

## **Autonomic Research Group Annual Report - 2016**

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Section members participated in several activities at the 2015 World Federation of Neurology meeting in Santiago Chile. A scientific session on the Autonomic Nervous System, chaired by section members Eduardo Benarroch and Roy Freeman, was “filled to capacity”. Topics included Testing the autonomic nervous system the old and the new (Roy Freeman); Central and/or peripheral autonomic disorders – an overview (Eduardo Benarroch); and Assessment and treatment of urogenital function Invited Speaker(Max Hilz).

The teaching course on the autonomic nervous system, chaired by section members Eduardo Benarroch and Max Hilz, included the following topics: “The role of the Central autonomic network in orthostatic tolerance and intolerance” (Eduardo Benarroch); “Orthostatic hypotension in patients with dementia”( Juan Idiáquez); “Differential diagnosis of transient loss of consciousness” (Max Hilz); and “The treatment of disorders of orthostatic intolerance” (Roy Freeman).

Autonomic research group members also participated in the Young Neurologist-Professional Career Planning session at the Santiago Meeting. Topics included: “How to become a leader in a scientific field (Max Hilz) and “Gender bias in academic success” Walter Struhal”

World Federation of Neurology Autonomic Research Group members were active in the American Autonomic Society annual meeting held in San Diego, California in 2016. The attendance was approximately 350 persons. The meeting was preceded by a teaching course on the Evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of autonomic disorders.

In cooperation with the WFN research group, the Autonomic Subspecialty panel of the European Academy of Neurology (EAN), co-chaired by Walter Struhal, Tulln, Austria, and Max J Hilz, London UK and Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany, pursue the goal of expanding the awareness of autonomic nervous system disorders and their treatment throughout Europe. The section aims at creating a recognized Autonomic Nervous System subspecialty in Europe and again seeks a close cooperation with the autonomic research group of the WFN in order to assure the development of an ANS subspecialty in as many countries and regions as possible. WFN is and essential organizations to help assure the realization of this goal.

In 2016, WFN autonomic research group participated in the EAN Autonomic section collection of international data on the standards how autonomic diagnostics are performed throughout Europe including reimbursement. These data are currently analyzed to better reach the goal of applying gold standards to autonomic diagnostic procedures. Yet, a more global effort should be soon established which again requires a close interaction and cooperation with the autonomic section within the WFN. Global standards of testing will advance the knowledge and

use of clinical autonomic testing. We envision globally harmonized autonomic testing procedures to the benefit of patient care but also to enable multinational scientific interactions and comparison of data.

Members of the Autonomic Research Group were actively involved the organization and teaching in two Autonomic educational topics on small fiber and autonomic neuropathies at the 2017 American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting, held this year in Boston, Massachusetts. These were entitled “Autonomic disorders” and “Small fiber neuropathies – sensory, autonomic or both”. Research group members were involved in both programs and in the many autonomic scientific presentations throughout the meeting.

Autonomic Research Group members were among the authors of a consensus document on the approach to neurogenic orthostatic hypotension entitled “The recommendations of a consensus panel for the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of neurogenic orthostatic hypotension and associated supine hypertension.” (Journal of Neurology, 2017). This was a product of a consensus meeting held in Boston in 2016.

Future plans: Teaching courses on the autonomic nervous system in India and China for 2018 under the leadership of the World Federation of Neurology Autonomic Research group are in the early planning stages. The European Federation of Autonomic Societies has run a highly successful autonomic summer school. Discussions are underway to globalize this school in cooperation with the autonomic section of WFN. Long-term plans are to develop a global structured curriculum in conjunction with the EAN autonomic section and the American Autonomic Society

The Autonomic Research Group will meet and members will participate in educational offerings at the WFN Kyoto meeting in 2017.