

NEWSLETTER

November 2012

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Dear Colleague,

This is the third ECTRIMS newsletter for 2012. It follows shortly after a highly successful Annual Meeting in Lyon, France, which is described further below. It also provides updates on planning for the 2013 Annual Meeting in Copenhagen (2-5 October 2013), the current ECTRIMS Strategic Review and Business Plan, ECTRIMS fellowships, other meetings and other news.

ECTRIMS 2012 Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting was held in Lyon on October 10-13. It was the second largest Annual Meeting ever, with over 6800 delegates. The scientific and social programmes were both very successful. Warm thanks go to the local organising committee lead by Christian Confavreux, who did an outstanding job of designing the scientific programme and the special events around the Congress. The atmosphere of Lyon and France was evident throughout with an enjoyable Welcome Reception at the Halles de Lyon – Paul Bocuse and conference dinner at La Sucrière.

Teaching course

Thirteen teaching courses were held on Wednesday morning this year. There were good numbers of attendees at the courses with 2448 participants in 13 courses. A questionnaire has provided generally positive feedback on the participants' perception of general organisation and educational value of the courses; some feedback suggested that the extent of interaction between presenters and audience could be increased. The feedback will be useful in planning teaching courses in future years.

Scientific programme

There were excellent plenary lectures from Prof Hans-Peter Hartung ("**Biotherapies in MS; hopes and threats**") and Dr Brian Weinschenker ("**Devic's neuromyelitis optica: What it is, what it isn't and why it's hard to be sure**"). The scientific programme was a very full one, including platform sessions with state-of-the-art topical reviews followed by presentations of original new research. Platform sessions were very well attended as were the poster sessions held during Thursday and Friday afternoons. The final plenary session on Saturday morning was attended by over

1000 people, a record for ECTRIMS Congresses for the last day. During this, summaries of scientific and treatment highlights presented at the Congress were given by Drs. Alberto Ascherio (Boston USA) and Gavin Giovannoni (London UK); their presentations identified many important and exciting new research findings from the Congress and emphasised the rapid generation of new knowledge on many fronts that promises more benefits to people with MS in coming years. The Congress Planning Committee is always looking for ways to enhance future meetings and the participant survey – which was completed by 800 attendees – will be helpful in this regard.

Satellite symposia

7 satellite symposia organised by pharmaceutical company partners were well attended.

Prizes and Awards

For the first time the new category of Honorary Membership of ECTRIMS was awarded during the 2012 meeting. The Award is reserved for individuals who have made exceptional contributions in the field of MS and who have also supported ECTRIMS in a major capacity. The Honorary Members announced during the 2012 meeting are Profs. Oded Abramsky (Israel) and Alan Thompson (United Kingdom). The Young Investigator Awards went to

- K. Bjørnevik, Bergen, Norway
Prog. Nr. 64 “An age at exposure effect in the association between sun exposure and the risk of MS in Norway and Italy. The EnvIMS study”
- E. Leray, Rennes, France
Prog. Nr. 134 “The SURVIMUS study, a large multicentre study on long-term mortality of multiple sclerosis patients in France”

Prizes for the Best Posters were awarded to

- 1st Poster Prize:
 - M. Matiello (P637)
 - L.A.E. Matthews (P832)
- 2nd Poster Prize:
 - R. Dutta (P316)
- 3rd Poster Prize:
 - N. Collongues (P674)
 - D. Paling (P693)
 - E.S. Sotirchos (P657)

Communication of conference proceedings

In addition to paper and electronic versions of the Congress programme and abstracts, a webcast of platform presentations is now available on-line (<http://ectrims2012.eventresult.com/>). A twitter site for ECTRIMS 2012 was also established and has been well used before, during and after the meeting.



ECTRIMS 2013 Meeting

The 29th Congress of ECTRIMS will take place in Copenhagen on October 2nd to 5th . The meeting will be held jointly with the 18th Annual Congress of Rehabilitation in MS (RIMS). Scientific themes include:

- Inflammation and demyelination in MS
- Gene-environment interactions in MS
- Triggers in MS
- Early treatment of MS and window of opportunity in MS treatment
- Monitoring MS evolution

- Remyelination in MS
- Cognitive disturbances in MS
- Progressive MS
- Seeing inside the brain
- Looking into the future: experimental studies of new therapies

The Preliminary Programme will be available in spring 2013.

ECTRIMS Strategic Review and Business Plan

The Strategic Review of ECTRIMS is now reaching its final stages and was discussed with the ECTRIMS Executive Committee and Council in Lyon. A Business Plan to support implementation of the Strategic Plan has also been drafted. The new Strategic Plan includes an on-going commitment to use ECTRIMS funds to support its aims and visions. We will plan for an increase in the number and type of fellowships (see below), and expanded funding of new educational and scientific initiatives. As new initiatives, ECTRIMS will hold a focused workshop and Summer School during 2013. The focused workshop in London March 8-9th 2013 will focus on **Pregnancy and Hormonal Factors in MS**; the Summer School in Bari, Italy on June 25-28th will address **Phase IV studies: New methods in Pharmaco-Vigilance and Monitoring Drug Effectiveness in Multiple Sclerosis**.

To reinforce our partnerships with others focused on MS, ECTRIMS has also initiated a regular dialogue between ECTRIMS and key stakeholders and will emphasise strategies to maintain an Annual Congress that continues to be the largest and most comprehensive meeting on MS-related science and clinical trials in the world.

ECTRIMS Executive Committee

The Lyon meeting saw the departure of 3 members of the Executive Committee: Prof. Michel Clanet (France), the outgoing President, who has served on the committee for 9 years, and Profs. Ralf Gold (Germany) and Franz Fazekas (Austria) who served on the committee for 3 and 2 years respectively. All 3 were thanked for their excellent work on behalf of ECTRIMS. Prof. Maria Trojano (Italy) became the new President and Prof. Xavier Montalban (Spain) the Vice President and President- Elect. Prof. David Miller (United Kingdom) became the Secretary and Prof. Per Soelberg-Sørensen (Denmark) remains the Treasurer. Three new members were elected to the committee: Profs. Bernard Hemmer (Germany), Catherine Lubetzki (France) and Tomas Olsson (Sweden).

ECTRIMS Fellowship Programmes

We have recently expanded our support for fellowship programmes. Three different types of fellowship are now being offered:

ECTRIMS Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Exchange Programme

ECTRIMS offers a postdoctoral research fellowship exchange programme for young neuroscientists to facilitate their conduct of and training in basic, clinical or applied research related to multiple sclerosis (MS). The next deadline for proposal submission is 1st December 2012 and the on-line proposal system can be accessed at:

www.ectrims.eu/fellowships

MAGNIMS-ECTRIMS Fellowship in Magnetic Resonance Imaging in MS

The European MAGNIMS network (Magnetic Resonance Imaging in MS) and ECTRIMS jointly support research fellowships for young European researchers in the application of magnetic resonance studies to MS. The next deadline for proposal submission is 1st February 2013. Details of the programme and the fellowship

proposal process can at: <http://www.magnims.eu/content/section/16/50> or www.ectrims.eu/fellowships

ECTRIMS Clinical Fellowship

ECTRIMS offers a new clinical training fellowship programme for neurologists and other physicians who wish to enhance their skills in MS patient management and care and foster their careers as MS physicians. The training programme, available for 3, 6 or 12 months, must be under the direction of a senior clinical mentor at a European MS clinic and/or MS research centre. Fellows may come from any location but priority will be given to candidates from developing countries. The deadline for proposal submission is 1st December 2012. Further details and application forms at www.ectrims.eu/fellowships

Other Meeting Dates

ACTRIMS 2013, Orlando, USA, 29 May – 1 June 2013

ECTRIMS-ACTRIMS 2014, Boston, USA, 10-13 September 2014

ECTRIMS 2015, Barcelona, Spain, 7-10 October 2015

ECTRIMS 2016, London, UK, 14-17 September 2016

Other News

MS Diagnosis Aid

Dr Bernard Uitdehaag at the VU University MS Center Amsterdam has developed a user-friendly “smart phone” application to guide physicians through the MS diagnosis process, based on the 2010 revisions to the McDonald Diagnostic Criteria for MS. The App is available free of charge for iPhone/iPad users through the Apple App Store and for Android users through the Google Play Store. To download the App, search the relevant store for your system for “MS DIAGNOSIS” and look for the following purple, gray and white logo for the MS Diagnosis App.

ECTRIMS Executive Committee

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