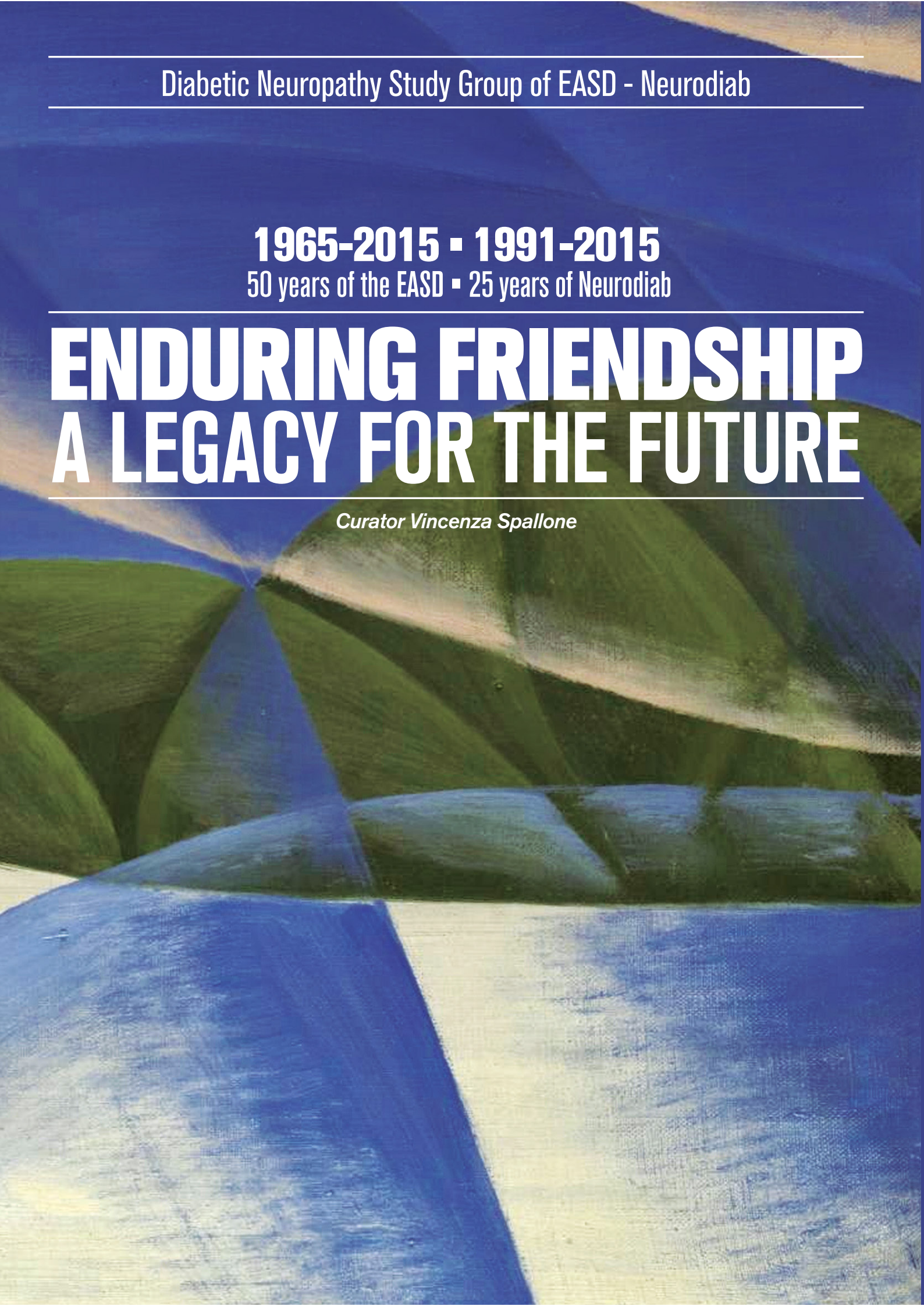

Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group of EASD - Neurodiab

1965-2015 - 1991-2015

50 years of the EASD ▪ 25 years of Neurodiab

ENDURING FRIENDSHIP A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE

Curator Vincenza Spallone

The background of the entire page is an abstract painting. It features large, curved, overlapping shapes in shades of green and blue. The brushstrokes are visible, giving it a textured, painterly appearance. The colors transition from a deep blue at the top to a lighter, almost white-green at the bottom.

1965-2015 ▪ 1991-2015
50 years of the EASD ▪ 25 years of Neurodiab

**Enduring friendship.
A legacy for the future**

Curator Vincenza Spallone

Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group of EASD - Neurodiab

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Forewords

Foreword of the Neurodiab Chairman



Henning Andersen
Chairman, Neurodiab

DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

in 1991 the first Neurodiab meeting was held in Cork, Ireland, and since then there has been annual meetings where clinicians and scientists have gathered to discuss and present studies and share experiences about all aspects of diabetic neuropathy. It has been known for centuries that diabetic patients are prone to characteristic nerve disorders, but not until Neurodiab was established has there been a possibility for dedicated people, interested in diabetic neuropathy, to meet regularly. Since the beginning the annual Neurodiab meeting has always been the premier scientific event on diabetic neuropathy, where clinicians and experimental investigators in the field of diabetic neuropathy meet from all over the around the world. At every meeting the main focus has been to share and discuss new developments in the field of diabetic neuropathy in a friendly, but highly scientific atmosphere. Always, the meetings have been held in an atmosphere enabling younger researchers to talk and discuss with older and more experienced colleagues.

It is my great pleasure to write a foreword to this publication issued on the occasion of the 25th anniversary meeting in the Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group (Neurodiab) in Elsinore, Denmark. The preparations of this book have demanded a great deal of effort and I am very thankful to professor Vincenza Spallone for her dedicated and outstanding contribution in writing this book and I will gratefully acknowledge her for gathering all this material. Also, I would like to acknowledge all other members and participants for their contribution to this book. This book is a celebration of our past and also an inspiration for our future. For many years this book will be our common history, explaining to future generations how it all began.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of you who are dedicated to diabetic neuropathy for our common 25th anniversary. We are looking forward to the years to come with hopes for a much better understanding of this debilitating chronic diabetic complication. Hopefully, in a gathered effort we will soon identify new and much more effective treatments that will benefit the vast number of patients suffering from diabetic neuropathy.

Aarhus, August 2015
Henning Andersen

Foreword of the EASD Chairman



Andrew JM Boulton
MD, DSc (Hon) FACP,
FICP, FRCP

President, European
Association for the
Study of Diabetes

Professor of Medicine,
University
of Manchester

Consultant Physician,
Manchester Royal
Infirmary

IN APRIL 2015 THE EASD CELEBRATED 50 YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE: the founding meeting was held in Montecatini, near Pisa in Italy and one of the founding members was Professor Pierre Lefèbvre of Liège, Belgium, later President of the EASD (1989-1992). Coincidentally, it was exactly 25 years later that Professor Pierre Lefèbvre, then President of EASD, received a letter from Professor Guido Menzinger in which it was explained that at a meeting in Versailles, France in December 1989, together with Professor John Ward (Sheffield, UK) and Professor Arnold Gries (Dusseldorf, Germany), Menzinger had brought up the idea of setting up a European study group on diabetic neuropathy. This letter, dated March 1990 was received by Professor Lefèbvre a few days later and was favourably responded to and later discussed by the Council of the EASD at the annual meeting in Copenhagen, September 1990.

A preliminary meeting was later held at the Hotel Nikko in Dusseldorf at which I was honoured to attend as an active clinical researcher in the field of diabetic neuropathy. Throughout the existence of Neurodiab, there has been a very strong cooperation and collaboration both with the EASD Executive Committee, and also the officers working at our headquarters in Düsseldorf. It is a particular pleasure therefore for me to write these words having been one of the founding members of Neurodiab, and currently holding the office of President of the EASD. I can reliably inform you that Neurodiab is one of the most active study groups and it is always a pleasure to receive the annual reports from this very prominent study group. As Vice-President of EASD from 2008-2011, I had responsibility for the clinical study groups which included Neurodiab and I can reliably tell you that of all the clinical study groups, we always had an excellent representation at our annual meeting where the officers of EASD meet with study group officers. The activities of Neurodiab are well known to many members of the Association and I am sure have had a major impact on promoting research in the area of the diabetic neuropathies. It is always a pleasure to attend the meetings and see the rich mix of both basic and clinical research that is presented and the quality of presentations at Neurodiab meetings is always extremely high.

It has been a pleasure for me to have been a member of Neurodiab since its inception some 25 years also and I remember well the first full

meeting organised by Professor Guido Menzinger at the Silver Springs Hotel in Cork in Ireland from September 9-10, 1991. Indeed I remember speaking at a session at that meeting on the Sunday morning on the topic of diabetic neuropathy and the St Vincent Declaration and the need for a simple definition of neuropathy. Interestingly, having recently been involved in revising the American Diabetes Association Position Statement on the Diabetic neuropathies, it seems that we are still a long way from having a very simple definition of neuropathy, but Neurodiab has contributed so much to both basic and clinical research in neuropathy and I simply hope that it goes forward in promoting quality research, both clinical and basic and that the second 25 years are as successful as the first, thanks to all the officers who have kept this study group not only active but going from strength to strength.

Manchester, August 2015
Andrew JM Boulton

Preface of the Curator

To remember, to honour, to thank, to be inspired, to pass legacy



Vincenza Spallone
Past Secretary
of Neurodiab

WHEN HENNING ANDERSEN ASKED ME TO PREPARE a small commemorative publication as a celebration of the 25th anniversary of Neurodiab's foundation, accepting came natural. I have followed all the meetings from the first in Cork in 1991, I helped Guido Menzinger in his years of Chairmanship, I was Secretary for 6 years from 2003 to 2009. I feel like a sort of living archive, at least for a consistent part of Neurodiab's history.

I must admit the task turned out to be tougher than I expected: searching original documents, getting contributions from the protagonists and members, handling them with care and respect, selecting the photos, organizing the technical aspects, and trying to combine high objectives with low availability of time, energy (and resources).

It was hard work, but still I am so glad I had this opportunity. I am truly grateful to Henning for this. Going through Neurodiab documents, memories, anecdotes, and photos was a source of inspiration – and, at times, it gave me a good laugh. Proudness came together with gratitude, nostalgia blended with hope. So many emotions, warm memories of my youth, of wonderful places, of friends.

And I had the chance to re-discover the impressive scientific value of this organisation, throughout its history. I think all who have participated in this experience will agree that everyone involved showed greater freedom and unselfishness than in most national contexts, more openness to the contribution of young researchers and of people from other countries. We have all had the feeling to be part of a genuinely Europe-based scientific community, dedicated to the study of diabetic neuropathy and to improving the lives of its sufferers.

I must thank all who contributed: this book would not be possible without their support and their stories. I hope this book can be testimony to at least a small fraction of Neurodiab's patrimony, to its original idea, and to the achievements obtained together. It is dedicated to past, present, and mostly future members of Neurodiab.

Rome, August 2015
Vincenza Spallone

Neurodiab



II UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA

CATTEDRA DI MALATTIE DEL RICAMBIO

Direttore: Prof. GUIDO MENZINGER DI PREUSSENTHAL

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Prof. Pierre Lefebvre
Centre Hospitaliere Universitaire de Liege
Service de Diabetologie, Nutrition et Maladies Metaboliques
Domaine Universitaire du Sart Tilman
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Roma 8/3/90

Dear Pierre,

During the recent meeting on diabetic neuropathy in Versailles, we have discussed with Dr. J. Ward and Prof. F.A. Gries the idea of a European Study Group on Diabetic Neuropathy.

My experience in founding and coordinating for some years the group for the study of Neuropathy of the Italian Society for diabetes has been most satisfactory. The group has been quite successful in expanding the interest for neuropathy among diabetologists and promoting an active cooperation between diabetologists neurologists and other specialists such as urologists, gastroenterologists and students of the autonomic nervous system.

I think that a European Study Group would be even more successful both on account of the multiplying effect of a larger milieu, and of other considerations:

a) The great progress in the understanding of neuropathy and especially autonomic neuropathy in the last decade is in large measure due to the efforts of european investigators.

b) Many drugs are being proposed or are about to be proposed for the treatment of neuropathy and a forum for the evaluation of different therapeutic approaches is urgently needed.

c) Many questions concerning the epidemiology of neuropathy and the influence of environmental factors could be approached through an evaluation of regional differences. One such question is for instance the precise course and prevalence of painful neuropathy.

d) Many new techniques are available for the study of peripheral neuropathy which should receive an intensive evaluation. Many important techniques now available such as NMR, PET, CAT have not been intensively applied to the study of peripheral neuropathy and of the possible involvement of the CNS in diabetes.

e) The intensive market pressure which causes the concern underlying point b, on the other hand should make it easy to obtain adequate funding for the operation of the group.

I think therefore that the time is ripe to start an official study group on Neuropathy of the EASD, and if you approve of the idea I wonder whether you would like to raise the question in the Executive Council of the EASD.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely

Figure 1. The letter sent by Guido Menzinger to the President of EASD, Pierre Lefebvre, to present the proposal of a new EASD study group on diabetic neuropathy (provided by courtesy of Dan Ziegler)

The birth of Neurodiab

IN A MEETING ON NEUROPATHY ORGANIZED BY JEAN-RAYMOND ATTALI on 30 November-2 December 1989 in Versailles, Guido Menzinger and John D. Ward discussed the idea of an EASD study group on neuropathy and asked F. Arnold Gries to come in on the project (Figures 1-3).

A preliminary meeting was hosted by F. Arnold Gries in Düsseldorf on 15 December 1990: Peter Watkins and Jannik Hilsted joined the organization.

The founding meeting with the participation of 23 researchers (Figure 4) approved the Executive Committee: Guido Menzinger as Chairman; Arnold Gries as Vice-Chairman; Jannik Hilsted as Secretary; John D. Ward as Member; Peter Watkins as Member.

Draft of the by-laws was agreed on and sent to the EASD for approval of the study group, which would take the name European Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group of EASD, NEURODIAB.



The Tales of Protagonists

Some memories of my interest in diabetic neuropathy and the beginning of NEURODIAB.

"When I was a student of medicine in the 1950s, we were told that neuropathy was a complication of diabetes. We learnt to ask our patients about their symptoms and to test their muscular reflexes. A decade or so later, I heard of various other neurological symptoms, but I was too young to study them systematically. 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 as a supplement of Hormone and Metabolic Research by Thieme-Stratton Inc., New York) (Figure 5). After this stimulating event, the team of Ivan-Josef Cicmir and even more so Dan Ziegler's team continued to study diabetic neuropathy.

If I remember correctly, in the first years of EASD meetings diabetic neuropathy was not a regular topic. Despite this, however by 1990, we knew each other quite well. I think it was at the EASD meeting in Copenhagen (??), that one lunchtime John Ward called us together to make plans for the future. We decided that we

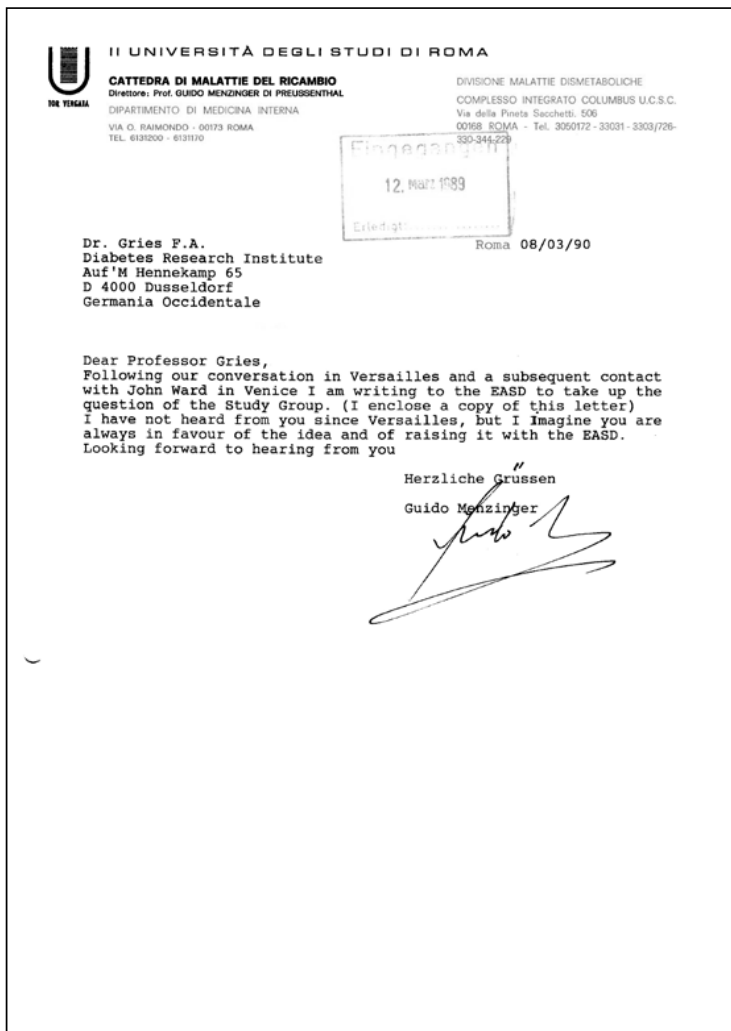


Figure 2. The letter sent by Guido Menzinger to Arnold F. Gries to share the proposal of a study group on diabetic neuropathy (provided by courtesy of Dan Ziegler)

should found a study group of EASD, where we could present and discuss the results of our studies. Guido Menzinger had already established correspondence with the President of EASD, Pierre Lefebvre (Figure 1), who encouraged us to submit a report of our latest activities and nominate the officers of the group. This was the beginning of a wonderful friendship.

Five of us were willing to organize the group (Guido Menzinger, Chairman; F. Arnold Gries, Jannik Hilsted, John Ward, and Peter J. Watkins). The study group was very successful. The friendship persists until now. Not all of us are still healthy and active. However, successful young people make the group as attractive as ever."

F. Arnold Gries



"In a very hot summer as Neurodiab Chairman

I laboured to produce a draft of the bye-laws which was approved with minor changes by the Executive Committee and sent to the EASD for approval. The name (Neurodiab - Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group of EASD) and various drafts of the logo were suggested by my co-worker Luigi Uccioli. I submitted the name and the chosen logo to the Executive Committee. The Neurodiab study group was then approved by the EASD.

In the first meeting in Cork (1991) I insisted that the discussion times should be equal to the times of presentations in order to ensure a lively interchange and encourage the younger members to join in. This rule was approved by the Executive Committee and observed in all subsequent meetings, contributing to the success of the Study Group.

It was also decided that members of Neurodiab and presenting authors should receive free registration and accommodation from the organizing committee; this encouraged younger members and those from less affluent countries to participate.

The second and third meetings were in Bratislava and Istanbul, respectively...

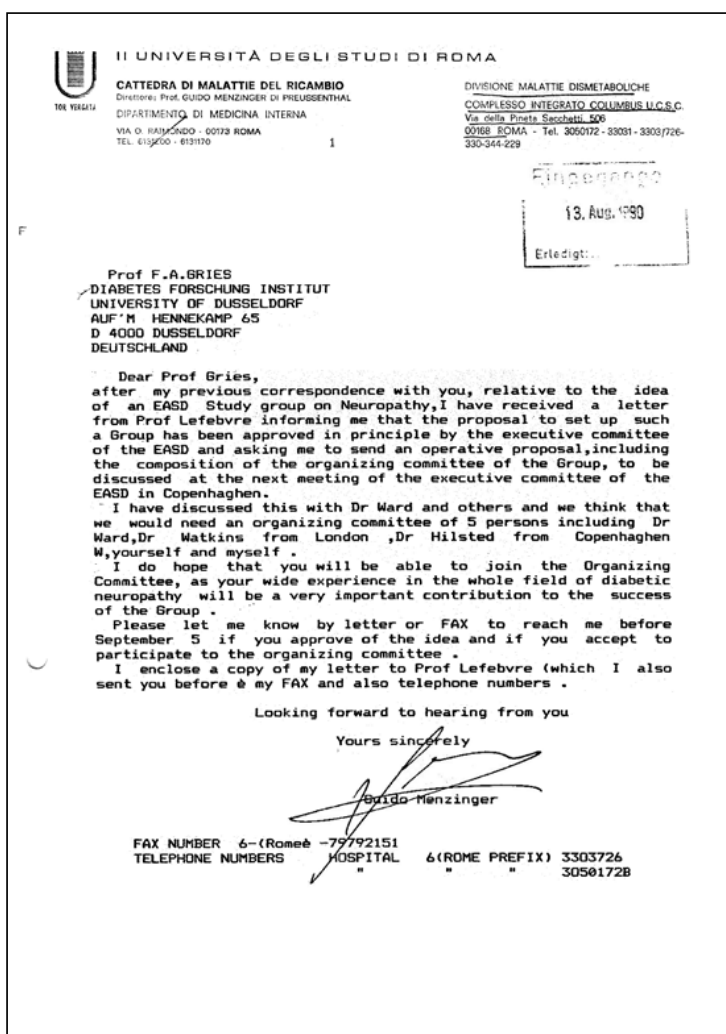
For some organizational reason I was asked to chair Neurodiab until the meeting in Düsseldorf where I left the chairmanship in the very prestigious and efficient hands of Arnold Gries while I was elected Secretary and so continued to have a full involvement in the running of the Group, always helped by the very dedicated work of my co-worker Vincenza Spallone.

Figure 3. A second letter sent by Guido Menzinger to Arnold F. Gries to communicate the preliminary acceptance by EASD of the proposal of a study group on diabetic neuropathy and finalize a common strategy for a formal request to EASD (provided by courtesy of Dan Ziegler)



On leaving the chair I was happy to leave a very lively scientific group, with a solid structure and a particularly open and friendly atmosphere. For all this I was most grateful to the Executive Committee within which we had a most satisfactory cooperation through all the most rewarding, if occasionally difficult, years, and especially to the constant lucid, support and encouragement of John Ward, the very friendly and illuminating cooperation of Peter Watkins, Jannik Hilsted, and the solid authority of Arnold Gries (a curious note in the composition of the Executive Committee was the presence of two English catholics, one Danish catholic, one Italian catholic and a German lutheran).

The status of Neurodiab was increasing and we were asked to produce a State of the Art Symposium for the EASD Meeting in Düsseldorf in 1994. The main lines were discussed at the Istanbul EASD meeting by myself with F. Arnold Gries and Michael Berger of the EASD Organizing Committee. The Symposium included after my introduction, presentations by David Tomlinson on the biochemical pathogenesis of diabetic neuropathy, by Dan Ziegler on diagnosis, staging and epidemiology, by me and Simona Frontoni on the symptomatic treatment of autonomic neuropathy, by P.K. Thomas on painful diabetic neuropathy, and a round table on diabetic neuropathy treatment with John Ward, K.F. Hansen, H.M.J. Krans, and Solomon Tesfaye. The Symposium was very well received, to the satisfaction of the EASD. The Editor of Diabetes Nutrition and Metabolism,



the official journal of the Italian Society of Diabetology, accepted to publish the Symposium in full.

The subsequent meetings were in Stockholm, Baden, Noordwijkerhout and Sitges. With the Sitges Meeting in 1998 I concluded my 8-year engagement in the founding and running of Neurodiab, with a feeling of gratitude to all members of the Executive Committees and all members of this brilliant scientific group. I feel now a great sense of achievement, seeing how active and flourishing Neurodiab is in its 25th year and how the atmosphere of friendly cooperation, integrity and dedication to our basic and clinical scientific goals, which we worked for at its founding, is unchanged.

Among the US scientists who were a regular and important presence in Neurodiab there was Peter Dick a sort of father figure probably the highest authority in neuropathy in his country, Aaron Vinik whose imaginative and brilliant contributions animated our discussions,

PARTICIPANT LIST	
European Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group	
First planning meeting, Düsseldorf, Dec. 15, 1990	
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Anders Sima, and Vera Brill from Canada. One should also note the constant significant contributions from Nigishi Hotta from Japan. In the course of my engagement in Neurodiab I could follow the rise and fall of a number of promising drugs for the pathogenetic treatment of diabetic neuropathy like aldose reductase inhibitors. We would all have liked to see some form of effective pharmacologic treatment of diabetic neuropathy but this was not to be and we leave it to our successors to find it... perhaps"

Guido Menzinger

Neurodiab – fortification and friendship

"Somewhat to my surprise I received a letter in 1989 from EASD inviting me to join the Executive Committee of a novel study group focusing on diabetic neuropathy. I had not turned forty at the time and considered myself a bit young for at founding father – anyway, I joined a group, which became an important component of my professional life.

The early Neurodiab years were busy defining a structural basic which essentially has been unchanged since then - an annual meeting preceded by one or two Executive Committee

PICIPANT LIST

Neuropathy Study Group
g, Düsseldorf, Dec. 15, 1990

2

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Germany

European Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group

FIRST MEETING, DECEMBER 15TH, 1990, DÜSSELDORF

PROGRAMME

9.45 - 10.00	Address by the chairman of the Study Group
10.00 - 13.00	Round table on future developments in diabetic neuropathy Chairman: <i>J.D. Ward</i>
10.00 - 10.30	<i>D.R. Tomlinson:</i> Pathogenesis
10.30 - 11.00	<i>F.A. Gries:</i> Clinical neuropathy
11.00 - 11.30	<i>J. Hilsted:</i> Autonomic neuropathy
11.30 - 12.00	<i>N. Canal:</i> Involvement of central nervous system
12.00 - 12.30	<i>A.J.M. Boulton:</i> The diabetic foot
12.30 - 13.00	General discussion
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch-break
14.00 - 15.00	General discussion of policy
15.00 - 16.00	Discussion of by-laws
16.00 - 17.00	Other matters
17.00	Closure
approx. 19.30	Dinner, Restaurant "Im Goldenen Ring", Burgplatz 21-22, Düsseldorf-Altstadt

Figure 4. Participant list and programme of the first planning meeting of the rising Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group of EASD (provided by courtesy of Dan Ziegler)

meetings to sort out the practical issues relating to the upcoming meeting.

Guido Menzinger was the first Neurodiab Chairman, and we all owe him much for his enthusiasm and his clear-sighted visions for the group. F. Arnold Gries, Peter Watkins and John Ward also gave great contributions to define the organisation, as we know it today.

Much time has been devoted to create an economic structure that would allow us to see years ahead; this has only partly been possible, yet no meeting has been postponed and I

think we are all grateful to the Executive Committees from the past 25 years, creating the basic for scientific fortification and progress in diabetic neuropathy.

For my own part, I am grateful for 25 years of friendships – joining the annual meeting is like a family gathering. I switched to hospital management nearly two decades ago, and the annual Neurodiab meeting has been an important part of my medical backup. I want to thank you all for inspiration, engagement and joy throughout the years."

Jannik Hilsted

Hormone and
Metabolic
Research

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J. E. Rall, Bethesda

Supplement
Series No. 9

Assistant Editors:
W. D. Hetzel, Ulm
B. Weintraub, Bethesda

Aspects of Autonomic Neuropathy in Diabetes

International Symposium of the German
Diabetes Association, Düsseldorf

Guest Editors:

F. A. Gries
H. J. Freund
F. Rabe
H. Berger

74 Figures
43 Tables

With contributions by

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H. Berger
J. Beyer
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I. W. Campbell
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P. J. Watkins
B. Willms

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New York

Figure 5. Cover of the number of Hormone and Metabolic Research (Supplement 9; 1980) where the Proceedings of an International Symposium of the German Diabetes Association on "Aspects of Autonomic Neuropathy in Diabetes" held in Düsseldorf in 1978 were published (provided by courtesy of Dan Ziegler).

The Mission and the By-laws

IN THE INTENTION OF THE FOUNDERS, NEURODIAB WOULD RESPOND to the challenges represented by growing advancements in knowledge in the field of diabetic neuropathy during the 1980s, both in pathogenetic mechanisms and in assessment techniques, with the appearance of potentially effective treatments. A large part of these results came from European research. The interdisciplinary character of this complication was another strength that led to the conviction that a study group would be the appropriate forum for the presentation of findings, reflections from different points of view, interaction and discussion, and the production of integrated visions and new propulsive ideas.

Everyone involved in diabetic neuropathy research and clinical assistance knows that diabetologists need both in-depth knowledge and up-to-date skills in neurology, cardiology, gastroenterology and so on. In particular, during the early meetings, the priceless value of this comparison and exchange of differing viewpoints, even between preclinical and clinical researchers, was exciting and productive, not to mention the possibility of examining therapeutic advancements in a proper context.

Since the first Chairmanship, some key points defined the vision and cornerstones of Neurodiab's identity: 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; and fundamentally to encourage the participation of colleagues from Eastern Europe.

The First By-laws of Neurodiab

Figure 6 shows the proof of By-laws with the original hand-made changes by Guido Menzinger: those were still the years of the iconic Olivetti typewriter. The by-laws were approved by Executive Committee and then by EASD (Figure 7). Article 4 was amended in 2005 in the General Assembly of the 15th Neurodiab in Porto Heli, Greece. To officially set the number of members of the Executive Committee from 5 to 6, a proposal was made

and accepted. Moreover, the by-laws were further modified during the General Assembly of the 17th Neurodiab in Utrecht, The Netherlands, in 2007, with regard again to article 4 including the position of Honorary Treasurer, in the case of particular needs and on a temporary basis, as an Honorary Member of the Executive Committee.

Another amendment regarding membership and article 3 allowed two new formulas of membership: 1) Associate Membership for persons from Organizations, who are active in diabetic neuropathy and able to facilitate the development of networks between researchers and access to research funds; 2) Honorary Membership for researchers from Pharmaceutical or other companies, who have both contributed to the advancement of diabetic neuropathy and have participated in the activities of Neurodiab. In 2011 to fulfil the requirements of EASD, the by-laws were changed and then approved in its definitive version. Among others, the role of Treasurer as member of Neurodiab Committee was stated and EASD rules for guidelines publication included.



Documents

By-laws: the first version and the subsequent amendments (*in italic the changes*)

1. The Study Group will be known as the EUROPEAN DIABETIC NEUROPATHY STUDY GROUP, it may also be referred to as “NEURODIAB”.
 2. The AIM of NEURODIAB is to promote the advance of knowledge on all aspects of diabetic neuropathy through an active co-operation between interested diabetologists and other specialists such as neurologists, neurophysiologists, urologists, gastroenterologists, etc. In pursuit of this aim it will also encourage appropriate surveys and clinical trials.
 3. MEMBERSHIP of the Group will be open to (a) persons with an academic affiliation (b) members of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes and (c) those actively engaged in research on diabetic neuropathy and related fields, as specified by the Executive Committee. Candidates for membership should present a paper to an annual Scientific Meeting of the Group and subsequently submit their application, with a brief curriculum vitae, to the Committee which will evaluate and propose it if appropriate to the next Business
-

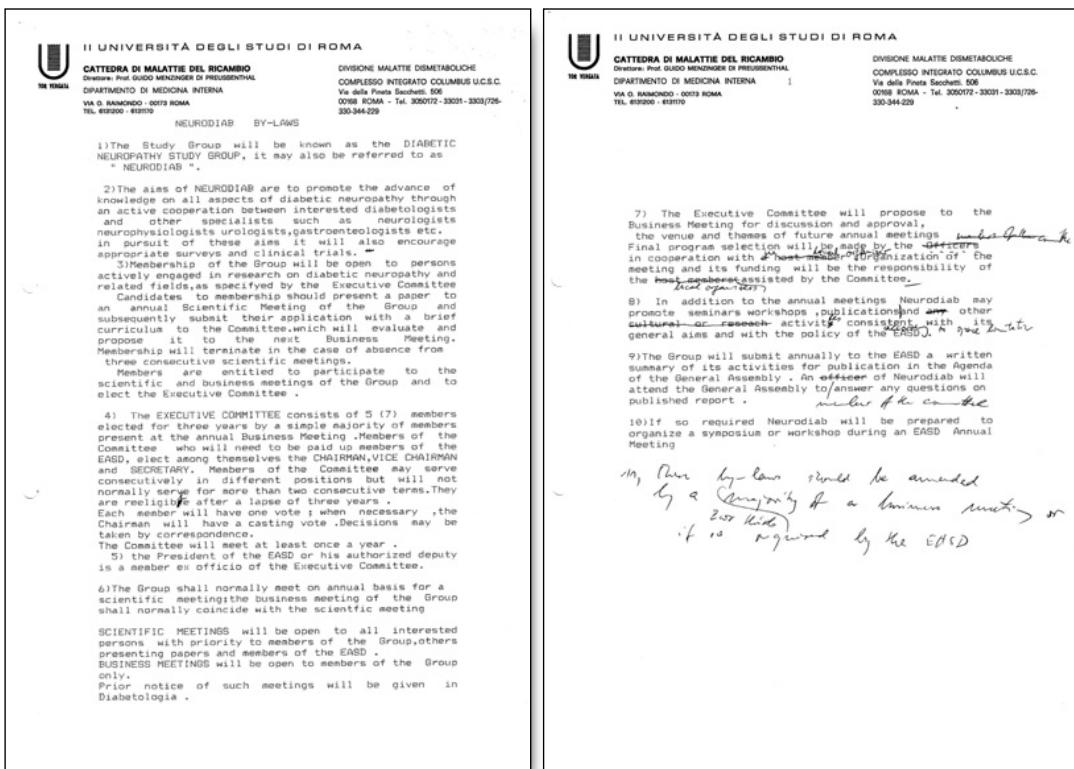


Figure 6. The first draft of the By-laws of Neurodiab (provided by courtesy of Dan Ziegler).

Meeting. Membership will terminate in the case of absence from three consecutive scientific meetings. Members are entitled to participate in the Scientific and Business Meetings of the Group, to vote and to elect the Executive Committee.

4. The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE consists of 5 members elected for three years by a simple majority of members present at the annual Business Meeting. Members of the Committee elect among themselves the CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN and SECRETARY. Members of the Committee may serve consecutively in different positions but will not normally serve for more than two consecutive three-year terms. Members are re-eligible after a lapse of three years. The Committee will meet at least once a year. Each member will have one vote; when necessary, the Chairman will have a casting vote. Decisions may be taken by correspondence. The Executive Committee can co-opt one additional member for a period not exceeding three years if it feels the need for some specific competence.
5. The PRESIDENT of the EASD or his authorised deputy is a member *ex officio* of the Executive Committee.



-
6. The Group shall normally meet on an annual basis for a scientific meeting; the business meeting of the Group shall normally coincide with the scientific meeting. SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS will be open to Neurodiab members and presenting authors of accepted papers. Other investigators in the field of neuropathy will be admitted within the limits of space and logistics with priority to EASD members. BUSINESS MEETINGS will be open to members of NEURODIAB only. Prior notice of such meetings will be given in *Diabetologia*.
 7. The Executive Committee will propose to the Business Meeting for discussion and approval the venue and themes of future annual meetings. Final program selection will be made by the Executive Committee. Organization of the meeting and its funding will be the responsibility of the local organisers, assisted by the Committee.
 8. In addition to the annual meeting Neurodiab may promote seminars, workshops, publications and other activities consistent with its general aims and with the policy of the EASD.
 9. The Group will submit annually to the EASD a written summary of its activities for publication in the Agenda of the General Assembly. A member of the Committee will attend the General Assembly to answer any questions on the published report.
 10. If so required Neurodiab will be prepared to organise a symposium or workshop during an EASD Annual Meeting.
 11. These by-laws may be AMENDED by a 2/3 majority of a Business Meeting having this topic in its agenda, or if so required by the EASD.

Amended version of Article 3 in 2007 with the further sentence:

“MEMBERSHIP of the Group will be open to (a) persons with an academic affiliation (b) members of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes and (c) those actively engaged in research on diabetic neuropathy and related fields, as specified by the Executive Committee. Candidates for membership should present a paper to an annual Scientific Meeting of the Group and subsequently submit their application, with a brief curriculum vitae, to the Committee which will evaluate and propose it if appropriate to the next Business Meeting. Membership will terminate in the case of

absence from three consecutive scientific meetings. Members are entitled to participate in the Scientific and Business Meetings of the Group, to vote and to elect the Executive Committee. *Associate MEMBERSHIP of the Group will be open to persons from Organizations, who for their institutional role are particularly active in or contribute to the research in diabetic neuropathy, and who can facilitate the development of networks between researchers and access to research funds. Honorary MEMBERSHIP will be open to researchers from Pharmaceutical or other companies, who are very active in the field of diabetic neuropathy, have contributed to the advancement of diabetic neuropathy, and have participated to the activities of Neurodiab. The selection of these members is at the discretion of the Executive Committee and does not necessarily require an application.*

Amended version of Article 4 in 2005: ‘The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE consists of 6 members elected for three years by a simple majority of members present at the annual Business Meeting. Members of the Committee elect among themselves the CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN and SECRETARY. Members of the Committee may serve consecutively in different positions but will not normally serve for more than two consecutive three-year terms. Members are re-eligible after a lapse of three years. The Committee will meet at least once a year. Each member will have one vote; when necessary, the Chairman will have a casting vote. Decisions may be taken by correspondence.’

Amended version of Article 4 in 2007: “The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE consists of 6 members elected for three years by a simple majority of members present at the annual Business Meeting. Members of the Committee elect among themselves the CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN and SECRETARY. Members of the Committee may serve consecutively in different positions but will not normally serve for more than two consecutive three-year terms. Members are *eligible for re-election to the Executive Committee* after a lapse of three years. The Committee will meet at least once a year. Each member will have one vote; when necessary, the Chairman will have a casting vote. Decisions may be taken by correspondence.
In the case of particular needs and on a temporary basis, an Honorary Treasurer can also be elected and can serve as an Honorary Member of the Executive Committee.”

Article 12 was added in 2005

12. *These By-Laws were last modified during the General Assembly of the Neurodiab XV in Porto Heli, Greece, on September 2005.*



... And amended in 2006

12. *These By-Laws were last modified during the General Assembly of the 17th Neurodiab in Utrecht, The Netherlands, in September 2007.*



By-laws: the last version

1. The Study Group is called the EUROPEAN DIABETIC NEUROPATHY STUDY GROUP, hereinafter referred to as the NEURODIAB.
 2. The NEURODIAB shall be a Study Group of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes, hereinafter referred to as the EASD.
 3. The aim of the Study Group is to further research and education in diabetic neuropathy through an active co-operation between interested diabetologists and other specialists such as neurologists, neurophysiologists, urologists, gastroenterologists, etc. In pursuit of this aim it will also encourage appropriate surveys and clinical trials.
 4. Membership of the NEURODIAB shall be open to all members of the EASD and such other persons as the committee of the NEURODIAB consider eligible. Officers of the NEURODIAB Executive Committee are valid members of EASD.
 5. With the exception of members who are not members of the EASD, all members may be nominated for any office of the NEURODIAB.
 6. The membership fee (if any) of the NEURODIAB shall be an amount as determined by its Annual Meeting.
 7. Administration of the NEURODIAB shall be in the hands of the NEURODIAB Committee: this Committee should consist of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary as a minimum structure.
 8. An Annual Report of the Study Group activities shall be compiled and sent to the Executive Committee of EASD.
 9. The finances of the Study Group shall be managed at the discretion
-

European Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group

President

Prof. Dr. Guido Menzinger
Dipartimento di Medicina Interna
Divisione Malattie Diabetiche
Complesso Integrato Columbus U.C.S.C.
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Italy
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Fax: 0639/7792151

Vice-President

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F.R. Germany
Tel: 0049/211-3382-200
Fax: 0049/211-99526-

Secretary

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Denmark
Tel: 0045/31 471411

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Dr. Peter J. Watkins
Department of Diabetes
King's College Hospital
Denmark Hill
London SE5 9RS
UK
Tel: 0041/71 326 3241

NEURODIAB BY-LAWS

1)The Study Group will be known as the **EUROPEAN DIABETIC NEUROPATHY STUDY GROUP**, it may also be referred to as "**NEURODIAB**".

2)The **AIM** of **NEURODIAB** is to promote the advance of knowledge on all aspects of diabetic neuropathy through an active cooperation between interested diabetologists and other specialists such as neurologists, neurophysiologists, urologists, gastroenterologists, etc. In pursuit of this aim it will also encourage appropriate surveys and clinical trials.

3)**MEMBERSHIP** of the Group will be open to persons actively engaged in research on diabetic neuropathy and related fields, as specified by the Executive Committee. Candidates to membership should present a paper to an annual Scientific Meeting of the Group and subsequently submit their application, with a brief curriculum, to the Committee which will evaluate and propose it, if appropriate to the next Business Meeting. Membership will terminate in the case of absence from three consecutive scientific meetings. Members are entitled to participate in the Scientific and Business Meetings of the Group, to vote and to elect the Executive Committee.

4)The **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** consists of 5 members elected for three years by a simple majority of members present at the annual Business Meeting. Members of the Committee, who will need to be paid up members of the EASD, elect among themselves the **CHAIRMAN**, **VICE CHAIRMAN** and **SECRETARY**. Members of the Committee may serve consecutively in different positions but will not normally serve for more than two consecutive three year terms.

1

European Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group

They are reeligible after a lapse of three years. The Committee will meet at least once a year. Each member will have one vote; when necessary, the Chairman will have a casting vote. Decisions may be taken by correspondence.

5)The **PRESIDENT** of the EASD or his authorized deputy is a member ex officio of the Executive Committee.

6)The Group shall normally meet on an annual basis for a scientific meeting; the business meeting of the Group shall normally coincide with the scientific meeting.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS will be open to neurodiab members and presenting authors of accepted papers. Other investigators in the field of neuropathy will be admitted within the limits of space and logistics with priority to EASD members.

BUSINESS MEETINGS will be open to members of **NEURODIAB** only.

Prior notice of such meetings will be given in *Diabetologia*.

7)The Executive Committee will propose to the Business Meeting for discussion and approval the venue and themes of future annual meetings.

Final program selection will be made by the Executive Committee. Organization of the meeting and its funding will be the responsibility of the local organizers, assisted by the Committee.

8)In addition to the annual meeting Neurodiab may promote seminars, workshop, publications and other activities consistent with its general aims and with the policy of the EASD.

9)The Group will submit annually to the EASD a written summary of its activities for publication in the Agenda of the General Assembly. A member of the Committee will attend the General Assembly to answer any questions on the published report.

10)If so required Neurodiab will be prepared to organize a symposium or workshop during an EASD Annual Meeting.

11)These by-laws may be **AMENDED** by a 2/3 majority of a Business Meeting having this topic in its agenda, or if so required by the EASD.

2

Figure 7. The first By-laws of Neurodiab

of the Committee in pursuit of the aims of the Study Group (Para. 3 above). Proper books of account shall be kept by the **NEURODIAB** Treasurer.

10. Should the Study Group wish to engage in publication involving guidelines or statements, the EASD Panel for Overseeing Guidelines and Statements must be contacted beforehand.

11. The group may cease to be the **NEURODIAB** Study Group of the EASD either by a decision at the Annual Meeting of the **NEURODIAB**, or by a decision of the Executive Committee of the EASD.

12. In the event of the **GROUP** being dissolved, all surpluses, debts and liabilities shall be discharged to a charitable diabetes account after agreement from the EASD executive.



Figure 8. The first and new logo of Neurodiab



The Neurodiab Logo

GUIDO MENZINGER CHOSE THE FIRST NEURODIAB LOGO AMONG SOME alternatives proposed by Luigi Uccioli within his team. It represents the European countries where most Neurodiab participants were expected to come from.

The logo was changed in the 2011 under the Chairmanship of Rayaz A. Malik to acknowledge the new worldwide scenario of Neurodiab with relevant contributions from countries not only from Europe but also from the West and the East and the idea of multiple fluxes and influences from different parts of Asia and the Americas

Figure 9. Images from Executive Committee Meetings



Neurodiab Executive Committee meeting in Munich 2004: Peter Kempler and Eva, Mary Cotter, Norman Cameron, Vincenza Spallone, Paul Valensi and Joëlle (provided by courtesy of Paul Valensi)



Neurodiab Executive Committee meeting in Rome 2005: Mary Cotter, Vincenza Spallone and Paolo, Norman Cameron, Geert Jan Biessels and Carla, Peter Kempler and Eva, Paul Valensi and Joëlle (provided by courtesy of Geert Jan Biessels)

Neurodiab Executive Committees

THE ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN OF VITAL IMPORTANCE in the life of Neurodiab. The Chairman and Executive Committee decide the place, the topics, the programme of each annual meeting, and the general strategy, including fundraising to guarantee the affordability of the meeting and support for younger investigators.

The Executive Committee used to meet once a year in a European city to review the scored abstract submitted for the next annual meeting, to define its programme, including symposia, to address the technical organisational aspects, to decide the winners of the Young Investigators Awards, to evaluate new membership applications, and for other possible issues. For participants those meetings were also an opportunity to live together for a brief period and to enjoy each other's company (including wives and husbands) and to forge meaningful friendships (Figure 9).

Neurodiab Executive Committee meeting in Utrecht 2006: Paul Valensi, Eva and Peter Kempler, Solomon Tesfaye, Carla Biessels



Neurodiab Executive Committee meeting in Budapest 2007: Mary Cotter, Norman Cameron, Carla and Geert Jan Biessels, Peter and Eva Kempler, Vincenza Spallone



Neurodiab Executive Committee meeting in Utrecht 2006: Solomon Tesfaye and Carla Biessels



Neurodiab Executive Committee meeting in Sheffield 2008: Vincenza Spallone with Paolo and Geert Jan Biessels with Carla (provided by courtesy of Geert Jan Biessels)



List of 25 years Neurodiab Executive Committees

1991: Guido Menzinger (Chairman), F. Arnold Gries (Vice-Chairman), Jannik Hilsted (Secretary), John D. Ward, Peter J. Watkins

1992: Guido Menzinger (Chairman), F. Arnold Gries (Vice-Chairman), Jannik Hilsted (Secretary), John D. Ward, Peter J. Watkins

1993: Guido Menzinger (Chairman), F. Arnold Gries (Vice-Chairman), Jannik Hilsted (Secretary), John D. Ward, Peter J. Watkins

1994: Guido Menzinger (Chairman), F. Arnold Gries (Vice-Chairman), Jannik Hilsted (Secretary), John D. Ward, Peter J. Watkins

1995: F. Arnold Gries (Chairman), John D. Ward (Vice-Chairman), Guido Menzinger (Secretary), Jean-Raymond Attali, Jannik Hilsted, David Tomlinson

1996: F. Arnold Gries (Chairman), John D. Ward (Vice-Chairman), Guido Menzinger (Secretary), Jean-Raymond Attali, Jannik Hilsted, David Tomlinson

1997: F. Arnold Gries (Chairman), John D. Ward (Vice-Chairman), Guido Menzinger (Secretary), Jean-Raymond Attali, David Tomlinson

1998: David Tomlinson (Chairman), Guido Menzinger (Secretary), Jean-Raymond Attali, Johannes Jakobsen, Göran Sundkvist, Dan Ziegler

1999: David Tomlinson (Chairman), Dan Ziegler (Vice-Chairman), Jean-Raymond Attali, Bert Bravenboer, Johannes Jakobsen, Göran Sundkvist

2000: David Tomlinson (Chairman), Dan Ziegler (Vice-Chairman), Jean-Raymond Attali, Bert Bravenboer, Johannes Jakobsen, Göran Sundkvist,

2001: Dan Ziegler (Chairman), Göran Sundkvist (Vice-Chairman), Bert Bravenboer, Norman Cameron, Johannes Jakobsen, Paul Valensi

2002: Dan Ziegler (Chairman), Göran Sundkvist (Vice-Chairman), Bert Bravenboer, Norman Cameron, Johannes Jakobsen, Paul Valensi

2003: Dan Ziegler (Chairman), Göran Sundkvist (Vice-Chairman), Bert Bravenboer, Norman Cameron, Johannes Jakobsen, Paul Valensi

2004: Paul Valensi (Chairman), Solomon Tesfaye (Vice-Chairman), Vincenza Spallone (Secretary), Bert Bravenboer, Norman Cameron, Peter Kempler

2005: Paul Valensi (Chairman), Solomon Tesfaye (Vice-Chairman), Vincenza Spallone (Secretary), Geert Jan Biessels, Norman Cameron, Peter Kempler

2006: Paul Valensi (Chairman), Solomon Tesfaye (Vice-Chairman), Vincenza Spallone (Secretary), Geert Jan Biessels, Norman Cameron, Peter Kempler

2007: Solomon Tesfaye (Chairman), Vincenza Spallone (Secretary), Paul Valensi (Honorary Treasurer), Geert Jan Biessels, Norman Cameron, Peter Kempler

2008: Solomon Tesfaye (Chairman), Mary Cotter (Vice-Chairman), Vincenza Spallone (Secretary), Paul Valensi (Honorary Treasurer), Geert Jan Biessels, Peter Kempler, Rayaz A. Malik

2009: Solomon Tesfaye (Chairman), Mary Cotter (Vice-Chairman), Vincenza Spallone (Secretary), Paul Valensi (Honorary Treasurer), Geert Jan Biessels, Peter Kempler, Rayaz A. Malik

2010: Rayaz A. Malik (Chairman), Mary Cotter (Vice-Chairman), Simona Frontoni (Secretary), Paul Valensi (Honorary Treasurer), Geert Jan

Biessels, Boris A. Mankovsky, Dan Ziegler

2011. Rayaz A. Malik (Chairman), Mary Cotter (Vice-Chairman), Simona Frontoni (Secretary), Paul Valensi (Honorary Treasurer), Henning Andersen, Boris A. Mankovsky, Dan Ziegler

2012: Rayaz A. Malik (Chairman), Mary Cotter (Vice-Chairman), Simona Frontoni (Secretary), Paul Valensi (Honorary Treasurer), Henning Andersen, Boris A. Mankovsky, Dan Ziegler

2013. Rayaz A. Malik (Chairman), Mary Cotter (Vice-Chairman), Simona Frontoni (Secretary), Paul Valensi (Honorary Treasurer), Henning Andersen, Boris A. Mankovsky, Dan Ziegler

2014. Henning Andersen (Chairman), Martin Stevens (Vice-Chairman), Simona Frontoni (Secretary), Nigel Calcutt (Honorary Treasurer), Boris A. Mankovsky, Dan Ziegler

2015: Henning Andersen (Chairman), Martin Stevens (Vice-Chairman), Simona Frontoni (Secretary), Nigel Calcutt (Honorary Treasurer), Boris A. Mankovsky, Dan Ziegler

Annual Meetings



List of Annual Meetings

N°	Year	Place	Neurodiab Chairman	Local Organizers
1 ST	1991	Cork, Ireland	Guido Menzinger	C. H. Walsh
2 ND	1992	Bratislava, Slovakia	Guido Menzinger	B. Krahulec
3 RD	1993	Istanbul, Turkey	Guido Menzinger	G. Menzinger
4 TH	1994	Düsseldorf, Germany	Guido Menzinger	F. A. Gries
5 TH	1995	Stockholm, Sweden	F. Arnold Gries	G. Sundkvist
6 TH	1996	Baden, Austria	F. Arnold Gries	D. Ziegler
7 ^{TH*}	1997*	Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands	F. Arnold Gries	W. H. Gispen
8 TH	1998	Sitges, Spain	R. David Tomlinson	R. D. Tomlinson, A. Odriozola
9 TH	1999	Maastricht, The Netherlands	R. David Tomlinson	B. Bravenboer
10 TH	2000°	Fiuggi, Italy	R. David Tomlinson	G. Menzinger, L. Uccioli
11 TH	2001	Aberdeen, UK	Dan Ziegler	M. Cotter, N. Cameron
12 TH	2002°	Balatonfüred, Hungary	Dan Ziegler	P. Kempler, E. Kádár, Z. Hermányi
13 TH	2003**	St Malo, France	Dan Ziegler	P. Valensi
14 TH	2004°	Regensburg, Germany	Paul Valensi	S. Morbach
15 TH	2005	Porto Heli, Greece	Paul Valensi	I. Migdalis
16 TH	2006	Ystad, Sweden	Paul Valensi	G. Sundkvist
17 TH	2007	Utrecht, The Netherlands	Solomon Tesfaye	G-J. Biessels, P.S. van Dam
18 TH	2008	Orvieto, Italy	Solomon Tesfaye	V. Spallone, S. Frontoni
19 TH	2009***	Toronto, Canada	Solomon Tesfaye	V. Bril, S. Tesfaye
20 TH	2010	Stockholm, Sweden	Rayaz A. Malik	J. Wahren, K. Ekberg, Å. Kallas, T. Brismar, H. Andersen
21 ST	2011	Porto, Portugal	Rayaz A. Malik	I. Tavares, C. Morgado, J.L. Medina, J.C. Lopes
22 ND	2012	Dresden, Germany	Rayaz A. Malik	D. Ziegler
23 RD	2013	Castelldefels, Spain	Henning Andersen	A. Odriozola
24 TH	2014	Sopron, Hungary	Henning Andersen	P. Kempler
25 TH	2015	Elsinore, Denmark	Henning Andersen	H. Andersen, J. K. Jakobsen, J. Hilsted

* In conjunction with the 4th Diabetic Neuropathy Satellite Symposium to the 16th Congress of IDF

** In conjunction with the 6th Diabetic Neuropathy Satellite Symposium to the 18th Congress of IDF

*** In conjunction with the International Symposium of Diabetic Neuropathy (ISDN) and satellite to the 20th Congress of IDF

° Joint meeting of the Diabetic Foot Study Group (DFSG) of EASD and Neurodiab

Annual Meetings

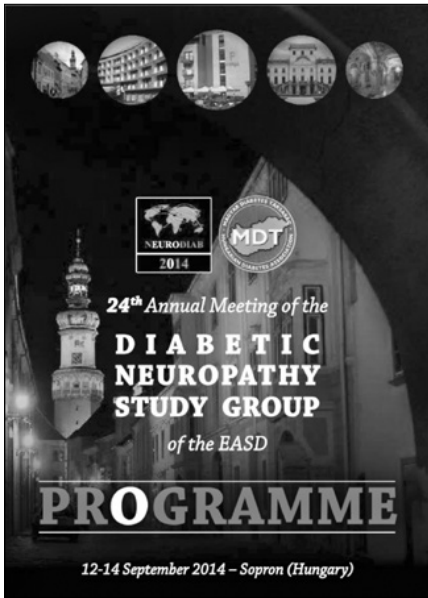
THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT IN THE LIFE OF NEURODIAB IS ITS ANNUAL meeting, the location for which depends on the site chosen for the EASD annual meeting. Its organization is mainly entrusted to local organizers. Since 1991, 24 meetings have been held in European countries with the exception of Istanbul in 1993 and Toronto in 2009. A few meetings were organized in conjunction with International Diabetic Neuropathy Satellite Symposium of International Diabetes Federation (IDF) (1997, 2003 and 2009) and with the Diabetic Foot Study Group (DFSG) of EASD (in 2000, 2002 and 2004).

Over the years, the number of participants has increased to over 200 investigators from 26 different countries in Europe, America, the Middle East, and Asia. The format has also evolved to include keynote lectures, symposia, and debates in addition to more than 100 oral and poster presentations.

Fragments of memory from Annual Meetings

Figure 10. The covers of abstract books and banners of a few Annual Meetings

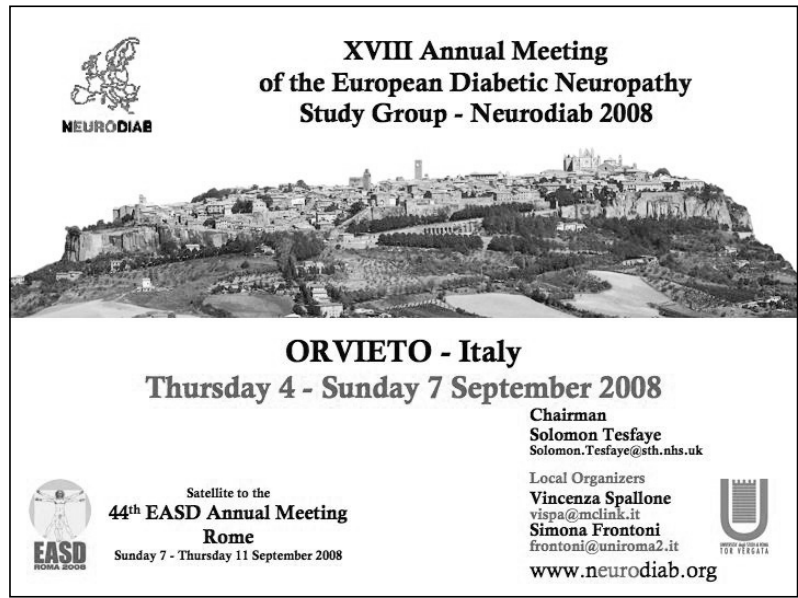




24th Annual Meeting of the
DIABETIC NEUROPATHY STUDY GROUP
of the EASD


PROGRAMME

12-14 September 2014 – Sopron (Hungary)



NEURODIAB

**XVIII Annual Meeting
of the European Diabetic Neuropathy
Study Group - Neurodiab 2008**




ORVIETO - Italy
Thursday 4 - Sunday 7 September 2008

Chairman
Solomon Tesfaye
Solomon.Tesfaye@sth.nhs.uk

Local Organizers
Vincenza Spallone
vispa@mclink.it
Simona Frontoni
frontoni@uniroma2.it
www.neurodiab.org

EASD ROMA 2008
Satellite to the
**44th EASD Annual Meeting
Rome**
Sunday 7 - Thursday 11 September 2008



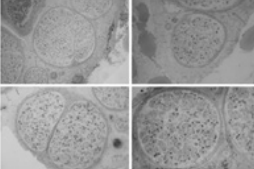

NEURODIAB

**22nd Annual Meeting of the
Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group**
September 27-30 2012 Dresden, Germany


**22nd Annual Meeting of the Diabetic
Neuropathy Study Group
NEURO DIAB**
September 27-30, 2012 | Dresden, Germany



Neurodiab Stockholm 2010



20th Annual Meeting of
the Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group
of the EASD
Final Programme and Book of Abstracts



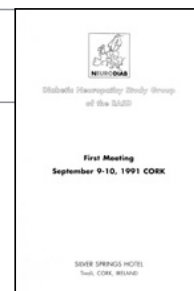
Stockholm, Sweden
17th September – 19th September 2010



ISDN/NEURODIAB
OCTOBER 15-18, 2009




1991 Cork, Ireland



NEURODIAB HELD ITS FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING IN CORK, IRELAND, BETWEEN 9 and 10 September 1991 at the Silver Springs Hotel with C. Howel Walsh as the local organizer.

There were 20 oral presentations and about 80 participants, A discussion document on diabetic neuropathy and the Saint Vincent Declaration was also presented that addressed the issue of diabetic neuropathy definition and diagnosis.. The meeting remains in the memory as a very lively and fruitful event, as witnessed by the letter of Guido Menzinger to Dan Ziegler (**Figure 11**).

Beyond the meeting, Irish pubs proved to be an excellent place to spend some time together over beer and words in the evening.

The report of the first Neurodiab meeting that was prepared and submitted to EASD, according to the rules, accurately described the general sense of satisfaction regarding participation, interesting and well presented works, and the memorable atmosphere (see below).

It is of interest that most of the presented abstracts were then published in full and represented pillars of successful research in diabetic neuropathy. Despite some rough or outdated aspects, reading the report sheds light on the fact that many contemporary open issues in diabetic neuropathy research were on the table in 1991 and addressed, even with hindsight, in the right perspective.



Report to EASD on 1991 Neurodiab activity to be published in *Diabetologia*

“The first meeting of Neurodiab (Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group of EASD) was held in Cork on September 9-10/1991. Total attendance was 80 persons from most European countries and also from the U.S. and Japan. Basic and clinical aspects of somatic and autonomic neuropathy were discussed in depth by a very active and lively audience.

Morphologic aspects received great attention. Various studies addressed the significance of nerve biopsy findings in relation to clinical data. Accurate morphometric evaluation on autopsy material provided parameters that could be evaluated in nerve biopsy findings to monitor the effect of intervention trials such as those with metabolic control, or with aldose reductase inhibitors (ARI).

The extent of nerve fibre loss and atrophy showed a good correlation with nerve conduction velocity but not, at least in one study, with vibration perception thresholds or thermal sensory thresholds.

The extent of regenerative activity of nerve fibres did not correlate with the presence of painful symptoms in one study.

The capillary density was reduced in nerves of neuropathic diabetic patients (DN). Thickening of basal membrane of endoneurial capillaries of DN seemed to be morphologically different and due to a different process from that causing thickening of basal membrane of the perineurium capillaries.

The fact that basal membrane thickening of endoneurial capillaries was observed in other neuropathies, such as type 1 hereditary motor and sensory neuropathy, indicated that this alteration was not specific for diabetes and opened new perspectives on pathogenesis.

Various data indicated the importance of vascular mechanisms in the pathogenesis of neuropathy.

Direct evaluation of blood flow in vivo in epineurial vessels after systemic administration of fluorescein, showed a marked reduction of nerve blood flow in DN and a variable degree of arteriovenous shunting.

The parallel increase in sensory conduction velocity (CV) and subcutaneous temperature induced in normal subjects by exercise was absent in DN; this was thought to be due to impaired vascular flow in DN.

A marked reduction in endoneurial blood flow observed in diabetic rats was associated with a 25% fall in CV. Vasodilatation induced by various methods improved both blood flow and CV - opening new potential therapeutic avenues.



Sympathetic activity in the lower limb evaluated by measurement of skin impedance and by a sweat spot test was variably altered by diabetes. Skin temperature response to a vasomotor test was evaluated and proposed as a simple test of peripheral sympathetic vasomotor function.

Other studies addressed the natural history of neuropathy: in one study, follow-up for 9 years showed worsening of clinical parameters of neuropathy and a risk for development of the diabetic foot syndrome proportional to initial impairment of motor CV. In another study 5-year follow-up of type 2 diabetic patients, motor and sensory CV were subnormal at the beginning of the study and deteriorated moderately during the observation period.

Only poor glycaemic control influenced the deterioration.

Reproducibility of clinical assessment of symptoms, quantitative evaluation of sensitivity (QSE) and electrophysiological findings (EF) appeared to be very low for clinical assessment, better for QES, especially vibration thresholds; and best for EF.

In another study no influence of present blood glucose was observed on cardiovascular tests and biothesiometer readings.

The effect of ARI Ponalrestat was evaluated in a clinical trial in which it failed to modify significantly CV though it improved cardiovascular tests. In another study when the same drug was employed at different dosage levels in the diabetic rat it was shown that 100 mg/Kg/day but not 8 mg/Kg/day improved CV. It was thought possible, therefore, that the dosage levels employed in humans did not reach sufficient magnitude to influence the evolution of neuropathy. It was argued that ARIs differ in their capacity to penetrate nerves and that for instance Tolrestat reaches higher concentrations in the nerve at equivalent dosage.

A depletion of substance P and calcitonin gene related peptide (CGRP) observed in sciatic nerve of diabetic rats was attenuated by the ARI Imirestat and completely prevented by insulin treatment.

An early change in concentration of CGRP and VIP was observed in nerve fibres obtained from cutaneous biopsy in diabetics.

Many contributions concerned aspects of autonomic neuropathy.

Heart rate response to hyperventilation, evaluated as a possible cardiovascular test, was found to be markedly impaired in DN.

Power spectral analysis of variations in heart frequency, blood pressure, and peripheral circulations parameters showed that the low frequency (LF) components thought to be expression of sympathetic function, as also the high frequency (HF) parasympathetic components of heart rate variation were reduced in diabetic patients who showed no evidence of autonomic involvement in the classic cardiovascular tests.

When circadian variation of blood pressure values was evaluated against the power spectral analysis of 24h heart frequency in DN, there was a significant correlation between the reduced night fall in blood pressure values and a reduced circadian change of the LF/HF ratio, i.e. the relative increase in night blood pressure values was associated with an increase in sympathetic activity. In another study a computerized evaluation of the relationship between individual RR interval and the corresponding blood pressure during Valsalva manoeuvre showed promise as a very sensitive test of autonomic neuropathy and a useful tool for pathophysiological investigation.

Changes in cardiovascular tests in alcoholic liver disease appeared to be comparable to those observed in diabetics.

Bladder function investigations in diabetic children by echography and uroflowmetry showed markedly reduced perception of filled bladder, which appeared to precede impairment of cardiovascular tests.

Impaired rate of contraction of the bladder observed in diabetic rats was corrected by insulin and also by a ganglioside ester.

A simultaneous evaluation of gastric emptying by ^{99m}Tc and of insulin requirement by Biostatator showed marked reduction of postprandial insulin requirement in gastroparetic diabetic patients.

A marked increase in the blocking effect of tetrodotoxin found in cardiac parasympathetic fibres of diabetic rats was reversed by insulin treatment. The CNS was the object of some interesting observations.

The tissue levels of catecholamines in the hippocampus, corpus striatum and brain stem of rat were changed by hypoglycaemia; norepinephrine was reduced in all areas whereas epinephrine was reduced only in brain stem and dopamine in the corpus striatum.

In another study blood brain barrier permeability to water was found abnormally increased in IDDM subjects during visual stimulation, while brain blood flow was normal.

Non-invasive magnetic stimulation of motor cortex allowed evaluation of central motor conduction time, which appeared increased in 24% of diabetic patients as against 54% having increased peripheral conduction time. P300 wave latency, an endogenous electrophysiologic event, appeared significantly increased in IDDM patients without a clear association with data from various evoked potentials in the individual subject.

The business meeting of the Group decided that the next meeting should take place in Czechoslovakia possibly in Bratislava after the EASD meeting and that the program should include both free presentations and one or two lectures.”



The Power of Memory

"Among the participants I remember P.K. Thomas and David Tomlinson from London, Jean-Raymond Attali and Paul Valensi from Paris, Andrew Boulton from Manchester, Norman Cameron and Mary Cotter from Aberdeen, Solomon Tesfaye from Sheffield, Aristides Veves and Rayaz A. Malik from Manchester, Bernhard Neundörfer from Nürnberg, Dan Ziegler from Düsseldorf, Peter Kempler from Budapest, Göran Sundkvist from Malmö, Jonescu Tirgoviste from Bucarest, Boris Mankovski from Kiev, Anders Sima from Michigan, Nicola Canal and Luigi Comi from Milan, Vincenza Spallone and Luigi Uccioli from Rome, Domenico Fedele and Federico Bellavere from Padua and Luciano Bernardi from Pavia."

Guido Menzinger

Taking Advantage of the First Experience

"The first scientific meeting provided a great and long-term lesson. An experimental session was chosen as the last session of the meeting. The lecture hall was almost empty, the chairs, the lecturers and the very few friends were present only, while the majority of congress participants spent their time in the wellness area, mainly in the Jacuzzi. Drawing the conclusions from this unique experience, since then, experimental sessions are usually put just after the opening of the congress, where usually many congress attendees are present."

Peter Kempler

A Non-conformist Memory

"I'd been musing on this, but all I can offer is a story of my gate crashing the 1991 meeting in Cork (my PI, Harry Powell was invited and I sneaked in with him) and seeing P.K. Thomas sitting at the back of the room reading a copy of VIZ magazine that was hidden inside a neuropathology journal. Gods were human after all....."

Nigel A. Calcutt

Back from Cork

Our little red car, hired somewhere near Cork,

scrambled up and down the hills of central Ireland hauling the combined weight of the four of us packed tight inside. Professor Menzinger who had, because of his status, (but not only for this....) been assigned the front passenger seat, the most comfortable (and large...), tried with his customary elegance to keep himself firmly in his place, whenever I turned right (although rather unsuccessfully, I'm afraid...)

We were talking, of course, about the Neurodiab meeting, which had just ended, and I have a vague memory of a mixed sensation of irritation and envy about how the professor replied with amused serenity (as is his wont) to the impassioned questioning of a young physician, me.

The tone of the discussion got more and more heated, and the bends of the narrow Irish road were taken faster and more distractedly too, leading the two passengers in the back to comment loudly on the effects of centrifugal force at every swing. Indeed I seem to remember that the discussion became so animated (me heated, Menzinger cool) that we eventually forgot we had others travelling in the back seat (as the shelf behind had been defined by the car makers, themselves, too enthusiastically).

In the midst of this blur of tight bends, impassioned comments and contested figures, we came upon a wide, intensely deep green plateau, crisscrossed by long mounds of freshly cut peat and striped with beautiful streams of sparkingly clear peaty water with its soft brownish reflections. The idyll was completed by a distant flock of omnipresent Irish sheep

I saw, or rather I had an impression, of a rather nice landscape but was too involved to stop my discussion with the imperturbable professor about who had done what, and who hadn't, about what we'd seen and heard during the recent meeting in Cork.

Suddenly, the young woman, crouched in the back, leant over my shoulder and shouted into my ear "Stop! Stop now!".

I braked the little car as fast as I could, wondering whether the young woman (who happened, by the way, to be the daughter of the



Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group of the EASD

Rome, 5th/2/'92

Chairman

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Dear *Dr Ziegler*

thanks to You and all participants the first Neurodiab meeting has been a great success.

I hope that our next meeting in Czechoslovakia will be even better and that the climate of warm friendship and lively debate will be enhanced by our deepening interaction.

Our next meeting will be in Bratislava on September 13-14th. Dr. Krahulec from the Department of Medicine of Bratislava will coordinate efforts at the local level. We have discussed the possibility of holding the meeting before the EASD Congress as in Cork but various difficulties prevent it.

Wyeth Company has kindly accepted to sponsor this second meeting; we shall be able to count on their active help with the organization which, for obvious considerations, will be even more important in Bratislava than in Cork.

Other companies which had initially indicated an interest in the meeting have subsequently not been able to give their help though Fidia keeps up its support to our secretarial activities.

I enclose the report on the Cork meeting requested by the EASD which will appear in the February issue of Diabetologia.

Deadline for abstracts will be April 15th. I enclose forms to be used.

Kindest regards,


Guido MENZINGER

Figure 11. Letter of Guido Menzinger to Dan Ziegler after the end of 1991 Cork Meeting of Neurodiab (provided by courtesy of Dan Ziegler)

Professor) was suffering from the effects my rather cavalier style of driving. I helped her out of the car as fast as I could and grabbed my paper tissues to be ready to face what usually happens under these circumstances. But... unexpectedly, she shot off like a rocket and ran helter-skelter towards the middle of the plateau, nearly vanishing into the intense green. Then faraway, in the middle, almost lost in the intense green, she began to run in circles coming gradually closer and closer to us till she stopped and, facing us where we stood

as if turned to stone mystified by her behaviour (even Menzinger then), she simply said: "è bellissimo!" (i.e.: "it's so beautiful!").

She went on wandering around on the green grass among the clods of peat and the clear running streams and we just watched her, amused, leaning on the little red car, while she was making circles in the middle of the sweet, intense, immense green land, under a stormy Irish sky. Just watching, with no worry, no hurry. Neurodiab in Cork was also this, I remember."

Federico Bellavere

Bratislava 1992



THE SECOND MEETING WAS HELD IN BRATISLAVA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AFTER the EASD in Prague in 1992. Bratislava appeared before our eyes as a big construction site and the ferment of something new was in the air. It was becoming the capital of the independent state of Slovakia.



The Tales of Protagonists

Historical Memories are Not Universal

“The subsequent meeting was held in Bratislava in order to favour attendance from Eastern European Countries; there were in fact presentations from the Ukraine, Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Romania. Also we had Nigishi Hotta from Japan and a gradually increasing attendance from the USA. The latter was subsequently to become very significant as the lack of a neuropathy study group in the American Diabetes Association made Neurodiab a sort of regular meeting for neuropathy researchers from the US.

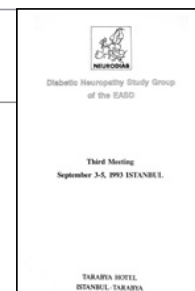
An interesting episode occurred when the bus from Prague to Bratislava passed the town of Brno, and I noticed that we were near the notorious prison of Spielberg. All members from the East and Italy appeared well acquainted with it, while it had no echo in the western countries like France or England. The Spielberg was in fact a sort of university for all patriots of the different nationalities of the Austrian Empire.”

Guido Menzinger

New Ideas don't Always Receive the Attention they Deserve

“An important scientific event should be noted. Professor Göran Sundkvist presented his data, showing that diabetic nephropathy should be somewhat considered as autonomic neuropathy of the kidney in patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus. At least autonomic impairment through glomerular haemodynamic stress contributes importantly to the progression of nephropathy. Göran was almost eaten by the participants, he was heavily criticised. However, one year later, the paper was published in *Diabetes Care*, and similar data obtained in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus were published only 20 years later.”

Peter Kempler



ISTANBUL WAS ONE THE MOST EXCITING PLACES WHERE NEURODIAB MEETINGS have been held. It was under the patronage of the Italian Embassy in Turkey and of the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura* in Istanbul. There was a memorable welcome dinner in the Italian Embassy and a wonderful location in a hotel with a spectacular view over the Bosphorus, providing the backdrop to 30 oral presentations and 4 lectures.



The Tales of Protagonists

Joy and Sorrow

"The third meeting under my chairmanship was held in Istanbul and was a cause of considerable anxiety for me and the Executive Committee, because during the organization of the meeting the pharmaceutical firm which had agreed to be the chief supporter suddenly collapsed. We had previously decided to have a rotation of pharmaceutical firms as main sponsors of the meetings, so as to ensure a maximum of independence, the firm in question (Fidia) would have come in rotation from the previous one Pfizer. During the spring of 1993 we had to find quickly a substitute, as many arrangements and economical engagements had already been taken. Fortunately Pfizer was asked to come in and very generously supported us.

The meeting was held in a beautiful site, the Tarabya Hotel where from our rooms we could admire the ships coming through the Bosphorus. The social evening - thanks to the generous cooperation of the Italian Ambassador and Consul - was held in the Italian Consulate, Palazzo Venezia, originally the Venetian Embassy to the Sultan of Istanbul."

Guido Menzinger

"A wonderful congress place, while staying at the balcony of the hotel room, one might have the impression of just falling immediately to the Bosphorus. Indeed, Professor Menzinger, the first chairman of Neurodiab has organized this perfect meeting from Italy. We had a very nice visit in the house of Italian culture."

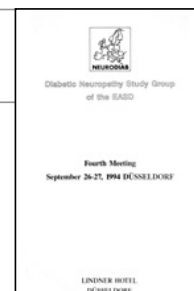
Peter Kempler

"I met him by chance in the lift of the Grand Hotel Tarabya on the Bosphorus where the meeting was being held. It was right after the session where I presented our findings and our hypothesis that autonomic neuropathy could impair glomerular adaptation to blood pressure changes. When I first saw professor John Ward, I must admit I felt a bit emotional. He greeted me by saying: "I enjoyed your work". Despite the emotion and my imperfect English, I managed to grasp that it was a compliment. I was on cloud nine!

I also remember the Bosphorus hotel on a late summer's day, the tight brown shantung silk dress I was wearing, my summer suntan and rainbow silk sandals. On that breezy channel flowing between two worlds, the atmosphere was so loaded with promise..."

Vincenza Spallone

Düsseldorf 1994



The Tales of Protagonists

European Pride

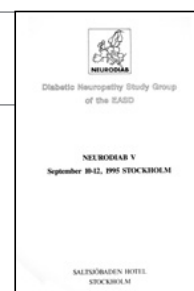
"There was some discussion on whether to have a Neurodiab meeting in 1994 as the third International Meeting on Neuropathy was to be held in Japan in 1994. I strongly insisted the Neurodiab meeting should be held, both because many people would not be able to go to Japan and because our members expected it and should not be discouraged in their allegiance.

The proposal was accepted by the Executive Committee.

The fourth meeting was thus held in Düsseldorf, perfectly organized by F. Arnold Gries and Dan Ziegler and was very well attended and a great success. The four lectures of the meeting were published as a Mini-Symposium in the journal *Diabetic Medicine*, through the offices of Andrew Boulton then Editor of the Journal."

Guido Menzinger

Stockholm 1995



The Tales of Protagonists

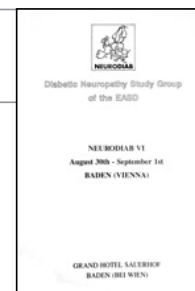
New Knowledge

"The fifth meeting was held in Stockholm in 1995, organized locally by Göran Sundkvist, always a very active and friendly Neurodiab member, in a very pleasant location in a thermal hotel in Saltsjöbaden. The meeting was

introduced by a lecture by Peter Watkins on autoimmunity of diabetic neuropathy and featured an ample Symposium on nerve regeneration. It proved a particularly agreeable and successful meeting."

Guido Menzinger

Baden 1996



The Tales of Protagonists

Pain Enters the Stage

"The sixth Neurodiab meeting was held in Baden near Vienna with an increasing number of papers from the US and a large presence of eastern Europeans. On the suggestion of John Ward, who had heard from Peter

Watkins of a Symposium in London of non diabetologist scientists on pain, we organized a Mini Symposium on pain chaired by P.K. Thomas and delivered by S.P. Hunt from Cambridge, C. Stucky from Wurtzburg, and D. Yarnitsky from Boston."

Guido Menzinger

Noordwijkerhout 1997



The Tales of Protagonists

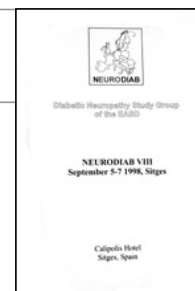
United We Are Stronger (or not!)

"The seventh Neurodiab was held in conjunction with the 4th International Meeting on Neuropathy in Noordwijkerhout (The Netherlands). Neurodiab was very amply represented

both in the Organizing and the Scientific Committees, being the Chairman of Neurodiab, David Tomlinson, also the Chairman of the Scientific Committee."

Guido Menzinger

Sitges 1998



The Tales of Protagonists

The Early Bird Catches the Sun

"The eighth Neurodiab meeting was held in Sitges near Barcelona. I was asked to keep the role of Secretary for a further year, and so I was engaged in the meeting organization. This was opened by a Mini-Symposium on the evaluation of reinnervation given by Johannes Jacobsen from Aarhus, Vera Brill from Toronto, and Henning Andersen from Aarhus."

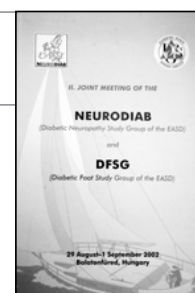
Guido Menzinger



"I have two topics in my memory. It was a great privilege for me to present data of the EURO-DIAB IDDM Complications Study on autonomic neuropathy. Moreover, we had a wonderful day before the meeting. Due to the flight connections, we arrived one day earlier and spent a full day at the beach."

Peter Kempler

Balatonfüred 2002



IN 2002, FOR THE SECOND TIME AFTER FIUGGI IN 2000, THE NEURODIAB annual meeting was a joint meeting with the Diabetic Foot Study Group (DFSG) of EASD.



The Tales of Protagonists

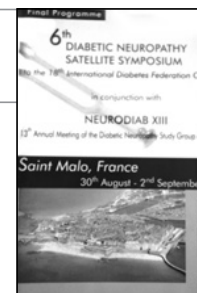
Behind Every Great Man

"A hard job being organizer of the joined meeting of NEURODIAB and the Diabetic Foot

Study Group. I have got enormous help from my wife."

Peter Kempler

Saint Malo 2003



IN 2003, THE NEURODIAB MEETING WAS ORGANIZED IN CONJUNCTION WITH the 6th International Diabetic Neuropathy Satellite Symposium of IDF as in 1997, and also in 2009. The abstracts were published on Journal of the Peripheral Nervous System (Figure 12)

Journal of the Peripheral Nervous System 8: 169-203 (2003)

6th Diabetic Neuropathy Satellite Symposium of the 18th International Diabetes Federation Congress in conjunction with 13th Annual Meeting of the Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group of the EASD (NEURODIAB XIII)

Saint Malo, France, 30 August–2 September 2003

Chairman: Dan Ziegler

Scientific Board: Andrew J.M. Boulton

Local Organizer: Paul Valensi

DNO SYMPOSIUM
IMPLICATIONS OF THE ALDOSE REDUCTASE GENE IN PERIPHERAL NERVE INTEGRITY AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL INSULTS IN DIABETES
Chung SK¹, Ho ECM^{1,2}, Lam KSL², Yamagishi S-I³, Yagihashi S³, Chung SSM¹, ¹Institute of Molecular Biology, ²Department of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, ³Department of Pathology, Hiroaki University School of Medicine, Hiroaki, Japan.

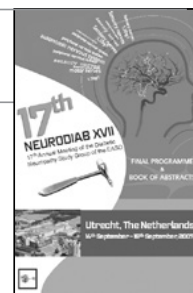
Previously, the exaggerated flux through polyol pathway, which consists of aldose reductase (AR) and sorbitol dehydrogenase (SD), leading to the accumulation of sorbitol and osmotic stress, is thought to be the major cause of tissue damage under hyperglycemic conditions. The strongest support for such a hypothesis comes from transgenic mice over-expressing AR in lens. Mice normally do not express AR and are alleviated from developing diabetic cataract. The AR transgenic mice accumulated sorbitol in lenses and developed cataract in an AR dose-dependent manner, confirming that AR is a major contributing factor in diabetic cataract. To investigate whether similar mechanisms are involved in the pathogenesis of diabetic neuropathy, we generated AR-deficient mice because AR is abundantly expressed in neurons and Schwann cells. Under diabetic conditions, these AR-deficient mice did not show motor nerve conduction velocity (MNCV) deficit, whereas diabetic wildtype mice showed MNCV deficit. We have also overexpressed AR in the Schwann cells to determine whether the contribution of AR to the pathogenesis of diabetic neuropathy is through the metabolic or vascular component in the peripheral nerve. The AR gene structure, regulation, and expression and the biochemical, physiological, and pathological consequences of genetic manipulations of AR and SD genes will be discussed in detail.

THE ROLE OF ALDOSE REDUCTASE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRUCTURAL PATHOLOGY OF DIABETIC AUTONOMIC NEUROPATHY
Schmidt RE, Neuropathology, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, USA.

Experimental animal studies have established that neuroaxonal dystrophy (NAD) is a structural hallmark of chronic diabetes in sympathetic ganglia and the noradrenergic innervation of selected endorgans. Aldose reductase inhibitors (ARIs) result in a salutary effect on the prevention and reversal of diabetic sympathetic autonomic neuropathy. Inhibition of sorbitol dehydrogenase, the second enzyme in the sorbitol pathway, surprisingly exaggerates and accelerates NAD, an effect prevented by ARIs. ARIs are also reported to normalize diabetes-induced immunohistochemical alterations of enteric neuropeptides, improve cardiac sympathetic innervation, and delay vagal atrophy in rats with experimental diabetes. Possible sorbitol pathway-dependent pathogenetic mechanisms in the development of autonomic neuropathy include alteration in neurotrophic substances, either deficiency or excess, as well as an effect on the generation of or protection from oxidative stress. ARIs have salutary effects on a variety of

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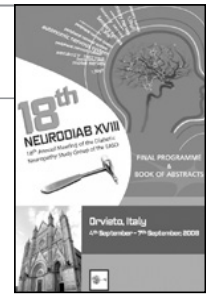
Figure 12. The first page of the abstracts of the 13th Annual Meeting of Neurodiab held in conjunction with the 6th Diabetic Neuropathy Satellite Symposium of the 18th IDF Congress, published on Journal of the Peripheral Nervous System



IN 2007, GEERT JAN BIESSELS AND SYTZE VAN DAM ORGANIZED THE NEURODIAB meeting in Utrecht at the Faculty of Medicine of Utrecht University. Social dinners were livened up by refined music: the reception and gala dinner in Cloister Gardens and University Hall and the farewell dinner at Museum Speelklok that contains a collection of automatically playing musical instruments.

In the Annual General Meeting, David Tomlinson suggested naming the Clinical Prize Lecture after our sorely missed friend Göran Sundkvist. Moreover, Peter Kempler proposed a Lifetime Achievement Award for individuals who have significantly contributed to the advancement of diabetic neuropathy research. Both proposals were unanimously accepted.

Orvieto 2008



IN 2008, THE EASD MEETING SHOULD HAVE BEEN HELD IN ROME. THE organization of Neurodiab therefore was entrusted to Italian Neurodiab members. Orvieto was suggested as a possible location for Neurodiab 2008 by Andrea Giaccari (Simona Frontoni's husband) based on a previous positive experience. Orvieto was a perfect choice, a small historical artistic town in Umbria, easily reachable from Rome, full of ancient history, and surrounded by beautiful landscapes. The meeting was held in a historical building fully equipped with modern technologies, the dinners were in evocative places such as the Caves and a former church (San Giovenale), local food and wine were delicious and atmosphere was enchanting. Cultural sightseeing included the frescos of San Brizio's Chapel in the Duomo. It was hard to organize everything for the best (including a consensus pre-meeting), and to maintain focus on every detail. Despite the odd hiccup, in the end Orvieto will live long in the memories of many of us.



The Tales of Protagonists

An Unforgettable Event

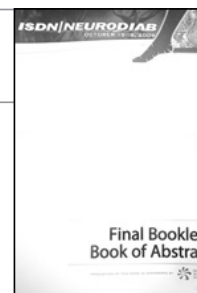
"Some of the memorable events during my three years as chairman were the meeting in Orvieto which was beautifully organised by Vincenza and Simona in a castle with fine Italian wine accompanying lunch.

During the Orvieto meeting we introduced the Lifetime Achievement Award that was given to 4 of our Mentors and founding members of the Executive committee of Neurodiab including Professors Ward, Watkins, Menzinger and Gries."

Solomon Tesfaye



Neurodiab Orvieto 2008. Dan Ziegler (under the boar head) and Mary Cotter (provided by courtesy of Dan Ziegler)



IN 2009 THE 19TH ANNUAL MEETING OF NEURODIAB WAS HELD IN CONJUNCTION with the 8th International Symposium on Diabetic Neuropathy (ISDN) and satellite to the 20th Congress of IDF. It was preceded by the Consensus conference that delivered Toronto guidelines on diabetic neuropathy. Over 175 specialists, clinical researchers, featured speakers and industry from around the globe attended the meeting that was co-chaired by Solomon Tesfaye and Vera Bril.

With 3 full days of meetings and social interaction, the joint meeting was one of the most successful meetings (see the minutes of the Annual General Meeting).



Documents

Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting of the Neuropathy Study Group of the EASD (Neurodiab)

Held in Toronto, Canada, on 16 October 2009 at 18:00

Present: S. Tesfaye (Chairman), M. Cotter (Vice-Chairman), V. Spallone (Secretary), P. Valensi (Honorary Treasurer), G-J. Biessels, R. Malik, and P. Kempler of the Executive Committee, and another 25 Members.

Reports

Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting of Neurodiab (held in Orvieto, Italy on 6 September 2008)

The Chairman asked the Members to express opinions on the Minutes previously sent via email. The Minutes were then unanimously approved without any particular comment, controversies or objections by those present.

New Members

According to the decision of the Executive Committee, the membership of the following researchers, who attended and presented papers at recent

Neurodiab meetings was proposed and unanimously accepted:

1. Corinne Genevieve Jolivald (USA)
2. Moaz Mojaddidi (UK)
3. Tae Sun Park (Korea)
4. Louis Premkumar (USA)
5. Cristian Quattrini (Italy)
6. James William Russell (USA)
7. Sonomtseren Sainbileg (Mongolian)
8. Mitra Tavakoli (UK).

The Chairman highlighted the fact that in the last 3 years a total number of 29 new members had been accepted.

Renewal of the Executive Committee

The Chairman communicated given the fact that Vincenza Spallone, Peter Kempler and himself had served for two consecutive three- year terms, three new members of the executive Committee had to be elected in this Annual General Meeting. The decision of the Executive Committee was to nominate and recommend Simona Frontoni, Boris Mankovsky and Dan Ziegler. Thus, Drs Frontoni, Mankovsky and Ziegler were unanimously elected by the Members present at the Annual Meeting.

The 2010 Meeting of Neurodiab

The 2010 Neurodiab meeting will be in Stockholm just before EASD Meeting from Friday 17th to Sunday 19th September. The local organizers will be John Wahren, Tom Brismar, Henning Andersen, and Karin Ekberg.

The 2011 Meeting of Neurodiab

The 2011 Neurodiab meeting will be in Portugal. A local organizer has not been found yet.

Proceedings of the Consensus Meeting on Diagnosis of Diabetic Neuropathy

The Chairman presented a brief report on the Consensus Meeting on the diagnosis of diabetic neuropathy held just before the ISDN-Neurodiab meeting. After a preliminary work, the Consensus meeting assembled experts in the field of diabetic peripheral and autonomic neuropathies for a 2-day workshop aimed at preparing a Consensus statement. He thanked the participants for attending the meeting and for their highly valued contributions and made known the plan to submit the summary Consensus Paper to Diabetes Care by the end of the year and to prepare the longer versions of systematic reviews on each topic of diagnosis of diabetic neuropathy for publication in a supplement issue of Diabetes Care.



Other business

A strategy to encourage the participation of young researchers to Neurodiab meetings was requested by some members. The need was highlighted to undertake initiatives for raising funds in order to provide grants for young participants.

The issue of joined meetings with ISDN was widely discussed with some debate about the opportunity to keep independent Neurodiab meetings from ISDN meetings or to have a joined meeting every 2 or 4 years. A major agreement was reached on this latter solution.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Vincenza Spallone and Peter Kempler for providing experiences, dedication, and friendship during the 6 years they were on the Executive Committee. Paul Valensi expressed on behalf of Neurodiab Members his thanks to Solomon Tesfaye for his efforts in dedication in Executive Committee and in chairing the Neurodiab and for providing rewarding experiences during his Chairmanship.

The local organizers of the 2009 ISDN-Neurodiab meeting, Vera Bril and Douglas Zochodne were very warmly thanked by all Members for an excellently organised meeting, the close attention paid to detail, and the friendly environment they helped to create. Converge Advertising Limited, the organising agency, was thanked too for its well-planned and efficient work, ready availability and support.

The General Assembly was brought to close at 18.30.

Solomon Tesfaye and Vincenza Spallone



The Tales of Protagonists

A Distance Adoption

"... It was my great privilege to co-host with Solomon Tesfaye a Neurodiab meeting in Toronto, in association with the International Symposium on Diabetic Neuropathy, the first time that the Neurodiab met outside Europe, or perhaps Europe adopted Canada for this meeting!"

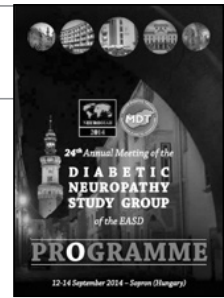
Vera Bril

"In my final year as chairman of Neurodiab, together with Professor V. Bril, Dr B. Perkins, I organised the 7th ISDN meeting at the Eaton Marriott Centre in Toronto.

One of my mentors Professor P.J. Dyck was awarded the Lifetime Achievement award of Neurodiab for his outstanding research in diabetic neuropathy spanning several decades."

Solomon Tesfaye

Sopron 2014



SOPRON WAS A VERY WELL ORGANISED MEETING. A VERY RICH PHOTO gallery is still available at <http://neurodiab2014.shp.hu/hpc/web.php?a=neurodiab2014>.



Neurodiab Sopron 2014: Gala dinner at Eszterhazy-Castle Fertod in Sopron (provided by courtesy of Peter Kempler).



The Tales of Protagonists

Nature Power

"Unexpectedly, we had a high number of participants. Everything was OK, except the rainy weather."

Peter Kempler



Neurodiab Sopron 2014:
Simona Frontoni and Henning Andersen
(provided by courtesy of Peter Kempler)

NEURODIAB Awards



Figure 13a. Neurodiab Orvieto 2008. The first Lifetime Achievement Awards winners: Peter Watkins, John Ward , Guido Menzinger, and F. Arnold Gries

Lifetime Achievement Awards

IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROPOSAL BY PETER KEMPLER, MADE IN THE EXECUTIVE Committee Meeting in Budapest, 5 May 2007, the Executive Committee placed in the Agenda for the 2007 Annual General Meeting the creation of a Lifetime Achievement Award for scientists who have significantly contributed to the development of diabetic neuropathy research. The proposal was discussed and unanimously approved at the 17th Annual General Meeting held in Utrecht, The Netherlands, on 15 September 2007.

The Executive Committee decided that the winners of the 1st Lifetime Achievement Awards were Arnold F. Gries, Guido Menzinger, John D. Ward and Peter J. Watkins (Figure 13).

With regard to the awards ceremonies, the 4 winners were chosen to be the Chairmen of 4 oral sessions according to their particular scientific experience and knowledge. Before starting the oral session, they were briefly presented by their 4 Co-Chairmen, respectively Dan Ziegler, Vincenzo Spallone, Solomon Tesfaye, and Martin Stevens. Finally, the prize (a plaque with a legend describing the prize) was given by the Chairman of Neurodiab at the end of the oral session.



Documents

List of winners of the Lifetime Achievement Award

18TH NEURODIAB MEETING, ORVIETO, ITALY, 2008

Lifetime Achievement Awards

F. Arnold Gries, Guido Menzinger, John D. Ward, Peter J. Watkins

19TH NEURODIAB MEETING, TORONTO, CANADA, 2009

Lifetime Achievement Award

Peter J. Dyck, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, US



20TH NEURODIAB MEETING, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, 2010

Lifetime Achievement Award

David Tomlinson, University of London, UK

21ST NEURODIAB MEETING, PORTO, PORTUGAL 2011

Lifetime Achievement Award

Aaron Vinik, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA, US

22ND NEURODIAB MEETING, DRESDEN, GERMANY 2012

Lifetime Achievement Award

Anders A.F. Sima, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, Michigan, US



Figure 13b. Neurodiab Toronto 2009. Peter J. Dyck, winner of the Lifetime Achievement Awards, with Solomon Tesfaye, Vera Bril and Doug Zochodne (provided by courtesy of Solomon Tesfaye)

Young Investigators' Award

SINCE 2001, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO SUPPORT YOUNG researchers with awards for clinical and preclinical studies, initially with the contribution of Asta Medica (subsequently with that of Viatrix and finally for many years MEDA).

In 2007, the Young Investigators Award for Clinical Science was named after Göran Sundkvist on the suggestion of David Tomlinson, and in 2012, the Young Investigators Award for Pre-clinical Science was named after Angelika Bierhaus.

Candidates must be below the age of 40, their nomination is made by Senior Referees who must be Neurodiab members, the nomination is discussed by the Executive Committee, and the winner has to give a talk at the following Neurodiab meeting.

In the event of inadequate nominations, the prize may be held over to the subsequent year, when two prizes in either category may be awarded.

A list of winners is below. Most of them have made substantial contribution to the diabetic neuropathy community and in the meantime many have become senior researchers and/or leaders of important research teams (Figure 14).



List of winners of Young Investigators' Award

9TH NEURODIAB MEETING, MAASTRICHT, THE NETHERLANDS 1999

Young Investigators Award for Clinical Science

Geert Jan Biessels, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands

Neurological complications of diabetes: focus on the brain

Young Investigators Award for Clinical Science

Rayaz A. Malik, University of Manchester, UK

Clinico-pathological studies in diabetic neuropathy: clues to pathogenesis

11TH NEURODIAB MEETING, BALATONFÜRED, HUNGARY 2002

Young Investigators Award for Clinical Science

Oliver Schnell, University of München, Germany

Cardiac sympathetic innervation in diabetic patients

Young Investigators Award for Clinical Science

Boris Mankovsky, University of Kiev, Ukraine

Brain damage in patients with diabetes mellitus

13TH NEURODIAB MEETING, SAINT MALO, FRANCE 2003

Young Investigators Award for PreClinical Science

Nigel Calcutt, University of California, US

Identifying therapeutics for diabetic sensory neuropathy

14TH NEURODIAB MEETING, REGENSBURG, GERMANY, 2004

Young Investigators Award for Clinical Science

Tamás T. Várkonyi, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary

New insights into the early central and gastrointestinal manifestations of diabetic neuropathy

15TH NEURODIAB MEETING, PORTO HELI, GREECE, 2005

Young Investigators Award for Clinical Science

Satyan Man Rajbhandar, University of Sheffield, UK

16TH NEURODIAB MEETING, YSTAD, SWEDEN, 2006

Young Investigators Award for Clinical Science

Sanne Manschot, Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands

17TH NEURODIAB MEETING, UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS, 2007

Göran Sundkvist Young Investigators Award for Clinical Science

Caroline Ann Abbott, University of Manchester, UK

Göran Sundkvist Young Investigators Award for Preclinical Science

Sally Amanda Price, University of Manchester, UK

18TH NEURODIAB MEETING, ORVIETO, ITALY, 2008

Göran Sundkvist Young Investigators Award for Clinical Science

Ineke Brand, Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands

19TH NEURODIAB MEETING, TORONTO, CANADA, 2009

Young Investigators Award for Preclinical Science

Andrea Vincent, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, US

Dyslipidemia and diabetic neuropathy

21ST NEURODIAB MEETING, PORTO, PORTUGAL 2011

Göran Sundkvist Young Investigators Award for Clinical Science:

Mitra Tavakoli, University of Manchester, UK

Göran Sundkvist Young Investigators Award for Clinical Science:

Cristian Quattrini, University of Manchester, University of Sheffield, UK

22ND NEURODIAB MEETING, DRESDEN, GERMANY 2012

Göran Sundkvist Young Investigators Award for Clinical Science

Dinesh Selvarajah, University of Sheffield, UK

Angelika Bierhaus Young Investigators Award for Pre-Clinical Science:

Natalie Gardiner, University of Manchester, UK

24TH NEURODIAB MEETING, SOPRON, HUNGARY 2014

Göran Sundkvist Young Investigators Award for Clinical Science

Zsuzsanna Putz, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary



Figure 14. Photos of the last Winners of Young Investigators Awards.



Cristian Quattrini
with Luciano
Scionti at
Neurodiab Toronto
2009



Zsuzsanna Putz with Henning
Andersen at Neurodiab Sopron 2014

"One of the best parts of working in science is the excitement of finding something new, reproducible and real, and that what you do may contribute to our understanding of health and disease"

- Dr Natalie Gardiner



Natalie Gardiner (<https://lsmanchesterblog.wordpress.com/2015/03/09/international-womens-day-events-guest-blog-by-natalie-gardiner/>)

Dinesh Selvarajah at Neurodiab Sopron 2014



Mitra Tavakoli at Neurodiab Sopron 2014

NEURODIAB Guidelines

1996 Neurodiab Guidelines

PROMOTION OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE FIELD OF DIABETIC NEUROPATHY HAS BEEN a defining characteristic of Neurodiab since its early years. Figure 15 shows the letter to Dan Ziegler in which Domenico Fedele proposed sharing with Neurodiab a bibliography review publication previously developed by the Italian Study Group on Diabetic Neuropathy, which he chaired. Neurodiab endorsed this publication (Editor Domenico Fedele, Co-Editors Nicola Canal, F. Arnold Gries, Guido Menzinger, and John D. Ward) from 1991 to its last issue in 1997.

Neurodiab produced guidelines on diabetic neuropathy in 1996 and 2009 on clinical aspects, and in 2014 on rodent models of diabetic neuropathy.

In 1995, two working parties took place (a pilot one in April in Brussels with Andrew J.M. Boulton, Vera Bril, F. Arnold Gries, Michael Pfeifer, Jak Jervell, Gérard Saïd and Göran Sundkvist, and a full one in October in London with diabetologists, neurologists, primary care clinicians, diabetes specialist nurses and podiatrists among which a few Neurodiab members). The aim was to develop updated guidelines for the clinical management of diabetic neuropathy in primary and outpatient hospital care. Guido Menzinger then asked all Neurodiab members to review the document (see the letter in Figure 16) and the Executive Committee of Neurodiab endorsed it.

The guidelines were published in *Diabetic Medicine* in 1998 and were a useful reference for clinicians involved in diabetic neuropathy and diabetic foot (Figure 17).

A particular emphasis was played on educational aspects of patients according to the stages of the disease, in order to obtain an effective preventive strategy of this diabetic complication and to avoid its further complications: “Education of people with diabetes should be started before clinical neuropathy is present and should be customised to the individual’s circumstances and ability to understand. ... It is recommended that there should be separate programmes for people with type 1 and type 2 diabe-



Dr. D.Ziegler
Diabetes-Forschungsinstitut
Auf'm Hennekamp 65
4000 Düsseldorf 1
Germany

Padua, 20th December 1990

Dear Dr. Ziegler,

as we agreed upon at the First Meeting of the "European Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group" I am sending You the latest issue of "Neuropatia Diabetica: Rassegna Bibliografica", so that You may look over it.

This is a fourmonthly publication edited by the Study Group on Diabetic Neuropathy of the Italian Diabetic Association and it includes the abstracts of the articles about diabetic neuropathy, diabetic foot and diabetic impotence published by nearly 7,000 international journals.

The aim of this review is to give full and prompt information, which is often difficult to have available on account of the number of journals dealing with diabetic neuropathy.

For this end I and the Italian Study Group on neuropathy are really pleased to put this review at the disposal of the members of "Neurodiab", certain it will be a useful instrument to many.

I thank You very much and take the opportunity to send You my warmest regards together with the most sincere season's greetings.

Prof. Domenico Fedele

Figure 15. Letter of Domenico Fedele to Dan Ziegler with the proposal to put at disposal of Neurodiab a bibliography review publication previously developed by the Italian Study Group on Diabetic Neuropathy. It was published from 1991 to 1997 (provided by courtesy of Dan Ziegler)

tes, as more extensive advice is likely to be required for the elderly type 2 than for the young person with type 1 diabetes. Initially, it is important to assess the patient's level of knowledge about his/her condition and then to implement a measure of whether the educational messages have been understood. Care givers/partners should be involved throughout.”.



Figure 16. Letter of Guido Menzinger (1996) inviting Neurodiab members to review the document of guidelines for the clinical management of diabetic polyneuropathy proposed in a London meeting in 1995 and then to endorse these guidelines (provided by courtesy of Dan Ziegler)

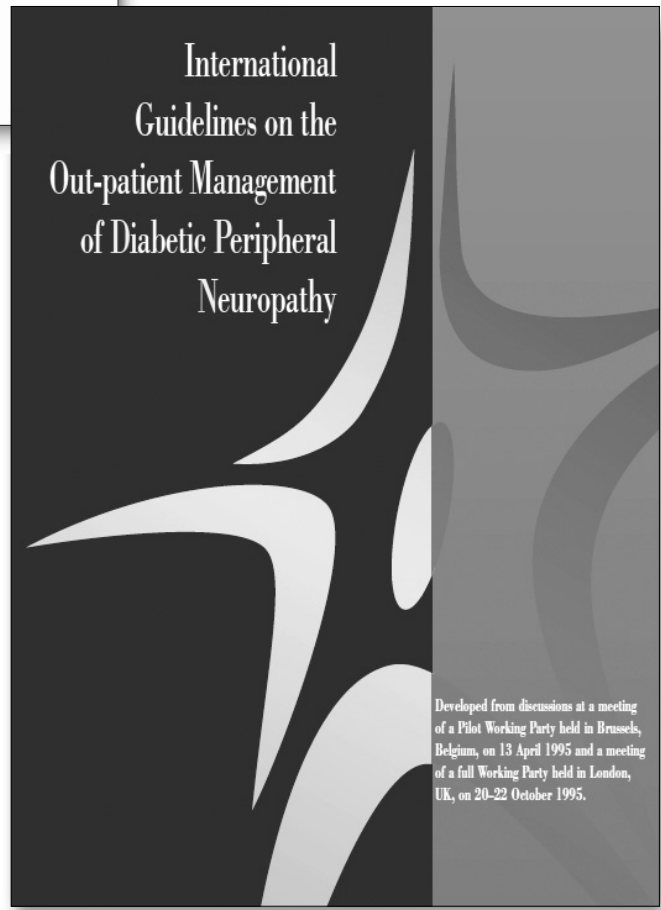


Figure 17. The guidelines for the clinical management of diabetic polyneuropathy endorsed by Neurodiab and published in 1998

Toronto Consensus

THE IDEA OF A CONSENSUS ON DIABETIC NEUROPATHY GREW IN THE MIND OF Solomon Tesfaye during the Orvieto meeting.

Before the beginning of Neurodiab 2008, Orvieto had hosted a 2-days panel of preclinical and clinical researchers (supported by NIH and JDRF) aimed at finding a consensus on the biomarkers of neuropathy in the animal models of diabetes. That work continued in subsequent years, many aspects needed a shared and definitive vision, and the result was published in 2014, providing a set of consensus criteria for the phenotyping of rodent models of diabetic neuropathy.

That was the time to draft new guidelines for the clinical approach to diabetic neuropathy with particular regard to definition, diagnosis, and treatment of different forms.

Diabetologists, neurologists, cardiologists, basic researchers and clinical experts convened to Toronto in 2009, just before the annual Neurodiab meeting, to define current knowledge and express recommendations.

Organization was far from easy, but the discussion and exchange of ideas and the preliminary work was very fruitful. The drafting of the final report required deep and shared collaboration, the result of which proved valuable. In fact, the Toronto consensus guidelines have now become a cornerstone for anyone involved in diabetic neuropathy (Figure 18 and 19).

Figure 18. Programme of the Consensus Workshop on Diabetic neuropathy organized in Toronto in 2009

Agenda		
Consensus Workshop on Diabetic Neuropathy Tuesday October 13 th - Thursday October 15 th , 2009		
Toronto Marriott Eaton Center Hotel 525 Bay Street Toronto, Ontario M5G 2L2 Canada (416) 597- 9200		
Tuesday October 13th, 2009		
Time	Program	Location
16:30 - 17:30	Welcome Desk - Registration	Up per Level
17:30 - 18:30	Welcome – Solomon Tesfaye Group Planning Sessions	King Room
19:30	Welcome Dinner – Walk to Superior Restaurant	Superior Restaurant
Wednesday October 14th, 2009		
Time	Program	Location
7:00 - 8:00	Buffet Breakfast	Up per Level
8:00 - 8:30	Registration	Up per Level
8:30 - 9:00	Opening and Welcome – Solomon Tesfaye & Paul Valensi (The Need for a Consensus in Diabetic Neuropathy Discussion)	King Room
Group Presentations Chairs: Solomon Tesfaye and Paul Valensi		
9:00 - 10:30	DPN – Block Leader: Peter J Dyck J.W. Albers, H. Andersen, J. Arezzo, G.J. Biessels, V. Bril, E. Feldman, J. Russell	King Room
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45 - 11:45	Painful DPN – Block Leader: Andrew Boulton M. Backonja, B. Perkins, G. Rayman, S. Sindrup, S. Tesfaye, L. Vileikyte, A. Vinik	King Room
11:45 - 13:00	Autonomic Neuropathy-Block Leaders: Paul Valensi and Roy Freeman R. Pop-Busui, M. Cotter, S. Frontoni, J. Hilsted, M. Horowitz, P. Kempler, V. Spallone, M. Stevens, D. Ziegler	King Room
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	King Room

Figure 19. The Toronto Consensus Panel (provided by courtesy of Solomon Tesfaye)



Agenda

Wednesday October 14th, 2009

Time	Program	Location
14:00 - 14:30	Autonomic Neuropathy continued..	King Room
14:30 - 15:30	Structure - Block Leader: Rayaz Malik N. Cameron, G. Lauria, G. Smith, A. Veves, D. Zochodne	King Room
15:30 - 15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45 - 18:15	Individual Group Working Sessions	2 Autonomic Groups - King Room DPN Group - Dundas Room Painful DPN Group - Dundas Room Structure Group - Richmond Room
19:00	End of the Working Sessions	
19:30	Walk to Adega Restaurant	Adega Restaurant
20:00	Dinner	Adega Restaurant

Thursday October 15th, 2009

Time	Program	Location
7:00 - 8:00	Buffet Breakfast	King Room
8:30	Joint Presentations from Each Group: Chairs: Solomon Tesfaye and Paul Valensi	King Room
8:30 - 9:20	Group DPN: Synthesis + Discussion + Changes and Slides of Statements (20+20+10 min)	King Room
9:20 - 10:10	Group Painful DPN: Synthesis + Discussion + Changes and Slides of Statements (20+20+10 min)	King Room
10:10 - 10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30 - 11:10	Group AN 1: Synthesis + Discussion + Changes and Slides of Statements (20+20+10 min)	King Room
11:10 - 12:00	Group AN 2: Synthesis + Discussion + Changes and Slides of Statements (20+20+10 min)	King Room
12:00 - 12:50	Group Structure: Synthesis + Discussion + Changes and Slides of Statements (20+20+10 min)	King Room
12:50 - 13:00	Closing remarks	King Room
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch and Farewell	King Room



The Tales of Protagonists

The Tales of Protagonists

"One of the main problems in diabetic neuropathy had been that diagnostic criteria had not been revised for over twenty years since the San Antonio Conference and the meeting in Toronto gave a platform to address all aspects of diabetic neuropathy (diagnostic criteria, estimation of severity and treatment etc.).

An international consensus panel on Diabetic Neuropathy was convened by Neurodiab and this meeting led to consensus recommenda-

tions on Diabetic Neuropathy published in Diabetes Care in 2010 and six other consensus recommendations on all aspects of diabetic neuropathy published in Diabetes Metabolism Research Reviews in 2011.

Our Consensus recommendation article has already been cited over 650 times and is gaining universal acceptance. This would not have been possible without Neurodiab."

Solomon Tesfaye

Mentors and friends who passed away

PK Thomas ▪ UK
(28.6.1926-25.1.2008)



P.K. THOMAS WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST SCIENTISTS in the field of diabetic neuropathy. He was also a dear friend for many Neurodiab members and attended a number of the first Neurodiab meetings making precious, wise, and rarely predictable contributions.



Documents

Memory and messages published on the Neurodiab website when the news of PK Thomas's death circulated (From Neurodiab website: <http://www.colloquium.eu/site/-A-Tribute-to-Professor-PK-Thomas->)

I first met PK running up the stairs from the basement in Maida Vale Hospital in 1964 with his long curly hair flying. I was privileged to be his first PhD student and we started well, discussing my project on experimental allergic neuritis over a curry that evening. I remember him drawing pictures of nerves on his napkins to the puzzlement of the waiter. In 1964 he has just returned from a short stay at Montreal General Hospital and McGill University to start up an Electron Microscope Laboratory jointly with Michael Kidd under the auspices of the Institute of Neurology at Maida Vale Hospital.

His first research paper had been on the structure of fish nerves in 1949, which had the dual usefulness of detailing how nerves extend with body



growth and provided fresh trout to supplement the meagre post-war diet. His first degree was in Anatomy and this was an enduring interest. One of the first studies we did at Maida Vale was on pathological changes in nerve biopsies from diabetic neuropathy patients. He was unusual in doing the clinical examination, the nerve conduction studies and the light and electron microscopy himself.

Space at Maida Vale was limited so he moved to the Royal Free Hospital in Gray's Inn Road in 1969 where he set up a department of Neurology over a Greek Restaurant across the road from the main Hospital. When we lost a *Rana edulis* we wondered if it ended up as dinner! Whilst at Gray's Inn road he extended his research into diabetic neuropathy to experimental models using the streptozotocin and the galactosaemic rat models as well as studies on nerve injury in both myelinated and unmyelinated fibres.

The electron microscope proved to be rather too heavy for the structure of the building so as soon as the new Royal Free was finished, the department moved to Hampstead.

I feel enormously privileged to have worked with PK for so long. He had a wonderful combination of a brilliant mind, fantastic memory and the ability to work enormously hard. He was also basically such a nice kind man that everyone who worked with him, from the cleaner upwards, thought of him as their friend. He lived life to the full and always found time for fun and relaxation; he was always last to leave a party.

He had very wide-ranging interests outside work and was a keen gardener, loved music of many genres, collected modern art, played squash and skied. He travelled extensively both for work and pleasure. To give just two examples, he got interested in altitude neuropathy so this was a good excuse to take a trip up the Andes in Peru and his interest in hereditary demyelinating diseases led to visits to Eastern Europe to take nerve biopsies from Roma as they have several special neuropathies.

No time was ever wasted and he would be found editing papers in any spare moments including, for example, whilst doing the tour of Mont Blanc in the rain; the papers got very wet. Even during the last years when he was severely disabled, he thoroughly enjoyed being taken to the pub and being surrounded by chatter. It was a great sadness that he no longer liked the taste of red wine in these latter years. His handicaps didn't totally stop his travelling exploits and he still managed to go to Poland, where he had many friends, and Canada.

Rosalind King

PK will be remembered not only as a careful, devoted, and a truly great scientist in the field of peripheral neuropathy, but also as the most cheerful and helpful colleague. I believe, like Tennyson, that his influence (in the field of peripheral neuropathy) will always be there, even though he may not be. NEURODIAB will always honour his contributions for our study group.

“The greatest thing about life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.” – Stanly Arnold

Solomon Tesfaye, Chairman of NEURODIAB

I endorse your own sentiments — he was a true polymath, with a vast range of skills, including cooking and wine. He was a great friend, and will be much missed. He was cared for most wonderfully by his very loving wife Nok.

Peter Watkins

I join all of Neurodiab in remembering with admiration and affection a great member of our Group.

Guido Menzinger

A giant has moved on. I shall look forward hopefully to catching up with him on the other side. Warmest regards.

Peter Oats

We would like conveying to the family our sincerest sympathy for a person who will always be remembered for his contributions to the welfare of people with diabetes and its complications. Indeed there is no authoritative text on diabetic neuropathy that does not pay tribute to him for his erudition and ability to wee the wood for the trees, which has made life a whole lot easier for those who presume to follow in his footsteps.

Aaron Vinik

He will certainly be remembered as a great scientist with enormous solid contributions to the area of peripheral neuropathy. I remember very well several visits to his lab during my formative years in Sweden. Also a little story, when he and William Kruecke served as external examiners on my PhD defence. PK did not speak German and Kruecke did not speak English, so I ended up translating for one to the other - what an ideal situation for a nervous candidate. That aside, PK was also the perfect gentle-



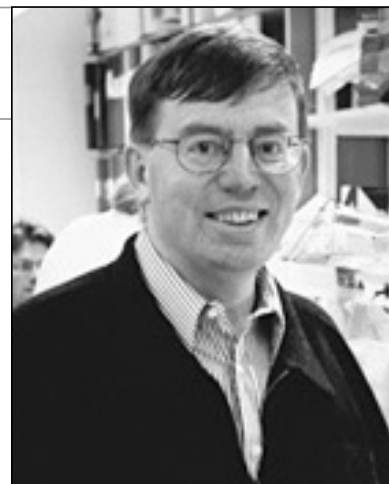
man with a good portion of dry English humour - a fine human being.

Anders Sima

I am deeply touched by the bad news. He was a great scientist and person, certainly his work strongly contributed to the development of knowledge of diabetic neuropathy, and it was a great honour to have the opportunity of meeting him at Neurodiab meetings. We have to keep his memory and to follow his teaching.

Vincenza Spallone

Göran Sündkvist ▪ Sweden
(1944-15.9.2006)



GÖRAN SÜNDKVIST PASSED AWAY SUDDENLY AT THE AGE OF 62, on Friday September 15th just 2 days after the closing of the Neurodiab Meeting he had successfully organised in Ystad (Sweden).

All the members of Neurodiab shared the same feelings of incredulity and consternation for the circumstances of his unexpected death while appreciating his human and scientific qualities.

He was a clinical researcher who made important contributions and innovative results in the field of diabetes autoimmunity, diabetic complications and diabetic autonomic neuropathy. His brilliant results and suggestions of a pathogenetic role of autonomic neuropathy in diabetic nephropathy progression inspired other researchers and remain a landmark in autonomic neuropathy research.

He was a strong inspiring force of Neurodiab activities from the very beginning, a kind host for Neurodiab meetings, a clever and gentle person, and a good friend. We all appreciated his intellectual honesty, his kindness and friendliness.

Under David Tomlinson's suggestion, the Executive Committee named a prize lecture after Göran as an expression of a common desire to maintain and honour his memory.



Göran Sündkvist with Norman Cameron and Dan Ziegler (provided by courtesy of Mary Cotter)



The notification of Göran Sundkvist's death by Paul Valensi and Solomon Tesfaye, outgoing and coming Chairman of Neurodiab

September 2006 11:34

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

We've just learnt terribly sad news.

Professor Göran Sundkvist has suddenly left our world on Friday 15 September at his office, two days after the closure of our meeting, which he had so successfully organized.

We lose a friend. We lose a colleague, who was actively involved in Neurodiab from the very first days. He was well known for his research in the field of diabetic neuropathy while always remaining modest. He had just been re-elected as a member of the executive committee during our last AGM.

We express our gratitude to Göran for everything he did as a friend and as a member of our group.

Our thoughts go to his family and his group.

Paul Valensi, Solomon Tesfaye

Letter of Solomon Tesfaye to Göran Sundkvist's wife

Dear Kersti,

It is with great regret that I discovered the passing away of your husband and our very esteemed colleague Göran. I had realized that he wasn't quite well when I was in Ystad but I hadn't imagined that this terrible news was waiting for us. Göran was a highly respected and valued friend and colleague who shall always remain in our hearts. His scientific rigor is outstanding but he was never too big headed and was humble as most educated people are. He always had time for his friends and colleagues and he put his views clear without being arrogant and because of that we had invited him to come back to the Executive Committee, which he graciously accepted. Unfortunately this was not meant to be and I do hope the passage of time eases the pain of this great loss.

Please accept my sincere condolences. Neurodiab will always honour his memory and we are indeed extremely grateful for his contributions to this study group over many years.

With best wishes and kindest regards

Solomon Tesfaye, Chairman of Neurodiab

Angelika Bierhaus ▪ Germany
(9.2.1962-15.4.2012)



ANGELIKA BIERHAUS PASSED AWAY ON 15 APRIL 2012 at the age of 50, after a strenuous battle with cancer. She devoted her whole life to research and achieved fundamental results for the comprehension of molecular mechanisms of chronic diseases, including diabetes and diabetic neuropathy. Her discovery of methylglyoxal-dependent modifications in sodium channel Nav1.8 as a mechanism of diabetes-associated hyperalgesia is a remarkable achievement that testifies further to her resilience, brilliant mind and moral strength in transforming her personal experience of treatment-induced neuropathic pain in a dedicated research to alleviate this disabling condition for herself and everyone.

She attended several Neurodiab meetings and in particular in the Neurodiab meeting of Orvieto in 2008 was a much appreciated speaker in the Symposium on the ‘Role of oxidative stress in the pathogenesis and treatment of diabetic neuropathy’, chaired by F. Arnold Gries and Dan Ziegler with the talk on “Glycooxidant stress induced pathways in neuropathic pain and loss of pain perception”.

In 2011, she achieved her last recognition of her dedication to diabetes research with the Camillo Golgi prize awarded by EASD. Her lecture that day, the warm appreciation by the audience and her smile will hold a special place in our collective memory.

In 2012, after her untimely passing away, the Neurodiab Executive Committee decided to name the Young Investigators’ Award for pre-clinical science after Angelika Bierhaus.

The first Angelika Bierhaus prize was assigned to Natalie Gardiner.

Irina Obrosova ▪ Ukraine, US
(26.11.1956-4.12.2012)



IRINA OBROSOVA PASSED AWAY DURING THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 4th 2012 at the age of 56. This untimely death was terrible news for the Neurodiab community and for everyone around the world who had had the opportunity to meet her and understand her significant value as a scientist and as a friend.



Documents

Here is the email sent by Steven B. Heymsfield on 6 December 2012 to communicate the premature death of Irina Obrosova, and Andrew J.M. Boulton's reply on 7 December 2012. Many other emails were sent to Steven B. Heymsfield from colleagues and friends from all over the world, as seen in the last email.

Dear All,

I am saddened to inform you that Professor Irina Obrosova passed away Tuesday night, December 4th.

Dr. Obrosova has been a Pennington Biomedical Research Center (PBRC) faculty member since 2004. She came to PBRC from the University of Michigan Medical Center where she was an Assistant Professor in the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism. Dr. Obrosova earned a B.S. in Biology and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 1979 and 1985 respectively from Kiev State University in the Ukraine. She was well accomplished in the

research field of diabetes complications with a primary focus on diabetic neuropathy, and she currently has three NIH-funded projects in this area. Dr. Obrosova served as a grant reviewer for the NIH, ADA and other funding agencies, while also serving as a peer-reviewer for numerous scientific journals. She has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers and has written numerous book chapters.

I am sure as a collaborator of hers you valued her as a scientific colleague, as well as a friend. I have worked closely with Irina since my arrival here in 2010 and her loss is deeply personal to me.

Steven B. Heymsfield, PBRC, Baton Rouge

Dear Dr Heymsfield,

I was deeply saddened to learn of the untimely death of my longstanding friend, Irina Obrosova, whom I have known for more than 25 years. She was an extremely talented researcher in the area of experimental diabetic neuropathy and has made seminal contributions to our understanding of the pathogenesis of this condition over the last 2 decades. It was an honour for me to have been not only a good friend of hers, but also an adviser and one of the referees that supported her successful bids for promotion on more than one occasion. She was a highly talented scientist who had an extremely successful career in terms of prestigious grant income as well as high impact factor paper publications and it is an absolute tragedy that it came to such an early end not only for Irina but also for the diabetes community in general.

She was a longstanding and active member of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) and was a regular attendee, presenter and discussant at the annual Neurodiab conferences as well as the international conferences on diabetic neuropathy. She spoke on more than one occasion as an invited speaker at our symposia and indeed herself proposed a number of symposia which were accepted to be part of our annual meeting: a recent example is the symposium on diabetic neuropathy at the annual EASD meeting in Rome 2008.

It is difficult for me to believe that we have lost two of the most talented basic scientists working in this area this year – I am referring to the earlier passing of a friend and colleague of Irina, that is Prof. Angelika Bierhaus, of the University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Please do pass my sympathy and condolences as well as best wishes to her family and friends and also those of the EASD.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Andrew J.M. Boulton, President, EASD



Dear Colleagues,

We marked with great sadness the death of Irina Obrosova last week. Many of us attended Irina's funeral and gave condolences to her mother who travelled here from her home in the Ukraine. I also provided Irina's mother with the many kind condolences sent to me by e-mail from all over the world. We share these with you in the attached document, and I am certain you will also see Irina's good will, warmth, and generosity reflected in these generous remembrances. Please accept my personal thanks for sharing these memories with me and the Pennington Biomedical faculty.

With regards,

Steven B. Heymsfield, PBRC, Baton Rouge

This is the Lecture dedicated to the memory of Irina Obrosova by Solomon Tesfaye in the Irina Obrosova Memorial chaired by Aaron Vinik at the 2013 Neurodiab Meeting in Castelldefels, Spain.

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, dear friends:

The idea of this Lecture in honour of Professor Irina Obrosova emanated from my Co-Chair Professor Aaron Vinik. As you all know, Irina was a constant feature in Neurodiab – in fact I can't recall any Neurodiab meeting that she missed. I think you will also agree that she dedicated her life for the advancement of research in diabetic neuropathy and it is therefore right and proper that Neurodiab honors her memory in this way.

A native of Ivanovo, Ukraine, Professor Irina Obrosova was born November 26, 1956. After attending Central High School in Kiev she joined Kiev State University to read Biology and qualified with the Highest Honors in Biology in 1979.

She went on to do a higher degree in Biochemistry at Kiev State University and was awarded a PhD in 1985. Following a couple of years as a Junior Research Scientist, in 1987 she was appointed Senior Research Scientist in the Department of Diabetology, Institute of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Kiev. Her exceptional scientific qualities led her promotion to the position of Leading Research Scientist, Department of Diabetology, Institute of Endocrinology and Metabolism between 1991-3.

Like many of you here, I first came to know Professor Irina Obrosova in 1991, when she gave an impressive oral presentation related to diabetic neuropathy at the EASD meeting in Dublin, Ireland.

I have since closely followed Irina's work from the time she relocated to

"Irina Obrososva
with Norman
Cameron and
Gerry Rayman
at a Neurodiab
Meeting (provided
by courtesy of
Mary Cotter)



the United States in 1993, and have had numerous interactions with her at ADA, EASD, IDF and indeed our annual meeting of NEURODIAB. I think you will agree Irina was an extremely bright and talented individual who made an important contribution to the diabetes complications field. Her research on pathogenetic mechanisms of diabetic neuropathy has been excellent, and her findings have been reproduced by many leading investigators.

Irina moved to the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the University of Michigan in 1996, where she became a renowned expert in diabetic neuropathy, and was soon promoted to a research faculty position. At Michigan, she utilised her impressive knowledge of biochemistry to conduct seminal studies in animal models demonstrating a key role for aldose reductase, oxidative stress and PARP activation in diabetic neuropathy, cataract formation as well as early diabetic retinopathy. Her studies demonstrated for the first time a key role for energetic deficits in the pathogenesis of experimental diabetic neuropathy.

Her excellent research and communication skills (verbal and written) enabled her to obtain several research grants including a Career Development Award from the NIH/NIDDK.

Recognition of her skills led her to secure a tenured position as an Associate Professor at Pennington Biomedical Research Center (PBRC). Further development of her career at PBRC and promotion to full professorship



was a clear illustration of what can be achieved by a talented and dedicated researcher in an excellent scientific environment and with institutional support. While at PBRC, Irina developed her skills in molecular biology, which served to identify several important mechanisms of diabetic neuropathy including nitrosative stress, and more recently, activations of 12/15-lipoxygenase and Na⁺/H⁺-exchanger-1. She also continued her work demonstrating a key role for PARP activation in diabetic cataract, nephropathy, and early retinopathy.

In her career, Irina received grant support from both federal and private organizations including a research grant from Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF), two research grants from ADA, two R21 grants, and, more recently, two RO1 grants from the NIH to study the role of Na⁺/H⁺-exchanger-1 in diabetic neuropathy and peroxynitrite as a clinical marker for progression of diabetic neuropathy.

She has published many high quality papers in prestigious journals including Diabetes, FASEB Journal, Diabetologia, and others. She has presented her work at National and International meetings and has given invited lectures at the Annual Meetings of ADA, EASD, Japan Diabetes Society, American Association of Vision and Eye Research, European Association for Vision and Eye Research, as well as invited seminars at several leading universities. She has also chaired many oral and poster sessions at International meetings, a clear testament to her International reputation in diabetes research.

Irina was also a chartered member of the NIH CNNT study section that reviews neuropathy-related grants, as well as a member of the ADA and JDRF grant review panels. She has reviewed grants for special emphasis panels at the NIH, as well as program project grants for the European Union and grants for American Institute of Biological Sciences, and several other associations.

She served as a reviewer for many leading journals including Nature Neuroscience, Nature Protocol, Diabetes, FASEB Journal, and others. In short, Professor Obrosova had an excellent reputation in diabetes complications research and as a result was highly respected by her peers in diabetes research. Irina was an outstanding scientist and colleague with an international reputation who had an exceptional scholarly career marked by numerous, high quality scientific publications.

As all of you know, she was highly articulate and unafraid to speak her mind - something that will be truly missed by her colleagues at future research meetings. Few can forget the excitement of her forthright ex-

changes discussing the evidence for “pseudohypoxia” in diabetic neuropathy. She had a formidable intellect and could see through flaws in scientific methodology.

At a personal level she was a very loyal and supportive friend. She loved travelling around various parts of the world with her nephew, Oleksandr and enthusiastically shared her experiences with friends, bringing back treasures she had purchased to share including novel paintings and jewellery.

Unfortunately, she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in early 2012 and passed away on December 4, 2012. Throughout her 7-month battle with cancer she remained devoted to her work and was concerned about completing her ongoing projects and for the future of the people in her laboratory. Of course her many friends and colleagues were extremely saddened by her untimely death as she had so much more to offer.

Upon the shocking news of the untimely death of our friend and colleague Irina, many of you and others sent fitting tributes. Dr Teresa Jones of the NIDDK wrote: “Irina dedicated her life to understanding and treating diabetic neuropathy. She brought people together at an outstanding workshop at Pennington a few years ago and at dinners at other meetings. She had a wide circle of collaborators because she knew that this difficult problem couldn’t be tackled alone. She was working on translating her research to the clinic after many years of working with animal models. When we spoke this fall, she was very concerned that the research continues and I hope it does. Irina generously gave her time and expertise to NIDDK, whenever asked. Less than two months ago, she was on a telephone review and as always was precise, knowledgeable and fair. She was passionate in her opinions and wanted the best for the field. As many of the present researchers know personally, studying diabetic neuropathy is a journey filled with challenges. Irina had the calling to follow this path. Her early death is a loss to everyone who knew her and for the present and future sufferers of diabetic neuropathy.”

Dear Colleagues: A highly intelligent, passionate, hard working and talented scientist, Irina’s unique talents will be greatly missed by her many friends in NEURODIAB and other institutions. Her strength of character in the face of adversity is an example to us all and her achievements in the field of diabetes complications will continue to inspire future young scientists. I think you will agree that Irina’s achievements will stand the test of time. The diabetes complications field will be a poorer place without outstanding scientists such as Irina.

Solomon Tesfaye

**Witnesses and first-hand
experiences of members**

The Tales of Protagonists



"I attended my first Neurodiab in 2007 when the meeting was held in Utrecht. As a total newcomer to the field of neuropathy at the time, I was definitely not a club member. I was expecting to be ignored for the most part as is often typical for newcomers to such small, focused meetings sponsored by the Keystone and Gordon conferences. I was very impressed when Solomon, who I think may have been the Chair of the Neurodiab at the time, introduced himself and welcomed me to the meeting. The tremendous focus on both basic and clinical aspects of diabetic neuropathy was something I had never experienced and it was fantastic. I came away very happy with the input I received about our work at the time and hearing what was really deemed critical for advancing neuropathy research by the numerous experts I recognized by name, but now had met. I recall my reticence in meeting David Tomlinson for the first time, as I was well aware of his prominence in the field and his unique personality. We kind of hit it off and I always enjoyed speaking with him again at subsequent meetings. The meeting venues are always excellent and historic; my wife still forbids me from mentioning the 2008 Orvieto meeting since she could not travel with me that year. In general, I always enjoy attending Neurodiab, and connecting with colleagues. As a society member, I look forward to continuing to contribute to the meeting and the advancement of neuropathy research and treatments."

Rick T. Dobrowsky

"It is a lovely way to commemorate a very successful and joyful organization that has always felt more like a family than anything else."

I remember the very first meeting in Cork and the wonderful founding fathers, Guido, John, Peter, Attali, Arthur and Jannik. Have I forgotten anyone?? They had such gravitas and authority and a passion for diabetic neuropathy and the possibility of developing specific treatments.

Of course, it was the era of the aldose reductase inhibitors and there was lots of money available from Pharmaceutical companies, we were still one with the "foot people" and that made for some very lively discussions.

The most lively discussions always involved Irina! Irina doing battle with Joe Williamson was always very gladiatorial, that is why I have sent a picture of Irina in more peaceful times. In fact, Irina once knocked me over in her rush to get up and ask Joe a question after one of his talks, I was mere collateral damage!

The meeting on the Bosphorus was particularly memorable for us. Norman and I were invited to present a "conversazione", one presenting a metabolic case, the other a vascular. Of course the happy ending was that it was diabetes-induced metabolic changes in the vasculature that was the most likely important mechanism in the aetiology of diabetic neuropathy.

Organizing the meeting in Aberdeen in 2001 was a lot of work, but great fun. We had four seasons in one day, typical Scottish weather. I have happy memories of many of the meetings, they tend to merge into one happy remembered society that is Neurodiab."

Mary Cotter

"Neurodiab provides a unique interface between basic and clinical science at the field"

of diabetic neuropathy. It has been an inspirational, educational and motivating event that I look forward to it every year. I attached the photo from the first Neurodiab meeting that I attended at Ystad, Sweden at 2006. Since then I attended every year (apart from 2008 that my daughter was born), which I always enjoy tremendously. From scientific point, it is a wonderful opportunity to network and learn directly from world leading scientists at the field.

An important part of Neurodiab mission is to educate and train the next generation of young scientists and clinicians who will go on to be leaders at the field and the two young investigators awards recognize this. Indeed, I was truly honoured to receive the 2011 clinical science prize of Neurodiab as a young scientist. Unfortunately over the years, Neurodiab lost some of its leading figures like Prof. Irina Obrosova, Prof. Göran Sundkvist and Prof. Angelika Bierhaus. I am feeling lucky that I meet all these individuals and in particular I missed Irina very much. She was a great scientist, mentor and friend both professionally and personally.

I like to take this opportunity and thanks the organisation and scientific committee of Neurodiab for their hard work and organising this fantastic annual event."

Mitra Tavakoli

"I have joined the group lately and have not attended a meeting yet. From my friend Vera Brill, I have learned about the great achievements of this group. I agree with your initiative (*this book, Curator's note*) and would like to donate \$500 toward its goal."

Aziz Shaibani

"I remember the fine times experienced with Neurodiab. Personally, I have attended a number of editions, but Luciano Scionti has certainly been more assiduous than me. I'm still grateful to Guido Menzinger for having always given value to our experiences such as protocols on epidemiology of diabetic neuropathy (DNI, DNS) and on erectile dysfunction, which were made available by the Neuropathy Study Group of the Italian Society of Diabetology

(always very active) and also - at that time - by the support of pharmaceutical companies with our programmes."

Fausto Santeusanio

"The Neurodiab has been an outstanding organization for me on both a personal and academic level. It has been my great privilege to develop friendships across the globe with people such as Soroku Yagihashi, Andrew Boulton, Rodica Pop-Busui, Eva Feldman, Vincenza Spallone, Solomon Tesfaye, Dan Ziegler, Rayaz A. Malik, Norman Cameron, Mary Cotter, Caroline Abbott, Mitra Tavakoli, Gerry Rayman, Paul Fernyhough and many others, too numerous to mention.

These friendships with people devoted to the same career interest have encouraged me to remain committed to pursuing better neuropathy outcomes for our patients with diabetes. I recall many happy Neurodiab events around the globe... and many happy times in different cities in Europe, such as Orvieto and Barcelona.

This association has been a wonderful way to encourage young people to pursue a career studying diabetic neuropathy, such as Bruce Perkins, who attended his first meetings whilst still a trainee and has continued with his interest in this field. He, in turn, has attracted several young endocrinologists to the study of diabetic neuropathy. The Neurodiab has led to international collaborations that have helped my career tremendously, and I would not have achieved my current academic level without the strong support of members of the Neurodiab."

Vera Brill

"I have great memories about the Neurodiab. I attended my first meeting in 2007 and not missed one since. As a younger trainee and investigator, Neurodiab meetings and the lively discussions during sessions and afterwards were a great inspiration for my research. Over time, I made many precious friends and started great collaborations. Neurodiab feels like a family and attending the meetings like home coming."

Rodica Pop-Busui



“The Neurodiab for me has represented 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 to brainstorm, share findings, and share a passion in resolving key issues in diabetes complications. It is a magical combination of people that I've rarely seen in the research world. My first experience was over 15 years ago, in Costa Rica, while still a resident in Endocrinology – it was a high-level meeting that captured my imagination in diabetes research, and drew me to the wonderful researchers in this field.

A major highlight: seeing Irina aggressively arguing her views on mechanisms of nerve injury by day, then seeing her Samba dancing alongside colleagues and locals in a village pub by night! The Neurodiab has taught me to enjoy and celebrate my colleagues and to enjoy collaborative research. Born out of the Neurodiab for me has been career-long mentorship from the likes of Vera, Solomon, and Andrew, the seeds of a wonderful Corneal Confocal Microscopy consortium with Rayaz, Mitra, Nathan, Nicola, Danielle and many others, and the lifelong collegiality and friendship of extraordinary researchers like Rodica and Emmanuel. The Neurodiab is a rare and magically unique enterprise, full of expertise and personality, something for us as a research and clinical community to be extremely proud of.”

Bruce Perkins

“Dear Neurodiab, congratulations with the 25th anniversary!

We keep many very fond memories of fruitful meetings with dear friends and colleagues on wonderful locations throughout Europe, as well as here in the Netherlands.

Thank you!”

**Geert Jan Biessels & Ineke Brands
also on behalf of Bert Bravenboer,
Sytze van Dam, Sanne Manschot,
Esther van den Berg**

Neurodiab: Personal Reflections of the Past 25 Years

“When Neurodiab was founded in 1990 with its first meeting at Cork, its mission statement was to “promote the advancement of knowledge in all aspects of diabetic neuropathy through active cooperation between interested diabetologists and other specialists such as neurologists, neurophysiologists, urologists, gastroenterologists etc.” Twenty-five years on I feel the foundations of these objectives have been met although we do not yet have a cure for diabetic neuropathy. It has been a great privilege to be a founding member of this great family of scientists and I can truly say that Neurodiab has had a major impact in shaping my career. However its impact doesn't stop at career enhancement only; it has had a major impact on my life as a whole. I have made lifelong friends at Neurodiab and indeed the best man at my wedding was a member of Neurodiab.

Early Years

I was inspired and mentored by Professor John Ward who was vice-chairman of Neurodiab in the early 90s and was also the organiser of the ISDN (international Symposium on Diabetic Neuropathy) meeting in New-York. I was also inspired by great clinical scientists, including Dr Peter Watkins, Professor P. K. Thomas and Professor P. J. Dyck, who continues to be very active researcher still.

Whilst a research fellow for Professor Ward, Neurodiab gave me an opportunity to present some of my data. Apart from learning to present scientific data in public with a non-confrontational approach with the questions at the end (10 minutes of presentation followed by 10 minutes of questions for many years until this changed to 5 minutes of questions more recently) was extremely useful in addressing some of my research deficiencies particularly when writing the articles. The annual Neurodiab meetings were ideal for networking with like-minded scientists and the ideas that are generated and the collaborations that immerse led to many publications in high quality journals. For example my involve-

ment in the EURODIAB study started at Neurodiab and without the Neurodiab platform this simply would not have been possible.

One of the key benefits of Neurodiab is the opportunity of ideas for translational research. Many of my research ideas originated or were strengthened by the basic science research that was presented in the annual meetings, in particular work from Professors Cameron and Cotter.

Thus I believe the “bench-to-bedside” core scientific philosophy of Neurodiab encompassing both basic and clinical research is key to its future success. Mechanism orientated clinical research including laboratory based research clarifying mechanisms of DPN; developing measures/markers of DPN presence, severity or improvement; and developing drugs/devices/interventions to treat DPN or to improve the overall health/quality of life of our patients should continue to be key components of the Neurodiab objectives.

Leadership Roles

One of the key elements of Neurodiab is to encourage a new generation of scientists to emerge to take on leadership roles. I was elected vice-chairman of the executive committee in 2003 – 2006 and subsequently chairman of Neurodiab from 2006 – 2009. These leadership roles have given me valuable experiences in organising scientific meetings, assessing abstracts, raising funds etc. The roles also involved team working with some of my eventual great friends from Europe including Professor Vincenza Spallone, Professor Peter Kempler, Professor Paul Valensi, and Professor Geer-Jan Biessels.

As most previous chairs will appreciate raising appropriate funds for the annual meeting is the biggest headache. On a couple of occasions during my chairmanship we were a little short of funds but with large support from Dr Vladimir Skljarevski (Eli Lilly and Company) we manage to make ends meet, which was a great relief for me.

... Memorable events during my three years as chairman were the meeting in Orvieto and ... in Toronto...

New Generation of Scientists

And so it has been wonderful to have been part of this great institution with its very friendly atmosphere that welcomes family members and accompanying spouses and friends; fosters fruitful/lasting scientific collaborations and facilitates mentorship of young scientists. Along the way we have lost some notable members including Professor P. K. Thomas, Professor Göran Sundqvist, Professor Angelika Bierhaus and more recently Professor Irina Obrosova. Although they are no longer with us their scientific work lives on.

The new generation of the 1990s is rapidly becoming the old generation! However I am delighted that many of us have mentored a new generation of excellent clinical and basic scientists and I feel the future of Neurodiab will be bright in their hands.”

Solomon Tesfaye

Enjoying places, arts and friendship



Solomon Tesfaye and Joseph C. Arezzo at ISDN meeting in New York 1992 (provided by courtesy of Solomon Tesfaye)

New York 1992



Gerry Rayman, Peter J. Watkins,
John D. Ward, Y. Goto at
ISDN Meeting in New York
1992 (provided by courtesy of
Solomon Tesfaye)



Aristides Veves, Peter J. Watkins,
Gerry Rayman and Rayaz Malik
at ISDN meeting in New York
1992 (provided by courtesy of
Solomon Tesfaye)



Norman Cameron and Mary Cotter at Neurodiab Istanbul 1993 (provided by courtesy of Solomon Tesfaye).



Iris and Dan Ziegler, Norman Cameron (provided by courtesy of Mary Cotter)



Norman Cameron, Mary Cotter and Solomon Tesfaye at Neurodiab Istanbul 1993 (provided by courtesy of Mary Cotter).

Istanbul 1993



Peter Kempler, Soroku Yagihashi and many others at Neurodiab St Malo 2003 (provided by courtesy of Dan Ziegler)



Mary Cotter and Norman Cameron at Neurodiab St Malo 2003 (provided by courtesy of Dan Ziegler)

St Malo 2003



Irina Gurieva, Boris A. Mankovsky and Dan Ziegler (provided by courtesy of Dan Ziegler)

Porto Heli 2005



P. Sytze van Dam and Mary Cotter, Federico Bellavere and Luciano Scionti (in the background) at Neurodiab Porto Heli 2005 (provided by courtesy of Mary Cotter)

Guido Menzinger, Aaron Vinik and his wife at Neurodiab Porto Heli 2005 (provided by courtesy of Guido Menzinger)





Dutch team in Ystad, Neurodiab 2006; left to right: Alette Wessels, Esther van den Berg, Geert Jan Biessels, Ineke Brands, Sanne Manschot (provided by courtesy of Geert Jan Biessels)

Ystad 2006



Neurodiab Ystad 2006: visit to the Viking Village (provided by courtesy of Dan Ziegler)

Neurodiab Ystad 2006: Participants (provided by courtesy of Mitra Tavakoli)



Utrecht 2007



Neurodiab
Utrecht 2007:
farewell dinner
at Museum
Speelklok,
tour along
centuries-old self-
playing musical
instrument and
dinner among
traditional Dutch
street organs
(provided by
courtesy of Geert
Jan Biessels)



Neurodiab
Utrecht 2007:
Participants
(provided
by courtesy
of Solomon
Tesfaye)



Neurodiab Utrecht 2007: reception and gala dinner in Cloister Gardens and University Hall (het Academieggebouw) (provided by courtesy of Geert Jan Biessels)



Neurodiab Utrecht 2007: A Reja, Solomon Tesfaye and Vladimir Skljarevski at the Gala Dinner (provided by courtesy of Solomon Tesfaye)



Orvieto 2008

Neurodiab
Orvieto 2008:
Participants
on the stairs
of the Palazzo
del Popolo



Neurodiab Orvieto 2008: Federico Bellavere and Luciano Bernardi in Orvieto Duomo



Neurodiab Orvieto 2008:
Dinner in Underground Caves



Neurodiab Orvieto 2008: Vincenza Spallone and Simona Frontoni with Cinzia D'Amato, Roberto Morganti and Francesca Spasaro at Gala Dinner

Neurodiab Orvieto 2008: Valery V. Nosikov and John Fuller



Neurodiab Orvieto 2008: Gerola Marfia and Luigi Uccioli



Neurodiab Orvieto 2008: Eva Feldman and Jannik Hilsted



Neurodiab Orvieto 2008: Geert Jan Biessels, Martin Stevens and Peter Watkins



Neurodiab Orvieto 2008: John Ward, Peter Watkins with his wife and Guido Menzinger



Neurodiab Orvieto 2008: Pino Bax and Rita Di Leo



Neurodiab Orvieto 2008: Roza Abedimova and friends from Kazakstan



Neurodiab Orvieto 2008: David Tomlinson and friends



Orvieto 2008

Neurodiab Orvieto 2008: Roy Freeman, Iris Ziegler, F. Arnold Gries and his wife



Neurodiab Orvieto 2008: F. Arnold Gries and Peter Watkins with their wives (provided by courtesy of Dan Ziegler).



Toronto 2009



Bruce Perkins, Vera Bril and Solomon Tesfaye at Neurodiab Toronto 2009 (provided by courtesy of Solomon Tesfaye)



Peter J. Dyck, Vincenza Spallone, Luciano Scionti, and Simona Frontoni at Neurodiab Toronto 2009 (provided by courtesy of Solomon Tesfaye)

Castelldefels-



Neurodiab Barcelona 2013: Mary Cotter, Simona Frontoni, Geert Jan Biessels and Norman Cameron at the reception in Opera (provided by courtesy of Geert Jan Biessels)



Neurodiab Barcelona 2013: Vera Bril, Bruce Perkins, and Rodica Pop-Busui with her husband (provided by courtesy of Rodica Pop-Busui)



-Barcelona 2013

Neurodiab Barcelona
2013: the 2013
Executive Committee



Neurodiab Barcelona 2013: Dan and Iris Ziegler



Neurodiab Barcelona 2013: Visit to Sagrada Familia

Sopron 2014



Neurodiab Sopron 2014: Corinne G. Jolivalt, Nigel Calcutt and John Wahren



Neurodiab Sopron 2014: Rodica Pop-Busui and Peter Kempler



Neurodiab Sopron 2014: Rayaz Malik and Abd A. Tahrani



Neurodiab Sopron 2014: Norman Cameron, Mary Cotter and friends

The Future



Peter J. Watkins and Guido Menzinger in Tivoli, Villa d'Este after the end of Neurodiab Fiuggi 2000 (provided by courtesy of Guido Menzinger)



Neurodiab Orvieto 2008, Duomo. A family friendly atmosphere (perhaps potential new members of the future!) (provided by courtesy of Solomon Tesfaye)



Neurodiab
Sopron
2014:
Solomon
Tesfaye's
family

Neurodiab Sopron 2014 Gallery: Young participants from different countries







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I would also like to thank those who wanted to but were unable to participate because of shyness (if young) or commitments (if no longer young). I also have to admit that I could not reach many Neurodiab members due to invalid email addresses and the impossibility to find alternative working emails.

This book in its graphic and printed version could not be possible without the wise and creative competence of Giulio Fermetti and Mario Traiano.

Finally, I thank Henning Andersen who entrusted me with this task and Andrew J.M. Boulton for his personal contribution.

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List of Contributors

- ⊙ **Aziz Shaibani**, received on 26 February
- ⊙ **Fausto Santeusanio**, received on 26 February
- ⊙ **Nigel A. Calcutt**, received on 13 April
- ⊙ **John Ward**, received on 14 April
- ⊙ **Moaz Mojaddidi**, received on 14 April
- ⊙ **Rick T. Dobrowsky**, received on 28 April
- ⊙ **F. Arnold Gries**, received on 5 May
- ⊙ **Jannik Hilsted**, received on 6 May
- ⊙ **Mary Cotter**, received on 13 May
- ⊙ **Rayaz A. Malik**, received on 29 May
- ⊙ **Mitra Tavakoli**, received on 29 May
- ⊙ **Vera Bril**, received on 31 May
- ⊙ **Bruce Perkins**, received on 1 June
- ⊙ **Rodica Pop Busui**, received on 1 June
- ⊙ **Dan Ziegler**, received on 2 June
- ⊙ **Guido Menzinger**, received on 3 June
- ⊙ **Simona Frontoni**, received on 5 June
- ⊙ **Geert Jan Biessels**, received on 13 June
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- ⊙ **Paul Valensi**, received on 7 July
- ⊙ **Peter Kempler**, received on 15 July
- ⊙ **Henning Andersen**, received on 27 July
- ⊙ **Andrew J.M. Boulton**, received on 27 July

Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group of EASD - Neurodiab

“1965-2015, 1991-2015

50 YEARS OF THE EASD, 25 YEARS OF NEURODIAB

ENDURING FRIENDSHIP. A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE”

Curator: Vincenza Spallone

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Cover image: Giacomo Balla, *Abstract Speed – The Car has Passed*, 1913

Tate Gallery, London

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Through original documents, the memories of the protagonists, members' contributions, and a rich photo gallery, this book follows the 25-year history of Neurodiab: the initial idea of a European study group on diabetic neuropathy, the foundation, the structure, the cornerstones of Neurodiab's identity, the essence of the annual meetings, their friendly atmosphere, the achievements obtained, the memory of members passed away, the lovesome places and convivial moments spent together. This collective report testifies the founders' brightness, the passion of the organizers, the members' dedication, the opportunities for the young researchers, the openness of this Europe-based scientific community to the enriching contributions by other countries. The book is a tribute to Neurodiab and its members, aiming to convey the friendly spirit of this research community and to pass a legacy of inspired dedication to the study of diabetic neuropathy.

The tremendous focus on both basic and clinical aspects of diabetic neuropathy was something I had never experienced and it was fantastic.

Rick T. Dobrowsky

A very successful and joyful organization that has always felt more like a family than anything else.

Mary Cotter

It has been an inspirational, educational and motivating event that I look forward to it every year.

Mitra Tavakoli

These friendships with people devoted to the same career interest have encouraged me to remain committed to pursuing better neuropathy outcomes for our patients with diabetes. *Vera Bril*

Neurodiab feels like a family and attending the meetings like home coming.

Rodica Pop Busui

The Neurodiab is a rare and magically unique enterprise, full of expertise and personality, something for us as a research and clinical community to be extremely proud of.

Bruce Perkins

Neurodiab has had a major impact in shaping my career. It has had a major impact on my life as a whole.

Solomon Tesfaye

In Neurodiab's 25th year the atmosphere of friendly cooperation, integrity and dedication to our basic and clinical scientific goals, which we worked for at its founding, is unchanged.

Guido Menzinger