EFNS Teaching Course Vitebsk, Belarus, June 11-12, 2004

Main organizer:

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PROGRAMME

Detlef Kömpf, Lübeck, Germany: The oculomotor system: why do we move our eyes? Eye movement disorders in neurology

Michael Donaghy, Oxford, United Kingdom: The motor neuron disease

Pavel Adam, Prague, Czech Republic: Prion CNS diseases

Michael Nedzvedz, Mins, Belarus: Spongiform encephalomyelopathy in Belarus

Michael Donaghy, Oxford, United Kingdom: Neurological examination

Detlef Kömpf, Lübeck, Germany: Common oculomotor disorders, complex oculomotor symptomatology in the beside examination

Pavel Adam, Prague, Czech Republic: CSF diagnostics of neuroinfective diseases

Erich Schmutzhard, Innsbruck, Austria: Acute bacterial meningitis

Erich Schmutzhard, Bettina Pfausler, Innsbruck, Austria: Cronic meningitis (with emphasis on CNS tuberculosis)

Michael Gavriliuc, Chisinau, Moldova: Neuroboreliosis

Erich Schmutzhard, Bettina Pfausler, Innsbruck, Austria: HIV associated CNS infections

Mark Khmara, Minsk, Belarus: Chronic herpetic neuroinfections
From the Final report:

The second EFNS Teaching Course in Belarus took place in Vitebsk, at Vitebsk Medical University 11-12 June, 2004. Six experts - European neurologists as well as some well-known Belarusian specialists were nominated by the EFNS and Belarusian Scientific Society of Neurologists to participate in the Teaching Course as invited speakers. About 150 participants from Belarus, Moldova and Russia have come to participate in the event. There were different categories of specialists: residents, researchers, practicing neurologists, lecturers of medical universities from Minsk, Vitebsk, Grodno, Gomel and other cities, and there were young neurologists from the different regions of the country first of all. The Teaching Course structure corresponded to a broad spectrum of interest in our specialists. The main topics of the Teaching Course were certain degenerative disorders, neuroinfections and neurological examinations.

The Teaching Course materials were multiplied for all participants and some of them were translated into Russian to facilitate the comprehension of information. We are planning to further distribute our materials on CD among our colleagues.
The general opinion of our participants is that the Teaching Course was a great success. It was highly appreciated by our neurologists not only in regard to questions of special interest, high level of experts and their presentations but as well as in regard to its comfortable atmosphere and possibilities to meet each other again and continue such important personal and professional contacts. The participants could discuss wide range of special questions with the European experts and to get acquainted with EFNS activities.

In addition to the main program our guests visited some memorial places of the well known artist of the XXth century Mark Chagal in Vitebsk. The information about the Teaching Course appeared repeatedly in newspapers and TV-programs. It was the second EFNS Teaching Course in Belarus and this time the majority of our participants were ready to a greater extent to such a form of education activities. Unfortunately it was difficult to organize workshop sessions in small groups of specialists because the total number of our participants exceeded our expectations.

We would like to express our gratitude to EFNS for its generous support in the organization of our EFNS Teaching Courses on Clinical Neurology in Belarus. We are very thankful to the coordinators of this project Professor Pavel Kalvach, EFNS Executive Director Elisabeth Müller and all the other colleagues from Educational and Teaching Course Committees, the EFNS Management Committee. We would like to express our gratitude to all our speakers for their efforts, their active participation in our program and excellent presentations.