

Report of the third ESO ESMINT ESNR Stroke Winter School

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The 3rd ESO ESMINT ESNR Stroke Winter School was held in Bern, Switzerland from the 9th to 12th of February 2016. The local organizing committee were Prof. Jan Gralla, PD Dr. Pasquale Mordasini and Prof. Urs Fischer and they were actively supported by Regula Aebischer, Michela Mordasini and Helena Gerber.

Even though the local organizing committee increased the number of participants from 40 participants in 2014 and 2015 to 60 this year, there were more than 140 applications for the Stroke Winter School. Therefore, we had the very difficult task to select 60 participants out of 140 candidates, but eventually 60 enthusiastic doctors – 35 neurologists and 25 neuroradiologists - arrived in Bern from 19 different countries: UK, Netherlands, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Mauritius, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey.

The aim of the third ESO ESMINT ESNR Stroke Winter School was bringing together European stroke physicians and neuroradiologists in order to enhance interdisciplinary stroke management of patients with an ischaemic stroke.

The Stroke Winter School started on the 9th of February 2016 with the welcome of the president elect of the European Stroke Organisation (ESO), **Prof. Valeria Caso**, the president of the European Society of Minimal Invasive Neurological Therapy (ESMINT), **Prof. Istvan Szikora**, and the committee chair of the Interventional Neuroradiology Section of the European Society of Neuroradiology (ESNR), **Prof. Olav Jansen**.

The 33 speakers (14 from EU, 19 from Switzerland) including neurologists, interventional and non-interventional neuroradiologists, neurosurgeons, and rehabilitation specialists led challenging discussions. The teaching program included 30 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 interactive teaching sessions in small groups on technical aspects of endovascular procedures and the management of complications of endovascular treatment. Neurologists 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. Small groups of 5-6 participants were given the opportunity to perform thrombectomy procedures with different devices and approaches on an animal model for acute vessel occlusion using radio-opaque autologous blood thrombi. Additionally, the effect of various histological thrombus compositions on different thrombectomy techniques could be studied by the participants in an illustrative in-vitro flow model of the cerebral vasculature. Furthermore, several simulators were provided for hands-on training for diagnostic angiography and different endovascular revascularization procedures.

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. Main focus was the foundation of an European Stroke Network, further topics were guidelines, 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: Medtronic, Stryker, MicroVention, Penumbra, Daichii-Sankyo, Johnson-Johnson/Codman, Siemens, Neuravi, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bayer, Balt, vascularmedica, and 1a medical ag.

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.

There will be a 4th ESO ESMINT ESNR Stroke Winter School in Bern in 2017 and the date will be announced soon!



Faculty and participants of the 3rd ESO ESMINT ESNR Stroke Winter School in Bern