Dear Reader,

The main theme of the current Euro-CNS News issue is Prof. James Ironside’s status report and outlook to the 10th European Congress of Neuropathology in June in Edinburgh.

Although telecommunication and videoconferences nowadays enable the discussion of professional problems and the exchange of ideas in cyberspace, personal contacts and interactions remain indispensable for continued professional development and the flourishing of our discipline.

The location of the congress is in the nice ambience of historic Edinburgh. The program promises to generate a highly stimulatory meeting atmosphere in professional, scientific, and social terms.

Due to the generous financial support provided by the British Neuropathology Society, participation in the congress will be possible at a very reasonable cost.

We wish you enjoyable reading of Prof. Ironside’s informative report. We do hope that it definitely convinces you to come, if you have not yet decided so.

Editorial team Euro-CNS News

10th European Congress of Neuropathology

The preparations for the 10th European Congress of Neuropathology to be held from the 6th-9th June this year in Edinburgh are well advanced. The scientific program provides an exciting selection of topics: the opening ceremony on Wednesday 6th June will be followed by two outstanding speakers; Professor David Lewis on CNS Tumor Diagnosis in the era of Molecular Pathology and Professor Peter St George-Hyslop on the Genetic Epidemiology of Dementia. This will be followed by a welcome reception and party in the Congress Centre, which is located in the Edinburgh International Conference Centre within the heart of our historical capital city.

Neurodegeneration and neuro-oncology are important themes in the program and there will be plenary sessions, workshops and symposia on stem cells in neuro-oncology, vascular pathology in neurodegeneration and aging as well as an overview of recent developments in human prion diseases. However, other important disorders are well covered including plenary lectures on brain development and epilepsy, pathogenesis of lysosomal storage diseases and demyelination/multiple sclerosis. The workshops and seminars allow a more detailed exploration of these important themes and correlation with imaging of the brain. The organizers and I hope that you will actively participate in these interactive sessions to allow us all to benefit as much as possible from everyone’s experience and contributions to these important discussions.

In addition to the excellent scientific programme we have an exciting social programme arranged. After the welcome reception and party on Wednesday 6th June, on the evening of Thursday 7th June we have a reception in the key historical landmark in Edinburgh, Edinburgh Castle, which is also included in the registration fee. This event will provide canapés and refreshments, and allow exclusive access to the historical chambers and artefacts of the Castle, including the spectacular Crown Jewels of Scotland. On the evening of Friday 8th June there is a gala dinner which will be held in the newly restored National Museum of Scotland, which re-opened last summer to outstanding critical acclaim. You will have the opportunity to explore part of the museum at the pre-dinner reception, while the dinner itself will be held in the stunning large Victorian hall of the museum, where food and wine will be accompanied by music and traditional Scottish entertainment.

With the generous support of the British Neuropathological Society we have managed to keep the registration fee as low as possible for this event, to include not only the welcome party and Edinburgh Castle reception but also tea, coffee and lunches throughout the scientific programme. The Edinburgh International Conference Centre is located in the centre of the city and is within easy walking distance of a wide range of hotels, shops, restaurants, art galleries and other historical sites. The conference centre provides modern state of the art facilities to allow our congress to proceed as smoothly as possible and free wifi access will be available within the main foyer of the conference center.

The Board of Examiners and the Executive Committee of the European Confederation of Neuropathological Societies are pleased to announce that Georgios Pantazis has passed the Euro-CNS examination in Neuropathology. The exam was held in Barcelona from November 17 – 18, 2011. As a consequence, he has been elected as a European Fellow in Neuropathology and has been enrolled in the Register of Fellows, which is accessed through the Euro-CNS website. Fellows receive a formal Certification.

Teaching case

Young adult patient with autosomal dominant spinocerebellar ataxia type 1 (SCA1) caused by expansion of 49 CAG repeats on chromosome 6 with severe degeneration of the olivo-ponto and spino-cerebellar systems.

A: HE section showing severe neuronal depletion of basis pontis.
B and C: immunohistochemistry for expanded polyglutamine domains (polyQ) reveals abundant neurons with intense and diffuse nuclear immunostaining.

Note the dissociation between ubiquitin and polyQ immunohistochemistry:
D1: anti-ubiquitin stains only few compact intranuclear inclusions (arrows), which contrasts with the whole nuclear staining and the fine granular cytoplasmic dots observed by polyQ immunohistochemistry (D2, arrowheads).

Contributed by:
Ellen Gelpi, Neurological Tissue Bank of the Biobanc-Hospital Clinic-IDIBAPS.

New European Fellow of Neuropathology

The Euro-CNS Neuropathology Training Course “Leukoencephalopathies”, will precede the Congress and will be held from June 4 – 6, 2012. The course requires registration separate from the Congress (via www.euro-cns.org). Congress Secretariat: ecnp2012@meetingmakers.co.uk. Website: www.ecnp2012.org.

James Ironside, Edinburgh, on behalf of the British Neuropathology Society (BNS)
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UEMS: representatives appointed to fill open positions in the UEMS Subspecialty Board of Neuropathology, which coincides with the composition of the Euro-CNS Council.

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