

Organizational Update European Stroke Organisation

Kennedy R. Lees, MD; Valeria Caso, MD; Patrik Michel, MD

The European Stroke Organisation (ESO) has entered its 8th year since formation from the politically active European Stroke Council and educational European Stroke Initiative. It has grown into a vibrant society of professionals with multiple strands to its activities. Members and fellows of ESO help in its mission to improve and harmonize stroke treatment in Europe through research and education (<http://www.eso-stroke.org> and twitter.com/ESOstroke).

Research generates knowledge that is the backbone for evidence-based decisions by stroke clinicians, medical and allied professions alike; and is the basis for education of stroke care professionals and lay organizations. Evidence arising from clinical research is reviewed biannually at the ESO-Karolinska Stroke Update meeting and can prompt working groups to be set up for new clinical guidelines. The ESO Guidelines are prepared according to a rigorous process, after the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation system, and members of ESO guideline committees receive formal training in these Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation procedures. In preparing guidelines and considering implementation of proven care policies, ESO pays particular attention to relevant epidemiological and social differences across Europe, for example, between East and West.

The potential for regional disparities in stroke research and care are also considered carefully within ESO's educational role. ESO offers free annual Summer Schools to young stroke clinicians. Places are highly contested even from first rate stroke centers yet every effort is taken to spread these limited chances across a diverse range of nationalities and backgrounds. Forthcoming courses will be held in Hradec Králové, Czech Republic in June 2015, and Madrid, Spain in 2016. During the colder months, ESO also supports a Winter School jointly held with the European Society of the Minimally Invasive Neurological Therapy and the European Society of NeuroRadiology, at which young stroke physicians and neuroradiologists are trained on the topic of acute interdisciplinary stroke treatment. The goal is to enhance interdisciplinary

management of patients with acute ischemic stroke in Europe. For trainees with a longer concentration span, ESO also offers scholarships toward registration for the European Masters in Stroke Medicine course run at the Danube University in Krems, Austria. This program offers an excellent chance to receive formal, assessed education over a 4-semester, 2-year period delivered by an outstanding international faculty.

Although education of juniors is a crucial activity, ESO also strives to nurture the strengths of its more senior fellows and members. The prestigious ESO Stroke Science Workshop is held biannually in late autumn, in Garmisch, Germany. There, a series of specialist invited review lectures are interspersed with succinct accounts of the latest developments in their fields by rising stars in Europe, usually prompting vigorous discussion and often collaborative research plans published in *Stroke*.

From 2015, ESO will run its own annual stroke conference, starting with the first of these from 17th to 19th April in Glasgow (<http://www.eso.kenes.com>). There is considerable excitement around the content for this first conference because the large trials session will include the first airing of the principal results from the A Very Early Rehabilitation Trial (AVERT) and the Randomized Trial of Revascularization With Solitaire FR Device Versus Best Medical Therapy in the Treatment of Acute Stroke Due to Anterior Circulation Large Vessel Occlusion Presenting Within 8 Hours of Symptom Onset (REVASCAT) trials, as well as fresh analyses from several other high profile trials such as the Multicenter Randomized Clinical Trial of Endovascular Treatment for Acute Ischemic Stroke in the Netherlands (MR CLEAN) and Endovascular Treatment for Small Core and Anterior Circulation Proximal Occlusion With Emphasis on Minimizing CT to Recanalization Times (ESCAPE) trials. Discussion of the implications for acute stroke care in terms of hyperacute reperfusion approaches and early rehabilitation will thus be high on the agenda, and unusually well informed by the latest evidence delivered in person by the principal investigators of these trials.

Of course, the ESO Conference will include important space for translational scientists, with sessions on mechanisms of brain recovery and experimental/translational stroke. ESO recognizes that prevention remains better than cure, and plans sessions on cardioembolic and noncardioembolic stroke, and on heart and brain. Rising stars and women will be prominent among our speakers, trainees will have their own sessions and teaching sessions and workshops will run in parallel with the scientific abstract presentations to provide interest to all levels and directions of career.

ESO is grateful for the strong support that it has received for its new conference from international colleagues and from industry. As well as around 1300 accepted abstract presentations

From the Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences, Gardiner Institute, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G11 6NT, United Kingdom (K.R.L.); Stroke Unit, Santa Maria Hospital, University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy (V.C.); and Neurology Service, Stroke Center, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois and University of Lausanne, Switzerland (P.M.).

Correspondence to Kennedy R. Lees, MD, Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences, Gardiner Institute, University of Glasgow, Western Infirmary, 44 Church St, Glasgow G11 6NT, United Kingdom. E-mail kennedy.lees@glasgow.ac.uk

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there will be sponsored satellite symposia, educational workshops, and joint academic sessions with the World Stroke Organization, Asian-Pacific Stroke Organization, European Society of Neurosonology and Cerebral Hemodynamics, European Society of Cardiology, European Society of the Minimally Invasive Neurological Therapy, and World Federation for NeuroRehabilitation. Planning for 2016 and 2017 conferences has already started, with the ESO Conference 2016 to be held from 10 to 12 May, 2016 in Barcelona, Spain.

Preconference activities in 2015 will include joint workshops with other groups such as the Virtual International

Stroke Trials Archive (VISTA), the ESO Industry Roundtable, a workshop on Health Economics in Stroke, and an initiative called Enhancing and Accelerating Stroke Treatment involving many eastern European colleagues. Register for the ESO Conference at <http://www.eso.kenes.com>—we look forward to seeing you in Glasgow in April 2015.

Disclosures

None.

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