Commemorative Session
1991-2015
25 years of Neurodiab

Enduring friendship
A legacy for the future

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First Part

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25-year Neurodiab history: facts and figures

Foundation of Neurodiab in response to needs in the field of diabetic neuropathy of

• addressing the challenge of advancement in knowledge and research results;
• exchange and discussion between researchers;
• translation of results from basic to clinical field;
• debate between peers from Europe and beyond.
The idea of a study group on diabetic neuropathy of EASD grew in a meeting on diabetic neuropathy hosted by Jean-Raymond Attali in Versailles in the end of 1989 among John Ward, Guido Menzinger, and Arnold Gries.

Guido Menzinger wrote an exploratory letter to Pierre Lefebvre Chairman of EASD outlining the reasons for the request:

“a successful experience with a study group on diabetic neuropathy of the Italian Society of Diabetology”, as well as the profitable activity in other countries in the same field

“progress in understanding of neuropathy in the last decade in large measure due to European investigators”

“many drugs are being proposed and a forum for the evaluation of different therapeutic approaches is urgently needed”

“questions concerning the epidemiology and regional distribution and differences, such as for painful neuropathy”

“the availability of new imaging techniques potentially useful in assessing peripheral and central nervous system”

“the time is ripe to start an official study group on Neuropathy”
Publications on Diabetic Neuropathy in last decades

Number of publications

10-year rate of increase in publications (%)

Source: Web of Science Thomson Reuters
The rise in research results in Diabetic Neuropathy in Europe

In Europe already in 1970’s innovative results in autonomic neuropathy by many groups: PJ Watkins, DJ Ewing, JD Ward, PK Thomas, NJ Christensen, J Jakobsen, J Hilsted, G Sundkvist, B Neubauer, FA Gries and others.

“Things changed completely when Timothy Wheeler and Peter J. Watkins published their studies on cardiac denervation in diabetes (1973). Colleagues in my team (Ivan-Josef Cicmir and others) began similar studies and tried to test other autonomic functions. In 1978 we invited all the scientists we knew who had studied the brain or the neurological system in diabetic organisms to come to an international Symposium on Aspects of Autonomic Neuropathy in Diabetes in Düsseldorf (published in 1980)”

Arnold Gries
Planning meeting in Düsseldorf 15 December 1990 with the participation of 23 researchers:

• approval of the first Executive Committee: Guido Menzinger as Chairman; Arnold Gries as Vice-Chairman; Jannik Hilsted as Secretary; John D. Ward as Member; Peter Watkins as Member.

• approval of the draft of the By-laws.

Formal approval of the European Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group of EASD (NEURODIAB) and its By-laws by EASD

The first annual meeting in Cork in 1991
Neurodiab’s cornerstones

• To recognize and give value to the interdisciplinary nature of diabetic neuropathy;
• To introduce and safeguard a format for oral presentations with ample space for debate and the exchange of ideas and experiences;
• To preserve autonomy in the choice of subject matter under discussion;
• To guarantee the right balance between experimental and clinical presentations;
• To encourage the participation from Eastern Europe.
Neurodiab Logo

1991

2011
Neurodiab’s 25-year history: achievements

Production and promotion of research in the field of diabetic neuropathy
• creation of a vibrant network,
• fruitful exchange between different specialties,
• fitting context to discuss innovative and preliminary results
• forum for debate
• educational and financial support for young people
Number of Presentations at Neurodiab Annual Meetings

Number of Presentations

* In conjunction with the International Symposium of Diabetic Neuropathy (ISDN)
° Joint meeting with the Diabetic Foot Study Group (DFSG) of EASD

NA: not available
Neurodiab: a network and a forum

From a scientific viewpoint, it is a wonderful opportunity to network and learn directly from the world’s leading scientists in the field.”
Mitra Tavakoli

“The annual Neurodiab meetings were ideal for networking with like-minded scientists and the ideas that are generated and the collaborations that emerge have led to many publications in high quality journals.”
Solomon Tesfaye

“Neurodiab .. an extremely valuable forum to bring together students and faculty from broad backgrounds - discovery research, basic science, clinical medicine and clinical research – actually interacting together in a relaxed atmosphere ..
Bruce Perkins

“Neurodiab has led to international collaborations that have helped my career tremendously...”
Vera Bril
### Neurodiab: support to young people

#### Winners of Young Investigators’ Award

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Geert Jan Biessels</td>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rayaz A. Malik</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Oliver Schnell</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Boris Mankovsky</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Tamás T. Várkonyi</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Satyan Man Rajbhandar</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Sanne Manschot</td>
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<td>Caroline Ann Abbott</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Ineke Brand</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Mitra Tavakoli</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cristian Quattrini</td>
<td>UK, Italy</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Dinesh Selvarajah</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Zsuzsanna Putz</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
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### Preclinical Science

(named after Angelika Bierhaus in 2012)

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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Nigel Calcutt</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Andrea Vincent</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Natalie Gardiner</td>
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