

NEURODIAB 2015 Annual Meeting

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group of the EASD

11-13 September 2015 · Elsinore · Denmark



**Commemorative Session
1991-2015
25 years of Neurodiab**

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

Vincenza Spallone

First Part



**Endocrinology, Department of Systems Medicine,
University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy**

25-year Neurodiab history: facts and figures

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

- addressing the challenge of advancement in knowledge and research results;
- exchange and discussion between researchers;
- translation of results from basic to clinical field;
- debate between peers from Europe and beyond.

25-year Neurodiab history: the foundation



II UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA

CATTEDRA DI MALATTIE DEL RICAMBIO
Direttore: Prof. GUIDO MENZINGER DI PREUSSENTHAL

DIPARTIMENTO DI MEDICINA INTERNA

VIA O. RAMONDO - 00178 ROMA
TEL. 06/5202 - 0/3172

DIVISIONE MALATTIE DISMETABOLICHE
COMPLESSO INTEGRATO COLUMBUS U.C.S.C.
Via della Pineta Scapellati 506
00168 ROMA - Tel. 06/50172 - 53021 - 33031/26 -
330 344 229

Prof. Pierre Lefebvre
Centre Hospitaliere Universitaire de Liege
Service de Diabetologie, Nutrition et Maladies Metaboliques
Domaine Universitaire du Sart Tilman
B35 4000 Liege 1

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:

- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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

The idea of a study group on diabetic neuropathy of EASD grew in a meeting on diabetic neuropathy hosted by Jean-Raymond Attali in **Versailles** in the end of 1989 among John Ward, Guido Menzinger, and Arnold Gries.

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

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

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

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

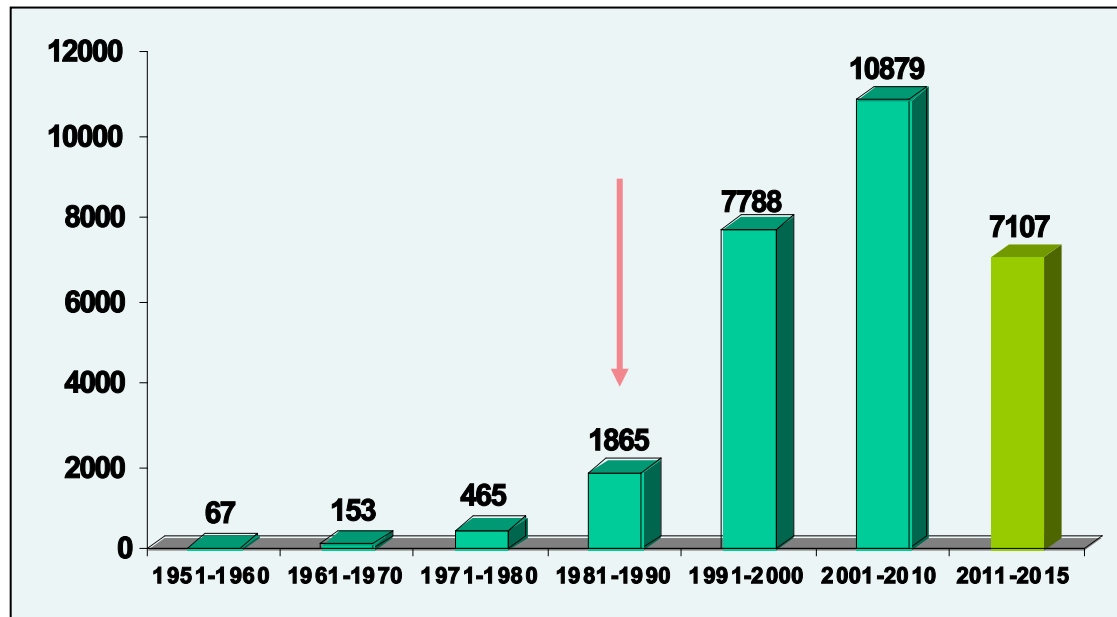
“questions concerning the epidemiology and regional distribution and differences, such as for painful neuropathy”

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

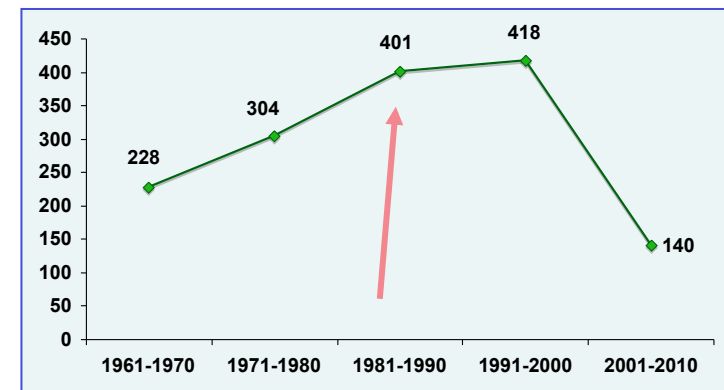
“the time is ripe to start an official study group on Neuropathy”

Publications on Diabetic Neuropathy in last decades

Number of publications

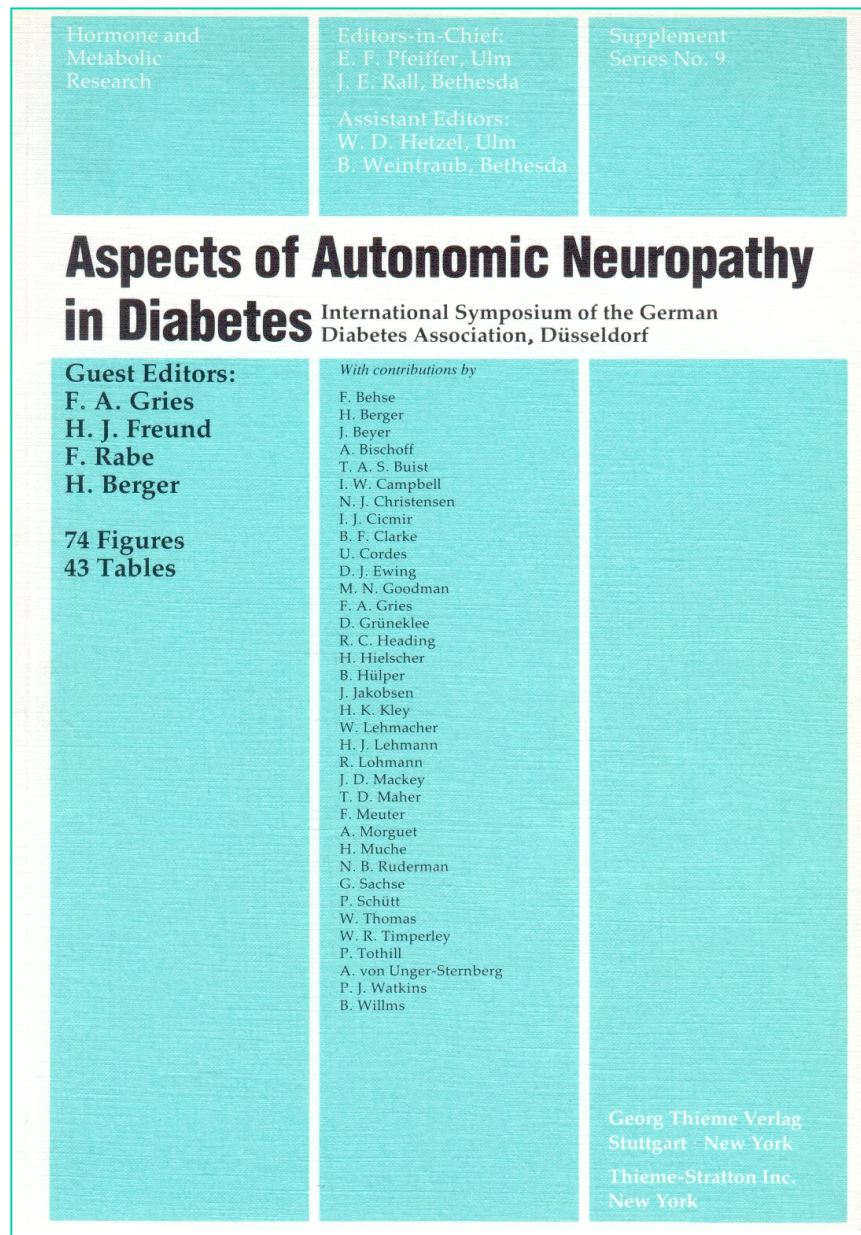


10-year rate of increase in publications (%)



Source: Web of Science Thomson Reuters

The rise in research results in Diabetic Neuropathy in Europe



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



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

Arnold Gries

The subsequent steps towards foundation

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

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

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

The first annual meeting in Cork in 1991

By-laws and Mission

Neurodiab' s cornerstones

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

European Diabetic Neuropathy Study Group

President

Prof. Dr. Guido Menzinger
Dipartimento di Medicina Interna
Divisione Malattie Endocrinologiche
Complesso Integrato Columbus U.C.S.C.
Via della Pancia Sacchetti 206
00168 Roma
Italy
Tel: 06/39163050 172
Fax: 06/3917972151

Vice-President

Prof. Dr. F.A. Gries
Diabetes-Forschungsanstalt
an der Heinrich Heine-Universität
Auf'm Hennekamp 65
D-4000 Düsseldorf 1
F.R.Germany
Tel: 0449/211-3382-200
Fax: 0449/211-99556-

Secretary

Dr. Jannik Hjeltnes
Department of Endocrinology
Hvidovre Hospital
DK-2650 Hvidovre
Denmark
Tel: 0445/21 471411

Dr. John Ward
Royal Hallamshire Hospital
Glossop Road
Sheffield S10 2JP
UK
Tel: 0644/742 766222
Fax: 0644/742 766381

Dr. Peter J. Watkins
Department of Diabetes
King's College Hospital
Denmark Hill
London SE5 8RS
UK
Tel: 0644/71 326 524

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.

Neurodiab Logo



1991



2011

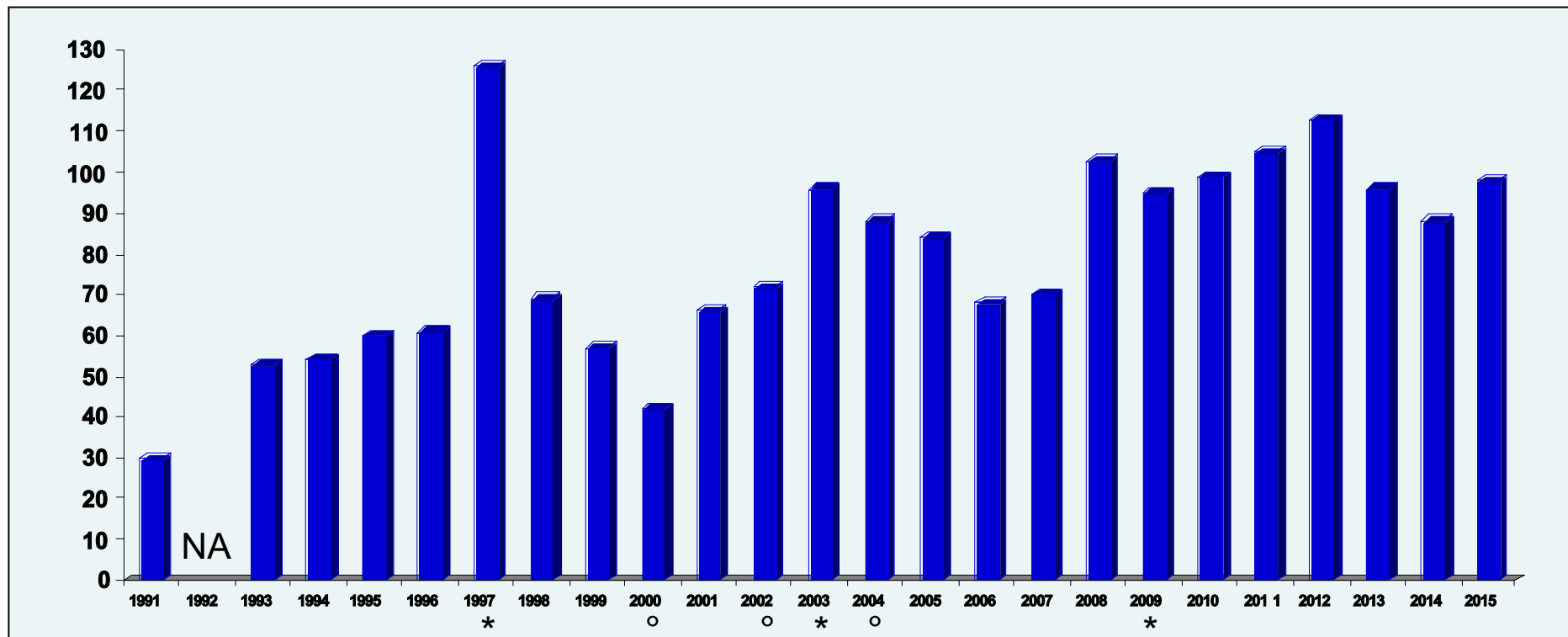
Neurodiab' s 25-year history: achievements

Production and promotion of research in the field of diabetic neuropathy

- creation of a vibrant network,
- fruitful exchange between different specialties,
- fitting context to discuss innovative and preliminary results
- forum for debate
- educational and financial support for young people

Number of Presentations at Neurodiab Annual Meetings

Number of Presentations



* In conjunction with the International Symposium of Diabetic Neuropathy (ISDN)

o Joint meeting with the Diabetic Foot Study Group (DFSG) of EASD

NA: not available

Neurodiab: a network and a forum



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

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

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

*"Neurodiab has led to international **collaborations** that have helped my career tremendously..."*
Vera Bril

Neurodiab: support to young people

Winners of Young Investigators' Award

Clinical Science (named after Göran Sundkvist in 2007)		
1999	Geert Jan Biessels	The Netherlands
	Rayaz A. Malik	UK
2002	Oliver Schnell	Germany
	Boris Mankovsky	Ukraine
2004	Tamás T. Várkonyi	Hungary
2005	Satyan Man Rajbhandar	UK
2006	Sanne Manschot	The Netherlands
2007	Caroline Ann Abbott	UK
2008	Ineke Brand	The Netherlands
2011	Mitra Tavakoli	UK
	Cristian Quattrini	UK, Italy
2012	Dinesh Selvarajah	UK
2014	Zsuzsanna Putz	Hungary

Preclinical Science (named after Angelika Bierhaus in 2012)		
2003	Nigel Calcutt	US
2007	Sally Amanda Price	UK
2009	Andrea Vincent	US
2012	Natalie Gardiner	UK