

2013 Vienna, Austria

11. WCN world congress of neurology, vienna 2013, Vienna, Austria, 21 - 26 September 2013

Fostering quality neurology and brain health worldwide by Eduard Auff and Wolfgang Grisold

This year the World Congress of Neurology (WCN) will take place in Vienna from September 21-26. It is a great event for world neurology, Europe and Austria. The WCN takes place in 2-year cycles and leaps from continent to continent. The last WCN took place in Africa; South America will be the host in 2015.

The Austrian Society of Neurology successfully applied for this congress: It won the bid at the official vote at the WFN Congress in Bangkok at the WFN Delegates' meeting in 2009. – With its bid for Vienna, the Austrian Society had previously received EFNS's support from among several European contestants at the EFNS congress during the EFNS Council meeting in Madrid in 2008. Since then the Austrian Society of Neurology has been continuously working towards the goal of making the WCN2013 in Vienna a success.

WCN 2013 will be a joint venture of the Austrian Society of Neurology, the EFNS as the regional European society and of the World Federation of Neurology. As such it will be a great event as the world will meet with Europe and Austria at an excellent congress facility.

Historically the WCN has already been taking place in Vienna in 1965 and in 1991 the EFNS has been founded in Vienna, too. In both events Professor Franz Gerstenbrand was active, once as a committee member, then as the founder of the EFNS.

The motto of the congress is: Neurology in the Age of Globalization

The expectation is that European neurology will meet the world. The congress will offer an excellent scientific programme, several types of teaching courses throughout the congress, meetings of many committees, interest and research groups of the WFN, the EFNS and the Austrian society, and above all many opportunities of personal exchange during the meeting as well as in the city of Vienna – with its hospitality and cultural events.

The scientific programme and the teaching course programme has been developed jointly with the WFN, the EFNS and the Austrian Society of Neurology. The intention of all the committees has been to provide the best possible scientific programme, with international, European and Austrian flavour. [Link to the WCN Programme](#)

The teaching courses will be taking place throughout the whole congress, and will contain basic courses, courses directed at consultants, and also hands-on workshops. A few advanced teaching courses will aim to fill the gap between clinical neurology and basic neuroscience.

The congress networking programme will include an opening reception, and a classical concert in the Golden Hall of the Wiener Musikverein as well as a farewell evening at a traditional Heurigen will be offered to the participants. Sightseeing tours and visits to

the famous cultural sights in and around Vienna will be available for booking at the congress site at your own disposal.

By attending WCN 2013 you will earn CME points, as this congress will be accredited by EACCME (www.uems.net) as well as by the AMA. This highly reputable recognition will be offered on site.

We believe that this congress will be a unique opportunity for European neurology to host world neurology and develop future synergies. The logo of the WFN is to foster neurology: “Fostering quality neurology and brain health worldwide”. Looking at many areas of the world neurology needs support from the WFN and EFNS.

We hope that you will find the WCN 2013 programme attractive. We also hope that you will be actively contributing to this event, and we are eagerly awaiting your abstract. [Link to the WCN Abstract submission page](#)

For continuous and more detailed information please follow the World Federation of Neurology or the World Congress of Neurology 2013 websites and also the social media on this topic. We hope that you will be actively participating in the WCN 2013, and make this joint congress of the WFN, the EFNS and the Austrian Society of Neurology a worldwide success.

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The World Congress of Neurology 2013 Report by Wolfgang Grisold

From September 21 – 26, 2013 the WCN 2013 took place in Vienna. This year’s biannual meeting of the WFN was a joint meeting with the Austrian Society of Neurology (OeGN) and the European Federation of Neurology (EFNS). The modern and spacious centre of the “Reed Messe” had enough space for many meetings of all participating societies. The WFN also fostered meetings of the neurological subspecialties in order to provide a worldwide cooperation and synergy for neurology. For the EFNS it was the last congress before the Joint EFNS-ENS congress next year. It closed the historic link of EFNS congresses, which started in Vienna in 1991.

The programme was developed in close cooperation with all organising societies by joint chairs of the scientific committees and the teaching course committees.

6400 Participants from 135 countries attended and visited both, the scientific sessions with teaching courses and satellite symposia as well as other congress related activities. Special fees of attendance were provided for participants of low income countries. The participants appreciated the excellent public transport in Vienna, and the ambience of the congress venue.

The excellent scientific program was preceded by a lecture of Nobel laureate Erik Kandel, who in his lecture „the age of insight“ gave an excellent insight into the development of neuroscience and neurology around the turn of the last century. Erik Kandel not only managed to explain the development of neurology, but attached this history to contemporary art and artists.

The topics of the scientific programme were preceded by excellent morning lectures, and comprised the main topics of neurology. Some of the topics were hosted jointly with subspecialties and the WFN. Many of the scientific topics were followed by free papers, which gave some insight into the development in subspecialties. The poster sessions were evaluated by a faculty and for each topic a poster prize was awarded.

The teaching courses were well attended, and took place on all days of the congress. As a principle, teaching courses of main topics were placed to precede the main topic in the scientific session. The concept of daily free teaching courses was continued, and also hands-on courses and “soft” topics such as teaching, palliative care, patient advocacy (a joint course with the AAN), how to write papers were included and emphasize that the role of teaching in neurology by far exceeds the scientific topics, but also has to aim at skills and advocacy, in order to provide better patient care. As at the previous meeting the concept of „hands-on“ courses was continued.

The young neurologist had a specific teaching course and a successful visit of the Vienna University Clinic took place.

For the first time the WCN included a patient day, which aimed at the Austrian patients for local reasons, and was well prepared by press and media. All presidents either gave introduction (Prof. Hachinski and Prof. Hughes) or even participated with a lecture (Prof. Auff) to emphasize the importance to devote lectures and topics to patients. Chosen topics were stroke, MS, Parkinson’s disease and brain tumours. A vivid question & answer session followed each topic, and emphasized the need to communicate with patients and carers.

Satellite symposia were sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry, well attended, and without exception given by excellent speakers. Industry and the pharmaceutical industry provided a much appreciated sponsoring, and the exhibition provided good opportunities for communication.

Press and publication

The WCN 2013 made an impact in press and publications. Press conferences, interviews, press clippings were provided on initiative of the Austrian Society of Neurology and made worldwide impact in press clippings, reports and interviews. This aspect of media presence is important for neurology, and helps to raise the awareness for neurological diseases not only locally but worldwide. All accepted abstracts are published in the JNS which is a quotable source for all attendants (J Neurol Sci).

The WCN not only provided an excellent programme but was also the perfect venue of personal exchange in a formal and informal way and also celebrated the Tournament

of the Minds which gave a good stage for the worldwide knowledge and competition, combined with an element of show event.

What remains in the memory of a congress participant? In addition to an excellent programme, and the exchange of knowledge and introduction of new scientific developments, often the social programme “sticks” in the memory: the dynamic opening with short and poignant speeches and a surprising flash mob was followed by a get-together. The highlight was the concert at the Vienna Musikverein, which was the site of world premiere of a waltz composed by the WFN president Vladimir Hachinski. Finally a traditional Viennese Heuriger gave leisure and pleasure of an informal Austrian meeting with Austrian wine, food and networking.

It was a pleasure to have you in Vienna, and on behalf of the ÖGN, WFN and the EFNS we want to thank you for your contribution.

But, the show goes on and the next WCN will be taking place in South America in Santiago de Chile in 2015. Be prepared, and visit!

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