012 in Debrecen

### Background

The ESO Stroke Summer School is an annual educational course initiated by the European Stroke Initiative in 1997, where well-known experts in the field of stroke from all over Europe speak about and discuss up-to-date selected topics with young stroke physicians. The Summer School is organized each year by a different team of stroke physicians in a European city, and is endorsed and partially supported by the ESO. This year's 16<sup>th</sup> ESO Stroke Summer School took place between June 25 and 30, 2012, and it was hosted by the Department of neurology of the University of Debrecen. The chairman of the Department Professor László Csiba has a long tradition of stroke research and treatment (19% lysis rate). The course coincided with the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of Debrecen. The complete program of the Summer School can be found on the summer school website <http://eso-sss-2012.med.unideb.hu/>.

### Participants

The Local Organizing Committee chose 39 participants from over 70 applications from 25 countries. The participants all came from Europe, from 21 countries: Belarus 1, Croatia 1, Czech Republic 2, Denmark 1, France 2, Georgia 1, Germany 1, Greece 2, Israel 1, Italy 4, Lithuania 2, Netherlands 3, Poland 3, Portugal Serbia 1, Slovakia 1, Pain 2, Sweden 1, Switzerland 2, Ukraine 1, United Kingdom 4. Seventeen of them are men and 22 are women. As the participants were expected to contribute actively to the course, the Local Organizing Committee asked them to prepare a short presentation about an interesting stroke case from their department. Case presentations were held on Wednesday afternoon.

### Program

The participants arrived on Sunday evening and were invited to a welcome reception where the details of the course and some practical information were shared over a sandwich buffet dinner. There were some new features introduced to the Summer School this year. It was the first year that the entire course was streamed via the Internet, with 200 access points. Also the course contents were recorded by Infill company in order to provide it for the European Stroke University. To facilitate the active participation of course attendees an interactive wireless, decision making system was established. The participants evaluated (using the voting system) also the presentation of lecturers (the individual result has been sent to the lecturer after the course). Throughout the week lecturers used interactive questions to probe the participants' level of awareness. At the end of the week individual performance of the participants was also evaluated and the following results were found:

1st place: Liliana Isabel Pereira (Portugal)

joint 2nd place: Diana Aguiar de Sousa (Portugal), David Carrera (Spain), Massimiliano Toscano (Italy)

Throughout the course the whole array of stroke management was covered starting from recent advances in basic stroke research and ending with state of the art diagnostic and therapeutic interventions and rehabilitation measures. Neurologists, neuroradiologists, neurosurgeons, rehabilitation specialists and cardiologists from 12 European countries discussed their views with the participants. Main topics were the interdisciplinary treatment of acute ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke, TIA, stroke prevention and rehabilitation. A particular highlight was the case presentations offered by the participants.

Apart from the ongoing lectures at day there was time to network and get to know each other during the social programs held in the evenings. There was a guided tour to see the historical sights of Debrecen, there was a visit to the medical historical museum and there were several dinners where lecturers and participants were able to get a taste of Hungarian food and hospitality.

The closing session of this year's summer school was given by Professor Csiba who gave some subjective thoughts on the delicate relationship between patients and physicians. He urged the participating young neurologists to rely on their senses, knowledge and common sense as opposed to leaving everything to the high technology diagnostic systems. László Csiba expressed his special thanks to Judit Zsuga (one of the main local organizers), Gergő Hofgart and Enikő László for their extraordinary organizational work and tireless activity.

#### Evaluation

The participants were asked to give feedback using the interactive system. (see enclosed)

Feedback from the students, ESO Summer Course 2012, max. score for every item: 10

Accommodation	8,61
Food	8,07
Social	9,23
Scientific content	9,12
Quality of the lectures	9
Overall	9,5

#### Acknowledgements

We the local organizers would like to express our gratitude for being able to organize the 16<sup>th</sup> ESO Stroke Summer School at the Department of Neurology in Debrecen. We would like to thank the speakers, who gave their lectures enthusiastically and free of charge, for their tremendous efforts

and academic excellence. We were also delighted by the very active and cheerful group of participants who made this summer school a memorable event. Financial support was granted by the ESO executive board, and by the following sponsors: Boehringer-Ingelheim, Bayer Healthcare, EV3 the University of Debrecen, Euromedic. Logistic support was given by the University of Debrecen.

