

## **Autonomic Research Group Annual Report**

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The Autonomic Research Group has actively engaged in educational and scientific endeavors within the World Federation of Neurology and other national and international societies. Members participated in activities at the World Congress on Neurology 2011 in Marrakech. These included a 'filled-to-capacitance' main session on autonomic disorders, chaired by Prof. David Vodusek and Prof. Roy Freeman with speakers Prof. Pietro Cortelli and Prof. Eduardo Bennaroch. In addition Dr. Heinz Lahrmann and Dr. Walter Struhal organized a Workshop on Autonomic evaluation ("From Bedside to Laboratory Investigations").

World Federation of Neurology Autonomic Research Group were active in the 1st Joint Meeting of the International Society for Autonomic Neuroscience and the American Autonomic Society held at Búzios, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in September 2011. The meeting was preceded by a clinically orientated workshop entitled "Clinical Assessment of the Autonomic Nervous System: Which Tests For What Problems?" This was followed by an extensive scientific program with parallel sessions covering a wide range of clinical and basic scientific programs. The attendance was approximately 450 persons. Several satellite symposia preceded and followed the meeting.

Research Group members participate in the European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS) with a dedicated Scientist Panel on ANS disorders, chaired by Prof. Max Hilz. This panel aims at advocating ANS within the body of the EFNS, within the annual EFNS meeting program and produces guidelines on ANS treatment. The European Federation of Autonomic Societies will be an active participant in the next EFNS meeting in Stockholm, Sept. 2012. Autonomic topics include a focused workshop a main topic and a special session.

Autonomic educational topics at the American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting, held this year in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA included a course on autonomic disorders and a seminar on small fiber and autonomic neuropathies. Research group members were involved in both programs. There were also many autonomic scientific presentations throughout the meeting.

The World Federation of Neurology Autonomic Research Group, along with the American Autonomic Society, the European Federation of Autonomic Societies and the Autonomic Section of the American Academy of Neurology, was an edorsee of an updated Consensus Statement on the Definition of Orthostatic Hypotension, Neurally Mediated Syncope and the Postural Tachycardia Syndrome. This already widely-cited consensus statement refines and updates the definition, pathophysiology and clinical features of orthostatic hypotension and adds the definitions of two highly prevalent disorders of orthostatic tolerance, neurally mediated (reflex) syncope and the postural tachycardia syndrome. The update was the product of a group of experts in the field many of whom are members of the World Federation of Neurology Research Group.

The consensus statement is published in the journals, *Autonomic Neuroscience – Basic and Clinical* (2011;161:46-48) and *Clinical Autonomic Research* (2011;21:69-72).

The autonomic research group has contributed proposals to the scientific and education program of the WCN in Vienna 2013.

#### Reference List

Freeman R, Wieling W, Axelrod FB et al. Consensus statement on the definition of orthostatic hypotension, neurally mediated syncope and the postural tachycardia syndrome. *Clin Auton Res* 2011;21(2):69-72.

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