



Danube Symposium Introduction

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Development of neurology in Europe after 1945

Europe divided in Eastern and Western region, iron curtain

Great difference possibilities in economic support and political background between East and West Europe

Separation of East Europe from other European regions in economy and sciences, politically based

In West Europe intensive support of neurology based on help of North America (modern technology, high advanced biochemistry, new developed medicaments, help in re-organization of training and education) fast re-organization of damaged institutions

In East Europe neurological institutions suffered by war damages, loss of specialists, minor support of governmental and private institutions, neurologists had left to west before 1945, strong political control.

Hans Hoff

Medical education in Vienna
Postgraduate training neurology
Vienna, Prague, New York
Last assistant of Wagner von
Jauregg
Professor for neurology and
psychiatry in Vienna, 1950-1968
Numerous publications in
neurology and psychiatry
Humanization of the psychiatry,
“open psychiatry”.
Leading advancement in topical
based neurology
Co-founder of the Central and
East-European Association for
Neurology (Danube-Neurology)



11.12.1897, Vienna, (A) -
23.8.1969, Vienna (A)

Neurological organizations Eastern Europe

Splitted neurology and psychiatry by iron curtain

Albania
Baltic States
Belo-Russia
Bosnia
Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Croatia
Hungary
Macedonia
Moldavia
Montenegro
Poland
Romania
Russia
Serbia
Slovakia
Ukraine

Current Country



Consequences of the separation

Greatest difficulties for neurologists in East Europe to visit western neurological institutions and vice versa

Difficulties on both sides in invitation to congresses, symposia, workshops, etc.

Difficulties to organize common scientific projects

No exchange of young neurologists department to department between East and West Europe

No possibility to attend training courses on both sides

Consequences of the separation in East European Neurology

Politically guided decisions, different neurological system to the West

- Difficulties in development of pre-, post-graduate training

- Difficulties in development of a common neurological system in East European region

- Difficulties in separation neurology from psychiatry

- Difficulties in cooperation with independent psychiatry

Danube-Neurology

Re-organization 2000

Depending to the changed political situation in East European countries:

Organization of additional teaching courses

Starting with an exchange program department to department

Co-working program between different neurological institutions in the various countries

Establishment of a permanent office in Szeged, Hungary

Honorary President: F. Gerstenbrand (Austria)

Secretary General: Laszlo Vecsei (Hungary)

Danube-Neurology



During the scientific session of the 33rd International Danube Symposium in Lublin, Poland. From the left: Prof. Laszlo Vecsei (Hungary), Prof. Franz Gerstenbrand (Austria), Prof. James Toole (USA) and Prof. Zbigniew Stelmasiak (Poland).

Danube-Neurology

Current aims

Development of neurology in the Danube countries after changed political situation, some former 'socialist countries' members of the European Community

Harmonization in neurology between West-, South-, North- and East-European institutions

Close cooperation with EFNS

Close cooperation with the WFN and WFNR

Adjustment in scientific programs in Europe and worldwide

Adjustment in educational programs in Europe

European Federation of Neurological Societies – EFNS Organization

Member countries: 41

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan

53 individual members, who are not affiliated to a member society.

Presidents of EFNS



Prof. Eberhard
Deisenhammer
(Secretary General)

Prof. Jes Olesen

Prof. Franz
Gerstenbrand

Prof. Jaques de
Reuck

Prof. Dieter Heiss

Summary

Foundation of the Danube-Neurology during the „Cold War“, splitting of Europe due to iron curtain
Intention for an exchange in modern development of clinical neurology, neuro-science, basic research between East and West in a separated Europe

Undermining the iron curtain by invitations of East European neurologists to the neutral Austria as a meeting place for East European and international neurologists getting information about better technical and biochemical development in Western countries

West European neurologists could get profit from well developed clinical neurology of East European colleagues depending on ‘hammer-based’ clinical experience