

3rd Baltic Sea Summer School on Epilepsy (BSSSE3): Report

The 3rd BSSSE took place in Kiel (Germany) from July 12 – 17, 2009, under the direction of the undersigned, and with Dr. Mameniskiene of Vilnius as programme secretary and Ms Novotny from the EUREPA office as organisational secretary. Although the timing was difficult because it coincided with the summer holiday period in the Scandinavian countries, the application rate was good. 36 applications were accepted, but there were 5 cancellations, two because the visa were not issued, two for health reasons and one reason unknown. Thus, 31 participants attended the course who represented 15 different countries.

The faculty consisted of 17 persons, 6 from Germany (Helbig, Köhling, Kohlschütter, Schulze-Bonhage, Siniatchkin and Stephani), 5 from Denmark (Hjalgrim, Høgenhaven, Nikanorova, Sahlholdt and Wolf), 3 from Sweden (Clementson, Kokaia and Westerberg), and 1 each from Lithuania (Mameniskiene), Norway (Johannessen) and Russia (Guekht).

The format was strongly interactive with only 2 frontal lectures per day and otherwise study in small groups (tutorials, case-oriented learning and discussion of submitted cases). Instead of presenting own cases, participants had the option of presenting own research for plenary discussion which was the preference of 7 students.

The topics covered by the faculty included

- Cognitive problems
- Mood disturbances
- Medical challenges in care of severely disabled children
- Frontal lobe in epilepsy
- Semiology of temporal lobe seizures in children
- AED pharmacology
- EEG (interictal and ictal)
- Perspectives and advance of brain function analysis
- Progressive myoclonus epilepsies
- Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinoses
- Genetic syndromes with epilepsy
- Genetically determined focal epilepsies
- Genetic syndromes: EEG endophenotypes
- Recent progress in epilepsy genetics
- The role of networks
- Inflammation in epilepsy
- Functional integration of newborn granule cells in hippocampus circuitry
- Acute symptomatic seizures
- Epidemiology and prognosis of epilepsy
- Mortality and morbidity in epilepsy
- Epilepsia partialis continua
- Epilepsies with external modification of ictogenesis

In the relaxed atmosphere of a small convention centre in the outskirts of Kiel, an excellent spirit of intense study and international exchange developed rapidly. The young audience (age range from 26 to 46 with a mean of 34.7 years) appreciated the

interactive course format, as can clearly be seen from the course evaluation which again gave outstanding results.

The majority of participants attended with bursaries, for which the organisers are very grateful to the

- ILAE Commission of European Affairs,
- UCB Nordic
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Epileptologie (German Chapter of the ILAE)
- Danish Epilepsy Society
- Peter & Jytte Wolf Foundation for Epilepsy.

Special thanks go to the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Epileptologie for hosting the Summer School, providing additional bursaries and giving sponsorship to the social programme.

Great thanks are due to a brilliant and dedicated faculty and, last but not least, to an eager and committed audience.

BSSSE 4 with a new programme is planned for June 6-11, 2010 near Oslo with the Norwegian Epilepsy Society as hosts, and Svein Johannessen and Peter Wolf as Co-Directors



Ulrich Stephani



Peter Wolf