2nd European Stroke Science Workshop
21-23 November 2013, Garmisch-Partenkirchen/Germany

110 European stroke specialists gathered at the Hotel Eibsee at Garmisch-Partenkirchen from November 21 to 23 to discuss recent clinical and research issues on ischemic stroke and cerebral hemorrhage. The occasion to meet was the second European Stroke Science Workshop (ESSW) organized by the ESO (Heinrich Mattle, Chairman, Michael Brainin, Angel Chamorro, Ken Lees, Didier Leys, Patrik Michel). The format of the workshop was similar to the first ESW two years ago. We chose the same venue at the Hotel Eibsee on the borders of the remote Eibsee below the peak of the Zugspitze, and invited a limited number of outstanding European stroke specialists and two dozen young stroke physicians, all leading stroke academics and promising young neurologists. The workshop started with a special lecture on ‘Cohort studies, multivariate, propensity score analyses, and randomized trials: what they tell us and what they don’t’ given by Peter Jüni and a get-together on Thursday evening. Friday and Saturday were filled with 7 sessions on advances in immunology of acute stroke, neurovascular imaging, endovascular treatment of acute stroke, carotid artery disease, small vessel disease, cerebral hemorrhage and unresolved issues with anticoagulants and antiplatelet agents. Each session began with a keynote lecture followed by 4 or 5 short presentations with recent scientific findings and scientific questions. After the presentations there was ample time for discussion that was vividly used by most participants. A summary of the workshop will be published like after the first ESSW 2 years ago (Cerebrovasc Dis. 2012;34(2):95-105 or Stroke. 2012 Sep;43(9):e81-8).

The goal of the workshop was to facilitate scientific exchange on a high level and create opportunities for European cooperation in research. Opportunities for discussion and social interactions were not only used during the scientific sessions but also during the break times and in the evenings. Some sportive participants were also using the lunch break on Friday for a brisk walk or for jogging around the Eibsee. Overall, this 2nd ESSW was an exciting and memorable event that tied or renewed bonds of friendship and collaboration among European stroke specialists.

Heinrich Mattle
Chairman European Stroke Science Workshop