

Special Events

Neuroethics

SE-1

Allocation of resources in neurology: East and West – a challenge to European solidarity

F. Gerstenbrand, H. Baumgartner
SIG Neuroethics

Today, in Europe chances of receiving state-of-the-art medical care depend largely on which side of the socioeconomic east–west divide you live. This sorry state of affairs will impede transition to fair and stable democratic societies in the east and is a challenge to European solidarity.

In part I of the symposium the top officials of the newly founded alliance of the EFNS and the EFNA will explain its aims. In the spirit of European co-operation this alliance is striving to help people living with neurological conditions and their families to improve their quality of life in all of Europe. In view of the Pan-European scope of the alliance representatives of the EU and of the Council of Europe have been invited to the symposium.

In part II the recently published survey 'Acute neurological stroke care in Europe: results of the European Stroke Care Inventory' supplemented by reports from the Czech Republic, Poland and Scandinavia will draw attention to the existing east–west gap – i.e. higher 30-day case fatality rates in the east – indicating that amendable risk factors like hypertension and smoking are partly responsible. The alliance could initiate preventional and educational programmes.

In part III round table participants from the EFNS, the EFNA, industry, the EU and the Council of Europe are invited to discuss the possibilities of: (i) establishing a postgraduate training course for clinical investigators in Eastern Europe and (ii) initiating a project to transfer resources like medical equipment or medical devices to Eastern Europe. It could have a truly practical impact and be an example for European collaboration and solidarity.

SE-2

Orthodox psychotherapy: semantic approach and application of the process of adjustment to disability

A. N. Panyperis, T. ST. Triantafyllou
Athens, Greece

The announcement presupposes the semantic approach necessary for the understanding of such a theme. The aim has been to motivate dialogue on 'Orthodox Theology and Neurology' emphasizing the 'mental help' of Orthodox Psychotherapy to disabled neurological patients.

'Modern' psychology springs from the Western society culture. Orthodox psychotherapy (under the meaning of 'peace of mind through abstinence and asceticism') is based on the 'Fathers of the Orthodox Church' preaching: (1) It refers to the inner self ('unconscious' for the Western approaches) where God may reveal His presence. (2) It supports that man falls ill due to absence of existential meaning. Jesus and man share a retroactive relationship: Jesus came on earth to heal man, while man may be healed through 'Theosis' ([theos] = God + suffix [sis] = de-

clares action ⇒ approach to God) that may be accomplished in special infirmaries. (3) Pleasure gives rise to pain. Man experiences both of them. He may overcome pain and attain mental pleasure and freedom by following God's word.

Conclusively, Orthodox psychotherapy may function as a conjunctive link with the Western stream. Its advantage lies on its view of man on the basis of God's Revealing Word, offering a special existential meaning to man as well as a drastic treatment to disabled neurological patients who follow Orthodox Tradition.

Neurology and arts

SE-3

Maurice Ravel's illness

E. Baeck
Antwerp, Belgium

The French composer Maurice Ravel (1875–1937) suffered from presenile progressive neurological decline with aphasia and apraxia that, as his neurologist Théophile Alajouanine reported, annihilated his artistic realization but preserved his musical sensibility and judgment. He died after craniotomy.

Multiple hypotheses have been formulated to explain the exact nature of his illness. In recent years, new information, e.g. Clovis Vincent's operation protocol and Manuel Rosenthal's memoirs, has become available and new neurological syndromes have been described which prompted an update on the cause of Ravel's loss of creativity. He probably suffered from corticobasal degeneration. However, in the absence of a postmortem examination, the diagnosis must remain speculative.

SE-4

Cortical activation patterns in patients with receptive amusia following acute brain lesions: an electrophysiological DC-EEG study

C. Kohlmetz,^{1,2} M. Grossbach,¹ D. Steinwede,¹ T. F. Munte,³ E. Altenmueller¹

¹*Institute of Music Physiology and Performing Arts Medicine, Hochschule fuer Musik und Theater Hannover;* ²*Department of Neurology, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover;* ³*Department of Neuropsychology, Institute of Psychology, Otto-von-Guericke Universitaet Magdeburg, Germany*

The mechanisms and locations of neural networks involved in temporal and melodic music processing are still not sufficiently resolved. Recent investigations by Schuppert *et al.* (M. Schuppert, T.F. Munte, B.M. Wieringa, E. Altenmueller. Receptive amusia: evidence for cross-hemispheric neural networks underlying music processing strategies. *Brain* 2000; **123**: 546–59) using a standardized test battery in brain damaged patients suggest a two stage process with an initial right hemisphere recognition of global structures (metre/contour) followed by identification of local stimulus properties (rhythm/interval) via left hemisphere subsystems (Schuppert *et al.*, 2000). Here we investigated patients suffering from first acute unilateral cerebrovascular accident. Besides the test battery for music perception (Schuppert *et al.*, 2000) DC-potentials were

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