

Annual Report 2020



A society for physicians with a research or clinical interest in Paediatric Neurology.

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EPNS President's Overview

2020 has been like no other in our professional and personal lives with the COVID-19 pandemic presenting unprecedented challenges. Our working and home lives have changed in ways none of us could have imagined less than a year ago.

At the time of writing in December 2020 we are still in the midst of the pandemic with much of Europe in lockdown. Children have not suffered the severe medical consequences of COVID-19 infection in the same way as older adults, but we should not underestimate the long-term impact on their health. The psychological impact of illness and bereavement in the family, parental unemployment with reduced family income, disruption of education and isolation from peers are just some of the factors which will have long term consequences. Access to medical services has been significantly impacted in most European countries for the majority of 2020 with clinics, procedures and investigations cancelled or delayed.



Photo: Sameer Zuberi
EPNS President

It has been inspiring to see how colleagues throughout the world have innovated and redesigned services to maintain the best possible care for children with neurological disorders. Some ways of working, including telephone and video consultations, are now embedded in practice and are likely to stay in some form. Science has risen to the challenge of the pandemic in many ways and we hope that the most notable scientific advance, the development of vaccines against Covid-19 will control the spread of severe infection in 2021.

During 2020 it was necessary for the EPNS to cancel several planned events and postpone others, but we have adapted the way we deliver our services, and this annual report details our achievements this year and plans for the future.

The Education & Training Committee report on several new initiatives including monthly webinars, our virtual Caucasus teaching course, our online training courses, plans for a European Exam and much more. I am eager to see how the new Young EPNS committee evolves and I look forward to learning about their plans for representing, supporting and encouraging our young members.

A core focus of the EPNS is science and research. The report details the plans to rearrange the cancelled 2020 EPNS Research Meeting in 2021. The Research Meeting is an important forum for exchanging ideas and developing new collaborations. Please accept our invitation to join us for the 14th EPNS Congress in 2022. This was due to take place in June 2021, and my colleagues and I carefully considered the decision to cancel the congress more than 7 months before it was due to start. We took into account several issues including most importantly the safety of all involved in the event. At the forefront of our minds was our Congress goal to provide and promote a forum for the exchange of clinical, practical and scientific information, with an exchange of ideas and the opportunity to network with friends and colleagues from around the world. We decided to postpone the 14th EPNS Congress in Glasgow until 28 April until 2 May 2022



and to not organise a wholly virtual congress in 2021. I hope to have the opportunity to welcome many of our EPNS members to Glasgow in 2022.

Now more than ever it has been important for the EPNS to strengthen our partnerships and build new connections, at a European level and beyond. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Academy of Neurology and we will be collaborating more closely with our adult neurology colleagues. The EPNS now has a representative on all the relevant European Academy of Neurology (EAN) scientific panels and actively participates in EAN congresses. The EPNS has developed closer links with the European Reference Networks (ERNs), including ERN-RND, and EpicCare. In January 2021, the presidents of the five main international child neurology societies EPNS, ICNA, AOCNA, ACNA, CNS will be meeting virtually to discuss how we can collaborate further.

Through our membership of the European Brain Council (EBC), we continue to lobby for high quality patient management to prevent and treat childhood onset neurological disorders at the European level. The EPNS attends EBC board meetings and general workshops/project update meetings and has representatives on the following groups: Government Affairs – Advocacy – Communication, Value of Treatment (VoT), European Brain Research Area (EBRA), Digital Health

We have been reaching out to European level neurology patient groups, and in the coming year I look forward to developing these relationships further. Patient representative and advocacy groups have a vital role to play in articulating the important issues for children with neurological disorders. The EPNS is establishing a Guidelines Group and we will begin to design and implement a process to publish EPNS guidelines and EPNS position papers which reflect best practice.

I look forward to being able to meet colleagues again, exchange ideas, network, and make friends. In the meantime, here at the EPNS we will continue to work on behalf of our members and children with neurological disease– no matter what virus-induced restrictions are hitting the world.

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to all my colleagues and friends on the EPNS Board for their hard work, ingenuity, commitment, and resourcefulness and importantly all EPNS members who contribute and participate in our EPNS activities with positive attitudes, resilience, and support. The EPNS works well as a community of friends at the level of the Board and the general membership. I hope that reading the Annual Report will allow you to appreciate the scale and range of EPNS activities and trust it gives you optimism for the future.

I hope you, your loved ones, and the communities you serve remain safe and that the world finds itself in a healthier and more stable place sometime in 2021.

Best wishes

Sameer Zuberi, EPNS President





Invitation to 14th EPNS Congress 28 April – 2 May 2022: Glasgow, United Kingdom

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has led us to postpone the 14th EPNS Congress to 2022 instead of the previously planned dates in June 2021.

Please save the new dates: 28 April until 2 May 2022.

By postponing until 2022, we aim to keep all who are involved safe, maintain the scientific value of the EPNS Congress and support the essential interactions needed to bring paediatric neurology community together in a friendly and supportive environment. The 2022 EPNS Congress aims to be a ‘hybrid’ event combining both a physical meeting in Glasgow with virtual attendance also possible. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and follow both governmental and scientific guidance. We are fully committed to meeting the thirst for knowledge throughout the paediatric neurology community to improve the standards of care of all children with suspected neurological problems.

We very much hope to welcome you to the vibrant city of Glasgow -- just a little later than we had originally planned -- for what we expect will be one of our best EPNS congresses ever!

Best wishes

Sameer Zuberi

EPNS President

- ✓ Bring home the latest updates on developing technologies, clinical applications and practical solutions.
- ✓ Educate yourself as you earn CME Credits maintain or achieve certification.
- ✓ Swap ideas, share problems, discover solutions with international peers. You’ll create a network you can rely on long after the congress ends.
- ✓ Recharge your batteries and return to your workplace brimming with innovative ideas and suggestions for improvements.
- ✓ Evaluate which products will be best for your organisation as lots of exhibitors showcase their products and services.

For more information, please visit the congress website: <https://epns-congress.com/>

EPNS Board Members 2018-2021

| | |
|--|---|
| President | Sameer Zuberi, Glasgow, UK |
| Past President | Lieven Lagae, Leuven, Belgium |
| Secretaries | Dana Craiu, Bucharest, Romania Rob Forsyth, Newcastle, UK |
| Treasurer | Michel Willemsen, Nijmegen, Netherlands |
| Chair Scientific & Research Committee | Barbara Plecko, Graz, Austria |
| Chair Education & Training Committee | Coriene Catsman-Berrevoets, Rotterdam, Netherlands |
| Chair Finance Committee | Florian Heinen, Munich, Germany |
| Chair of the Membership /Public Relations / Website Committee | Finbar O'Callaghan, London, UK |
| Webmaster | Francisco Carratala, Alicante, Spain |
| Chair Committee of National Advisors (CNA) | Coriene Catsman-Berrevoets, Rotterdam, Netherlands |
| Members | Banu Anlar, Ankara, Turkey Sophia Bakhtadze, Tbilisi, Georgia Nadia Bahi-Buisson, Paris, France Nina Barisic, Zagreb, Croatia Guenther Bernert, Vienna, Austria Linda De Meirleir, Brussels, Belgium Leena Haataja, Helsinki, Finland Anna Jansen, Brussels, Belgium Pavel Krsek, Prague, Czech Republic Tally Lerman-Sagie, Tel Aviv, Israel Jean-Pierre Lin, London, UK Alasdair Parker, Cambridge, UK Zvonka Renner-Primec, Ljubijana, Slovenia Kevin Rostasy, Datteln, Germany Thomas Sejersen, Stockholm, Sweden Maja Steinlin, Bern, Switzerland Jurģis Strautmanis, Riga, Latvia Federico Vigeveno, Rome, Italy Dilek Yalnizoglu, Ankara, Turkey Dimitrios Zafeirou, Thessaloniki, Greece |



EPNS Treasurer & Finance Report

2020 has been a challenging time for us all due to the impact of Covid-19, and here at the EPNS we have worked hard to ensure that the costs are managed diligently.

Regrettably 3 core events for the EPNS were cancelled this year: the Alicante training course in March, the Stockholm Research Meeting in May, and the Cambridge Masterclass in September. All delegate registration fees were refunded in full and we are pleased to state that financial losses to the EPNS were minimal.

It is with pleasure therefore that we can report the Society's healthy financial situation continues, with adequate EPNS funds domiciled in safe bank accounts at a Private Bank in Germany where all monies are guaranteed.

The global pandemic created new innovative ways for the EPNS to provide educational opportunities for our members and funds have been invested in virtual platforms for our monthly webinars, virtual teaching courses, online training opportunities, etc.

Several activities have been postponed from 2020 until 2021, for example fellowships, visiting teachers, Eurasia workshop, etc. and funds have been set aside to ensure these activities resume when it is safe to do so. Alongside carrying over funds from 2020 and funding our traditional activities in 2021, we are exploring new ways of investing in 2021 including working towards introducing a European Exam and continuing with virtual activities. In addition, we consider the environmental costs of all our projects.

Our system for detailed budgeting for our four main committees continues to be strictly monitored, giving us close management of expenditure. Administrative costs are kept to a minimum, including the costs associated with the biannual EPNS board meetings which take place either virtually or, when possible, in low-cost, easily accessible locations.

Whilst we are reassured by the healthy EPNS financial situation, we will not become complacent and the financial consequences of Covid-19 will continue to be monitored closely. We are delighted to be able to serve our EPNS members by funding our Society's goal to provide enhanced training and scientific research in the field of Paediatric Neurology.

Best wishes

Michel Willemsen, EPNS Treasurer and Florian Heinen, Chair EPNS Finance Committee



Photo: Michel Willemsen
EPNS Treasurer



Photo: Florian Heinen
Chair EPNS Finance



EPNS Scientific & Research Report

The COVID-19 global health emergency and its economic and social impacts have disrupted many aspects of life. In these unprecedented and uncertain times, the EPNS Scientific & Research Committee have found it necessary to take several unavoidable decisions to our original plans for 2020. We continue however to look towards the future as we plan to work within the paediatric neurology community to improve the standards of care of all children with suspected neurological problems,



Photo: Barbara Plecko
Chair EPNS Scientific &
Research Committee

EPNS Research Meeting, Stockholm May 2020 **CANCELLED**



EPNS Research meetings are held every 2 years, in alternate years to the EPNS congresses. Child Neurologist researchers at all stages of their career are encouraged to present project outlines in an early

phase that look for international collaborations and research networks.

The EPNS Research Meeting in May 2020 had been planned to take place at the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden, hosted by Professor Thomas Sejersen. We received 28 applications for travel grants, that were already reviewed by the jury, but sadly, for all involved, the decision was taken in March 2020 to cancel the event.

EPNS Congress, Glasgow June 2021 **POSTPONED**

Considering the of COVID-19 developments, our president and an advisory committee have taken the difficult decision to postpone the 14th EPNS Congress until 2022 instead of the previously indicated dates in June 2021. By postponing until 2022, we aim to keep all who are involved safe, maintain the scientific value of the EPNS Congress and support the essential interactions needed to bring paediatric neurology community together in a friendly and supportive environment. We are fully committed to meeting the thirst for knowledge throughout the paediatric neurology community to improve the standards of care of all children with suspected neurological problems.

EPNS Research Meeting 2021 **NEW PLANS**

Usually, we would host the next EPNS Research meeting in 2022, however because the EPNS Congress has been postponed until 2022, the EPNS is exploring the possibility of holding an EPNS Research Meeting in Stockholm in early autumn of 2021, as the Research Meeting is traditionally a smaller meeting than the EPNS Congress.



The global pandemic will continue to be monitored and safety of our attendees is paramount. More details will be made available as plans progress.

As always, at an EPNS Research Meeting, there will be 8 Working Groups:

1. Autoimmune and Infectious Diseases
2. Ataxia
3. Epilepsy
4. Movement Disorders
5. Neonatal Neurology & Developmental Neurology
6. Neurometabolics
7. Neuromuscular
8. Paediatric Stroke

We are glad, that through contacts with the ERN on rare neurologic disorders we will be pleased to welcome a representative in future Research Meetings.



14th EPNS Congress Glasgow 28 April – 2 May 2022 NEW DATES

The 14th EPNS congress will now take place as a hybrid virtual and physical gathering in Glasgow, United Kingdom on 28 April – 2 May 2022. The theme will be ‘precision therapies in child neurology looking at networks, systems and technology.’ The organising committee have started to put together a stimulating programme with invited speakers from a broad range of countries. More details about EPNS Congress 2022 can be found at <https://epns-congress.com/> and on page 3 of this annual report.

15th EPNS Congress 2023

The 15th EPNS Congress will take place at the Prague Conference Centre, Prague, Czech Republic on 20-24 June 2023. The theme will be: ‘from genome and connectome to cure.’

16th EPNS Congress 2025

We are currently undergoing a process to review the bids received to host the 16th EPNS Congress, and an announcement about the chosen location will be made later in 2021.



European Academy of Childhood Disability (EACD)

32nd EACD meeting: Virtual 25-28 November 2020

The EPNS was honoured to organise and co-chair a joint session under EACD and EPNS auspices entitled 'Genetic mimics of Cerebral palsy and their treatment options'



33rd EACD meeting: Virtual 29 -31 May 2021

The EPNS is pleased to be invited to once again take part in a joint EACD and EPNS session and plans are underway.

European Academy of Neurology (EAN)

EAN Congress Vienna 19-22 June 2021: The EPNS is

delighted to be working with the EAN, and EPNS representatives are now serving on all the key EAN Scientific panels. Several proposals have been submitted to the Congress team for joint EAN and EPNS sessions.



European Association of Paediatrics (EAPS)

EAPS Congress Virtual 16-19 October 2020

The EPNS was pleased to be involved in the following sessions:

- Multidisciplinary approach in paediatric neurology
- New developments in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy:
- Neurofibromatosis type 1 –initial approach and follow-up

EPNS Journal Club

The EPNS Research & Scientific Committee are exploring bringing a virtual EPNS Journal Club to our members, and more information will be shared in the forthcoming months.

Best wishes

Barbara Plecko, Chair EPNS Research & Scientific Committee

EPNS Education & Training Report

Due to the global pandemic, 2020 was not the year we had planned and sadly many educational events in the world of child neurology were cancelled, but on a positive note we sought new innovative ways of providing virtual educational events. Here is a summary of our year for the EPNS Education and Training Committee:



Photo: Coriene Catsman-Berrevoets
Chair EPNS Education and Training
Committee

3rd EPNS Training Course 2020: Alicante, Spain

The aim of the 3-year rolling EPNS training programme is to cover most main topics in the syllabus over the cycle, promote contact between paediatric neurology trainees and qualified paediatric neurologists to refresh their knowledge.

The 3rd and final event in Alicante was planned as follows:

10-11 March 2020: Neuromuscular diseases (moderator Professor Thomas Sejersen)

12-13 March 2020: Neonatal neurology (moderator Professor Leena Haataja)

The event was fully booked within one week of opening registration, however sadly following an official communication received via the Valencian Health Authority by the Spanish Health Ministry the training courses were **cancelled at short notice**.

All involved were upset and disappointed not to be able to take part in this event especially because the Alicante training courses in 2018 and 2019 had been such great successes.

Sincere thanks to the local team for the wonderful organisation of the previous two years and special thanks to Professor Francisco Carratala, our local host.

The programme from 2020 will be carried forward to the next cycle of EPNS training courses in 2021, see later in this report.

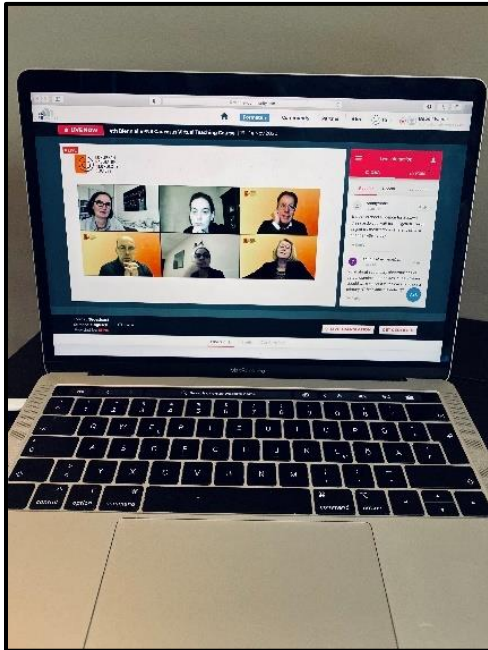
EPNS Central Eurasia Workshop 2020

This new event had been planned to take place **15-17 October 2020** in Almaty, Kazakhstan, covering the topic '**Assessment tools in neonates and young children**'. As the Coronavirus situation unfolded, sadly the decision was taken to **postpone** the event until 2021, see later in this report.

4th EPNS Cambridge Masterclass

The EPNS Cambridge Masterclass has established itself as something special...Forty trainees and mentors in beautiful surroundings, grappling with some of the challenges of child neurology in the 21st Century. Organised by Dr Rob Forsyth and Professor Florian Heinen, the 4th Masterclass in the series was due to take place **10-12 September 2020** at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, UK covering the topic '**Paediatric Neurology in a post-truth world**' regrettably however we were left with no choice but to **cancel** the masterclass in 2020. The next EPNS Masterclass will take place in September 2022.

4th Biennial EPNS Virtual Caucasus Teaching Course



Whilst we were so hopeful to host this 4th training course in the series in person in Tbilisi, Georgia, the safety of our participants and faculty was paramount. After careful consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic changing the way the world has been connecting, the decision was made to transition the 4th EPNS Caucasus Teaching Course 2020 to a fully virtual event. This was an exciting step for the EPNS, helping to eliminate the limitations of having to travel to a single location and opened the opportunity for more participants to attend straight to their favourite device.

The virtual course was held on **13-14 November 2020** covering the topic '**Neuro-metabolic diseases in childhood**'.

The training course language was English with simultaneous Russian translation provided. The event was free of charge to all participants.

The Local Organisers were Ass Prof Sophia Bakhtadze, Georgia, and Dr Biayna Sukhudyán, Armenia, and the Course Moderators were Professor Barbara Plecko, Austria, and Professor Michel Willemsen, The Netherlands.

Our esteemed Faculty:

- Professor Sophia Bakhtadze (Tbilisi Georgia)
- Ass Prof Coriene Catsman-Berrevoets (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)
- Professor Andreas Hahn (Giessen, Germany)
- Professor Barbara Plecko (Graz, Austria)
- Dr Biayna Sukhudyán (Yerevan, Armenia)
- Professor Clara van Karnebeek (Nijmegen, the Netherlands)
- Professor Michel Willemsen (Nijmegen, the Netherlands)

Interesting cases were presented by the following participants: Ani Gevorgyan, Tinatin Tkemaladze, Armine Asatryan Mane Tadevosyan, Mihaela Ioghen and, Nune Kuyumjyan,

Attended by more than 300 participants, with 50% taking advantage of the Russian translation tool, the feedback received has been excellent. The EPNS feels this way of presenting is a fruitful way to connect the mainly English-speaking community with Russian speaking colleagues. Thank you to all involved, especially the faculty panel.

EPNS Monthly Webinars



In October 2020, the EPNS was delighted to offer FREE 1 hour-long webinars on topics of key interest to Child Neurologists on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 17:00h CET.

Each webinar has been broadcast live on Zoom and available for FREE to anyone who would like to register. Fully paid up EPNS members can access a recording of the full session via the EPNS website after the event.

The following EPNS Webinars have taken place in 2020 and have been well attended:

- 14 October 2020: Technology & Innovation solutions for Child Neurology during Covid-19 and beyond. Presented by Professor Sameer Zuberi and Chaired by Ass Prof Coriene Catsman-Berrevoets
- 11 November 2020: Neurological Complications of Measles. Presented by Professor Banu Anlar and Chaired by Ass Prof Coriene Catsman-Berrevoets
- 9 December 2020: MOG Diseases. Presented by Professor Kevin Rostasy and Chaired by Ass Prof Coriene Catsman-Berrevoets

Child Neurology in Infancy Online Courses

As a result of a collaboration project, the EPNS and Mac Keith Press are offering interactive online learning courses based on the 2nd edition of the book *Principles and Practice of Child Neurology in Infancy*.



Part 1 was launched on 14 November 2020: Setting out in a succinct format the description of basic definitions used in classification of paediatric neurologic diseases, principles of working with families, of clinical assessment, of screening, vaccination, use of investigations and treatments, and of evidence-

based medicine, this course is particularly useful for paediatric neurologists, paediatricians, neurologists, and other health professionals involved in the care of children with neurological problems. The emphasis on clinical assessment and the inclusion of some tropical diseases renders the course relevant to all regions of the world including those where resources for health care are limited.

Payment is for 12 months access with the option to renew access at 50% discount. Fully paid EPNS members are entitled to significant discounts and the fee paid depends on the EPNS membership fee category system, based on the World Bank classification.



EPNS Fellowships 2020

Aim: To create excellence by offering the opportunity for further qualification or experience in an area of paediatric neurology in terms of clinical practice or research. The scheme is targeted at those who are at the early stages of their training in the field of paediatric neurology. Successful candidates spend 3-4 month's fellowship in a specialised centre in Europe. The Fellowship budget max is 5,000 Euros, plus in 2020 we awarded a special Aicardi Award of 7,500 Euros. Since 2014 when the scheme started 35 Fellowships have been awarded.

Congratulations to the following in 2020 who received EPNS Fellowships, and whilst it is sad to say that most of the visits were unable to take place in 2020 due to the Covid-19 situation, the EPNS has remained in close contact with all our 2020 Fellows and will be providing **support in 2021 instead:**



Aicardi Fellowship
Dr Giacomo Garone from Italy to Sorbonne Université and Institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle épinière, Paris, France



Dr Cristina Forest from Italy to UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, London, UK



Dr Maria Papadopoulou from Greece to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS, London, UK



Dr Elena Michurina from the Russian Federation to the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK



Dr Alisa Nayruzbayeva from Kazakhstan to Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow, UK



Dr Barbara Siri from Italy will be going to Necker Hospital, Paris, France

EPNS Visiting Teacher 2020

The concept of the EPNS Visiting Teacher initiative: A volunteer professor / senior/ distinguished member of the EPNS, who is a recognised expert in a certain field, visits a nominated host centre in a country in Europe which is classified by the EPNS as WB123 or WB4B for a short stay of intense teaching. Travel and stay will be supported by EPNS. It may be considered that these visits will take place annually thereafter, if the first visit proves to be a success. **In 2020, the following successfully applied for the EPNS Visiting Teacher scheme:**

- Almaty City Children’s Hospital, Kazakhstan. Visiting Teacher: Lieven Lagae, Belgium **POSTPONED UNTIL 2021**
- Regional Specialized Children’s Hospital in Olsztyn, Poland. Visiting Teacher: Professor Ángeles Garcia Cazorla, Spain **POSTPONED UNTIL 2021**

EPNS Educational Online Tools & Video

Library

In 2020 the EPNS has introduced a library of already existing online educational videos and tools which have been created by reliable sources to help all our EPNS members access learning material as an addition to the topics covered in the Training Courses. The links provided have been recommended by EPNS members and screened by EPNS board representatives - with thanks to Professor Florian Heinen and Dr Johanna Wagner. The library will continue to be updated and topics without online tools will be reviewed.



EPNS supporting an educational event

The EPNS offers to support national educational events. Applications are considered on a first come first served basis. The following 2 events had received agreement for EPNS support in 2020, and both events will be **postponed** until 2021:

- 54th Annual Meeting of Czech & Slovak Society of Paediatric Neurology, Liberec
- Master class on Neonatal and Infantile Neurology Azerbaijan

EPNS Endorsing Events

The EPNS now considers endorsing events organised by other associations or non-profit/ government/ EU organisations that enhance the field of paediatric neurology. The EPNS accepts such requests on an ongoing basis. As a condition of approval, organisers agree to acknowledge and promote the EPNS. In turn, the EPNS lists and promotes the event as an “EPNS Endorsed. Endorsed in 2020:

1. **VIRTUAL:** 7th International Course on Drug Resistant Epilepsies September 2020.
2. Italy: 3rd Advanced Residential Course in Neonatal Epileptology and Neurophysiology, Catania **CANCELLED**
3. Italy: EEG/ Epiped course Bologna **CANCELLED**
4. Spain: EPIPED COURSE, Girona **POSTPONED** until April 2021

EPNS Education & Training Committee Plans for the future

EPNS Training Courses: 3-year cycle

2021-2023: Jurmala, Latvia. Local Organiser: Jurgis Strautmanis

2024-2026: Ferrara, Italy: Local organiser: Agnese Suppiej

EPNS Training Course: Jurmala, Latvia 2021

Local Organiser: Jurgis Strautmanis

12-13 April 2021: Neuromuscular diseases: Moderator Professor Thomas Sejersen

14-15 April 2021: Neonatal Neurology: Moderator Professor Leena Haataja

Following the cancellation of the training course planned in Alicante 2020, the first series in the Latvian training course cycle will adopt the programme planned for 2020. Regrettably it will not be possible to host this course in Latvia however the decision has been taken to go virtual. Plans are in progress to make this a memorable interactive event and more details will be shared in the new year. The training courses planned for 2022 and further will probably adapt a new life/ virtual format with lessons learned from the virtual COVID period.

EPNS Central Eurasia Workshop: Almaty, Kazakhstan: 14-16 October 2021



Local Organiser: Professor Marzan Lepessova and Dr Altyنشash

Jaxybayeva, Kazakhstan

Workshop on assessment tools in neonates and young children

Course Moderators: Professor Leena Haataja and Dr. Altyنشash

Jaxybayeva

Following the cancellation of the Workshop in 2020, the 2021 Eurasia workshop will adopt the programme planned for 2020.

Clinical Practice of Child Neurology in Infancy Online Course

The 2nd online course based on 2nd edition Principle and Practice of Child Neurology in Infancy will be available by the end of January 2021.

Young EPNS

This is an important and exciting new initiative for the EPNS where a new committee, comprising of EPNS members who are 40 years old or younger, are working together to provide a platform for networking and future planning to represent the aspirations of young colleagues. The committee have held several virtual meetings in November and December, and more details will be announced in the new year. If you are interested in participating in this group, email info@epns.info

EPNS Fellowships 2021

The application period for EPNS Fellowship 2021 opened in April 2020 and announcements will be made at the end of 2020. In 2021 we are delighted to offer an extra award called the 'Aicardi Fellowship because in 2020 Professor Lieven Lagae, who was presented with the Aicardi Award 2019, and kindly donated the prize fund to the EPNS fellowship scheme and started this tradition. The EPNS was honored to continue with the consent of the Aicardi family. This very special award will be given to an application which is of extreme quality and the placement may lead to a publication.

EPNS Monthly Webinars

The programme for 2021 so far:

| DATE | TOPIC | SPEAKER | Chair |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Wed 13 Jan 2021 | Status Epilepticus in Children | Federico Vigevano | Dilek Yalnizoglu |
| Wed 10 Feb 2021 | Paediatric Haemorrhagic Stroke | Maja Steinlin | Sophia Bakhtadze |
| Wed 10 Mar 2021 | Non- Epileptic Paroxysmal disorders | Nicola Specchio | Kevin Rostasy |

EPNS European Exam

Led by Professor Maja Steinlin, preparations have started to develop a European Exam for trainees in Paediatric Neurology. A panel of child neurologists representing Europe has been involved in a virtual workshop and a learning objective catalogue is being developed. This panel is supported by a professional organization. The purpose of this project is not only to set a standard for the level of knowledge for residents becoming Paediatric Neurologists but also to serve as a standard for registered paediatric neurologist who need to re-register.

Best wishes

Coriene Catsman-Berrevoets, Chair EPNS Education and Training Committee

EPNS Membership & Public Relations Report

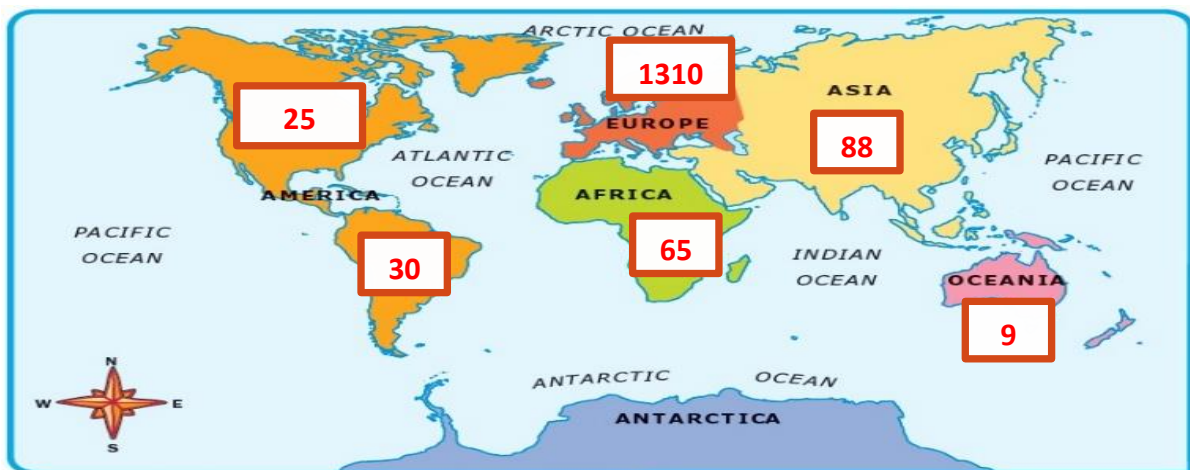
The past year has been challenging for everyone as we respond to the COVID-19 health crisis, and we are grateful to all EPNS members for their continuing support. I am delighted to report that the number of EPNS members over the last year has increased, and we now (22/12/20) have a significant **total of 1,527 EPNS members**. It has been our pleasure to welcome new members to our Society from around the world.



Photo: Finbar O'Callaghan
Chair EPNS Membership,
PR & Website Committee

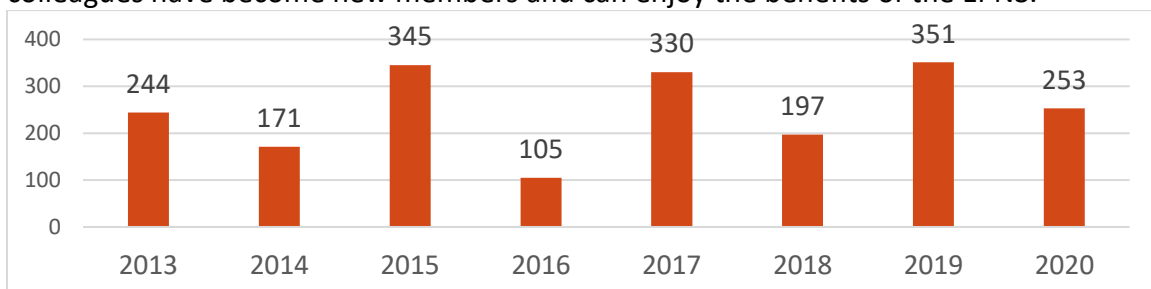
Membership Geography

86% of our members practice in Europe. This is taken as the region for which the European Office of WHO is responsible. We are delighted, however, that many of our EPNS members practice outside Europe.



New Members

In 2020 (at 22/12/20) it has been a pleasure to welcome **253 new members**. The comparison with previous years below shows that it is usual for less EPNS members to join the Society in a 'non-Congress year' however I am delighted that in 2020 many colleagues have become new members and can enjoy the benefits of the EPNS.



In summary the main reasons for joining in 2020:

- National Training Adviser/President National Association encouraged
- EPNS Training Course/event
- EPNS Congress or EPNS Research Meeting



EPNS Collaborating

The Society continues to advertise appropriate meetings on behalf of other organisations on the EPNS website and in return the organisation reciprocates. The EPNS is fortunate to enjoy a close working relationship with most the national paediatric associations in Europe via the Committee of National Training Advisors (C N A) which channels communications on behalf of the EPNS to all interested parties. In addition, the EPNS continues to value and develop collaborative connections with other national and international related organisations to our mutual benefit, including the ICNA, CNS, EAN, EACD, ERNs, EBC, ILAE.

EPNS Annual Subscription fees

In 2021 for convenience, EPNS members will have the option to pay for 2 years at the same time. The fee paid in 2021 depends on several factors:

1. Whether an EPNS member opts to pay the **Combined 2021 & 2022 fee** **or just the fee for 2021**.
2. The World Bank income category of the country where the EPNS member practices. Here is the **list** of World Bank Classification 4 high income nations [CLICK HERE](#)
WB4A = Class 4 high income nations on the above list not highlighted
WB4B = Class 4 high income nations on the above list highlighted in yellow
WB123 = countries not Class 4 high income nations, i.e. not on the list above
Trainee = trainees from **ALL nations regardless of classification**
GNP = mutual members of the Gesellschaft für Neuropädiatrie (GNP) and the EPNS
3. Whether the EPNS members would like to opt to receive a printed copy of the Journal (plus online access) or online only access.

Below is a table of the EPNS membership fees for 2021 and 2022

| Category (see above for explanation) | 2021 online only Journal | 2021 printed + online Journal | Combined 2021 & 2022 online only Journal | Combined 2021 & 2022 printed + online Journal |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| WB4A | 150 Euros | 210 Euros | 270 Euros | 420 Euros |
| WB4B | 75 Euros | 135 Euros | 133 Euros | 265 Euros |
| WB123 | 35 Euros | 95 Euros | 63Euros | 190 Euros |
| Trainee | 20 Euros | 80 Euros | 36 Euros | 160 Euros |
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EPNS Website

The EPNS website <https://www.epns.info/> has a new look and there have been enhancements to the EPNS database as part of our ongoing drive to continuously improve and keep up to date with the latest security and technology.

Best wishes

Finbar O'Callaghan, Chair EPNS Membership & Public Relations Committee



Committee National Advisers (C N A)

The Committee of National Advisers is constituted of advisers selected by the national paediatric neurology societies and associations of all European countries inside and outside the European Union (EU). Normally each country is represented by one member. The CNA has an executive group consisting of its chairperson, secretary and 3 elected members. The CNA is independent of the EPNS but is intended to work in close relation with it. While the CNA is constituted of advisers selected by the national societies, the EPNS is a society of individual members. The CNA is represented on the board of the EPNS and the EPNS is represented in the CNA by its president and other relevant persons as full members of the CNA.



Photo: Coriene Catsman-Berrevoets
Chair C N A

The C N A meet biennially just before the EPNS Congress, and consequently no meeting took place in 2020.

EJPN OPEN ACCESS Article:

‘The training and organisation of Paediatric Neurology in Europe’

A Special report of the European Paediatric Neurology Society & Committee of National Advisers was published describing the origins of Paediatric Neurology, how it has grown and developed in the last half century and the current organisation and training in Europe.

Professor Sameer Zuberi’s Editorial Commentary: [READ HERE](#)

Open Access Article: [READ HERE](#)

Best wishes

Coriene Catsman-Berrevoets

Chair Committee of National Training Advisers (C N A)

Training Advisory Board (TAB)

In 2002 Paediatric neurology was accepted at the European level as a sub-specialty of Paediatrics and of Neurology. In the process of defining the specialty, a European Paediatric Neurology Training Programme (Syllabus) was compiled and accepted by the European Paediatric Neurology Society (EPNS) and the national societies represented in the Committee of National Advisors (CNA) in Paediatric Neurology as well as the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) sections for Paediatrics and Neurology. The revised Syllabus was again discussed and accepted with entry both from Paediatrics or Neurology by EAP (European Academy of Paediatrics, the Paediatric Division of UEMS) in December 2010. In order to push the implementation of a high standard of paediatric neurology training, in 2004 the EPNS Board and the CNA agreed to create a Training Advisory Board (TAB) and to develop a training evaluation programme intended to support national societies in developing their training systems. TAB offers the national child neurology societies the opportunity to evaluate their national training system. The aim is a standard of training in accordance with the European Paediatric Neurology Training Programme (Syllabus) in each European country. The assessment is voluntary and initiated by the national paediatric neurology society.



In a first step it is intended to gather as much information on the national organisation of Paediatric Neurology and neurodisability services, number of paediatric neurologist and need for training capacity, national training system in Paediatric Neurology. The usual duration of the visit should be 2 days.

A report is drafted by the visiting TAB members and further developed within the TAB until it can be finally approved by TAB and CNA. The report concludes the impressions from the assessment and gives recommendations for the future development of the paediatric neurology speciality and training. The final approved report is sent as an official document to the national society. The reports are published in the Newsletter of the European Journal of Paediatric Neurology and are available through this website.

The procedure is followed 1-2 year with a follow-up questionnaire to the national society to gather information on whether the assessment contributed to the future development and whether the conclusions drawn led to any changes or developments.

Enquiries have been made during 2020, however due to the global pandemic it has been necessary to delay any visits until 2021.

Best wishes

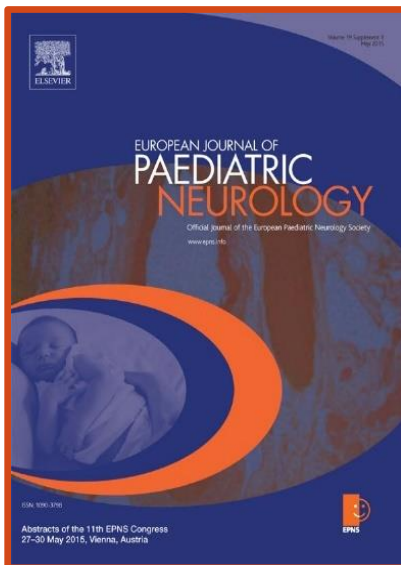
Coriene Catsman-Berrevoets

Chair Training Advisory Board (TAB)



European Journal of Paediatric Neurology Report (EJPN)

The European Journal of Paediatric Neurology (EJPN) is the official journal of the EPNS and is available to all members in either electronic or print & electronic format. Published 6 times a year by Elsevier Ltd. on behalf of the society it accepts papers primarily of a clinical nature on the whole spectrum of paediatric neurological disease. The journal is owned by the society and contributes to the income of the EPNS through royalty payments.



With an Impact Factor which has increased by 5.7% to 2.5, the quality of submissions remains high. In 2020 we published a very successful special issue on Epilepsy & Neurodevelopment Disorders with many world leading basic and clinical neuroscientists contributing articles. In 2021 two special issues are planned, one on Neuromodulation in Children and the other on Immunisation and Neurological Disease.

We are delighted that the Gesellschaft für Neuropädiatrie (GNP) have decided that EJPN will become an official journal of their society. All GNP members will receive electronic access to EJPN increasing our core readership base significantly. We hope this will encourage more articles to be

submitted from German speaking countries, all of whom are already strong supporters of EPNS and EJPN.

The journal has a distinguished international Editorial Board of specialists in the field who advise on the direction of the journal, special issues and review papers. After 10 years as an Associate Editor and 6 years as Editor in Chief, Professor Sameer Zuberi is moving on and we are delighted that his replacement will be Professor Dimitrios Zafeiriou from Thessaloniki, Greece. Dimitrios knows the journal well as he has served as Associate Editor for 6 years.

Best wishes

Sameer Zuberi

Editor-in-Chief, European Journal of Paediatric Neurology



A little more information about

The European Paediatric Neurology Society (EPNS)

A society for physicians with a research or clinical interest in Paediatric Neurology.

Honorary membership is for persons who the society wishes to honour for outstanding distinction in the field of paediatric neurology.

Associate membership is awarded, on application, to all paediatric neurologists and colleagues in related fields and that belong to their national society or association in their field and to any physician, basic scientist or clinical scientist trainees in paediatric neurology who shows an interest in the neurology of infancy, childhood or adolescence, whether in research or in clinical medical care. There are no geographical restrictions to associate membership. Associate members pay an annual subscription, which includes subscription to the European Journal of Paediatric Neurology, the Journal of the Society.

Ordinary membership is for any associate member that is also in practice in Europe (currently taken as the region for which European Office of WHO is responsible). Transition from associate to ordinary membership takes place by the vote of the general assembly at the meeting of The Society. The only difference between associate and ordinary membership is the entitlement of ordinary members to vote for and stand as candidates for election to the Board of the Society.

EPNS Annual Subscription Fees for 2021 and 2022

The fee paid in 2021 depends on several factors:

3. Whether you opt to pay the:
 - a. **Combined 2021 & 2022**
 - b. **or opt to pay just the fee for 2021.**

4. The World Bank income category your country belongs to.

Here is the **list** of World Bank Classification 4 high income nations [CLICK HERE](#)

WB4A = Class 4 high income nations on the above list not highlighted

WB4B = Class 4 high income nations on the above list highlighted in yellow

WB123 = countries not Class 4 high income nations, i.e. not on the list above

Trainee = trainees from **ALL nations regardless of classification**

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For existing members of the EPNS, the correct schedule of fees for the **country where you practice** will have been automatically applied and the fees that apply to you will be shown when you login to the EPNS website and click on the 'make a payment' tab.

Contacting the EPNS



Email info@epns.info



Twitter [@EPNSnews](https://twitter.com/EPNSnews)



Website <http://www.epns.info/>

Joining the EPNS

New members are welcome!

If you are not already a member, please think of becoming one. By doing so you join a rapidly growing group of like-minded active professionals in our field who are committed to improving standards of care of all children with suspected neurological problems and to collaborating on training, continuing medical education and research. Membership is open to all paediatric neurologists and colleagues in related fields. Membership rates have been substantially reduced for trainees and for colleagues from certain countries after completion of training.

It's easy to join the EPNS! Our new membership application form can be completed online through our website <http://www.epns.info/> On the home page click the '**How to Join EPNS**' button to get the application form. Once you submit the form, you will receive an email acknowledging receipt. Our EPNS Membership Secretary will then get in touch with you shortly afterwards to formally welcome you to the Society.

