

Participants at the inaugural EANS Young Neurosurgeons CME Meeting, held in Innsbruck from 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011, enjoyed both challenging lectures from eminent European speakers and many noteworthy presentations of new work from their peers. The programme was designed in such a way as to enable delegates to continue their discussions over three excellent meals, and to take advantage of the sunshine and snow of the Tyrol.

The initial idea for the meeting came from the EANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee, chaired by Juan Lourido. The committee wanted to establish an event that would provide a regular opportunity for young, newly qualified neurosurgeons to share their aspirations and concerns in a relaxed but rigorous scientific environment.

When we decided to go ahead with the meeting, we had little real idea how much interest or demand there would be. We were therefore delighted to welcome nearly 70 participants, plus a faculty of ten, from 28 different countries, both within Europe and from the rest of the world. One of the most satisfying features of the meeting was the high quality of the sessions presented by the participants themselves. Abstracts of all presentations, both oral and poster, are available on our website [www.eans.org](http://www.eans.org).

A comprehensive perspective on vascular neurosurgery today was provided by Professors Juha Hernesniemi, Vladimir Benes and Jacques Moret (who, although unable to come in person, nevertheless gave an excellent presentation using Skype). Andre Grotenhuis, Zvi Ram and Bernhard Meyer's "state of the art" lectures on Endoscopy, Imaging and Monitoring in Glioma, and Minimally invasive Spine Surgery were enthusiastically received, while Dr Colin Watts and Carl Henrik Nordstrom provided a fascinating insight into the particular experiences of their respective departments (Cambridge, UK and Lund, Sweden) in the fields of oncology and ICP monitoring. Historical lectures on the SBNS (UK neurosurgical society) and Russian Society of Neurosurgery, delivered by Dr Watts and Prof Artem Gouscha provided something a little different, whilst the meeting finished with an inspiring talk by the local host, Prof Claudius Thome – himself still a relatively young neurosurgeon – "From Young Neurosurgeon to Chairman".

Whilst the hands-on workshop sessions were not so extensive as originally planned, we look forward to developing these next year, and are already in discussions with industry to this end. We were keen that the event should provide an opportunity for participants to forge new friendships and to rekindle old acquaintances, and the lively dinners on the three nights, along with a free afternoon on the Sunday, enabled delegates to do just this. Many also took advantage of Innsbruck's famous ski slopes, coming a day earlier or leaving a day later.

We would like to thank Prof Claudius Thome and his department, particularly Dr Christian Freyschlag for their help and hospitality. It is intended that this will be an annual event; we hope to publish dates for 2012 on the EANS website within the next few weeks.