

Report on the activities of the Training Committee 2011 - 2015

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During the term 2011-2015, eight “basic neurosurgery” training courses and 8 “Hands on” cadaver courses were completed.

Training courses, as a cycle of 4 years, include vascular, spinal, tumor and functional & trauma as topics. Two separate groups with an average 220 of trainees complete their 4 year cycle in either winter or summer courses. The candidates are selected from the member countries by their national delegates, among 2-4 year residents. The quota of different countries is calculated according to the number of neurosurgeons of that particular country declared to EANS.

Winter and summer courses during this period were held in Pecs (Hungary), Leeds (UK) in 2012, Krakow (Poland), Prague (Czech Republic) in 2013, Barcelona (Spain), Nicosia (Cyprus) in 2014, Uppsala (Sweden), Lisbon (Portugal) in 2015.

The courses are designed to cover major topics concerning basic neurosurgery; content and invited speakers are decided for each course by the training committee members of the national society at the meetings in the previous course. Training committee members have the priority to be allocated to the topics they prefer. During this 4 year term, the course program as a draft is discussed in advance with the related EANS spine, functional, vascular, trauma and oncology sections to evaluate the content for basic neurosurgery and to provide lecturers on highly specific topics for each course.

The course frame consisted of 20 min. lectures, 10 min. “How-I do it” video sessions and 45 minute discussion groups with two trainers. Lectures intend to give the theoretical basis for the topic, How-I do it sessions aim to describe technical details and personal preferences on various approaches and basic treatment algorithms on visual presentations and in discussion groups, case-based interactive discussions with the trainees are done.

During the period of 2011-2015, two satellite courses were held outside Europe for non-members of EANS; two courses were held in Emirates and Kazakhstan upon demand. In two consequent courses, the course frame was the same except for the topics were condensed to two terms instead of four with the participation of 10 to 15 members of the training committee.

Since 2011, a biannual hands-on cadaver course has been held in Lyon, France, run by “Département Universitaire d'Anatomie, Faculté de Médecine, Lyon” in two cycles in winter and summer. Capacity of the course is 20 participants, cranial and spinal approaches and endoscopy techniques are performed on cadavers, one for two trainees, assisted by 10 faculty members. The aim is to describe and demonstrate basic concept of approaches for both spinal and cranial compartments as well as micro-suturing on rats and endoscopy. Target population is then young neurosurgeons who have just completed their residency training. Participants (two for each cadaver) were able to perform basic procedures under microscope, drills and necessary instruments in a five day period.

During this four-year period, no official major complaint or criticism has been received neither from trainees nor the member societies, except for the acceptance rate for some countries being low and two courses per year cannot accommodate all the applicants.

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