

*Southeast Europe Neurosurgical Society
(S^eENS)*

President

Professor Krešimir Rotim, Croatia

VicePresident

Professor Lukas Rasulić, Serbia

Secretary

Professor Tomislav Sajko, Croatia

Treasurer:

Zlatko Kolić, Croatia

SeENS Committees

Cerebrovascular Committee Chairman:
Professor Alexander Andreou, Greece

Education and Training Committee Chairman:
Professor Stefan Florian, Romania

Peripheral nerves Committee Chairman:
Professor Lukas Rasulić, Serbia

Neuroendoscopy Committee Chairman:
Professor Roman Bošnjak, Slovenia

Neurotraumatology Committee Chairman:
Professor Fatos Olldash, Albania

Spine Committee Chairman:
Professor Michael Spyrou, Cyprus

Functional Neurosurgery Committee:
Professor Feridun Acar, Turkey

Pediatric Neurosurgery Committee:
Professor Yavor Enchev, Bulgaria

Neurooncology Committee Chairman:
Dr. Ibrahim Omerhodžić, MD, PhD

SeENS Education courses

President
Professor Ihsan Solaroglu

VicePresident
Professor Tomislav Sajko

2nd Congress of Southeast Europe Neurosurgical Society SeENS SARAJEVO 2015

October 22-25, 2015

Hotel Bristol, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

OFFICIAL REPORT

The 2nd SeENS Congress was held in the Olympic city of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the city of major historical events in history, especially in the 20th century. In the town of good people, warmest welcome had found more than 560 participants from 32 countries. Neurosurgeons from 4 continents, from Japan to Colombia, from the United Kingdom to Saudi Arabia came to Sarajevo to learn and enjoy. At the end, participants agreed: *The organizer of the Congress, Southeast Europe Neurosurgical Society, supported by the local co-organizer, Association of neurosurgeons in Bosnia and Herzegovina and their partners (University Clinical Center of Sarajevo, Medical Faculty University of Sarajevo and the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia-Herzegovina) did great job.*

SeENS as a relatively young organization with this Congress showed its desire, organizational potential and strength to work for the future of prosperity, education and the best possible treatment of patients in the region. Working together, people from 15 countries in the region made collaborative effort to organize such a large and well-designed professional meeting. Otherwise, this is the eighth scientific conference organized or co-organized by the SeENS in 2015.

The aim for organizing the Second SeENS Congress in Sarajevo was multifaceted but predominantly the mutual exchange of experience and knowledge, and meeting and connecting neurosurgeons from the region and around the world, in order to rich better management of patients with the most complex medical problems - pathology of the central nervous system. Such a regional cross-border cooperation, now is already clear, contributes significantly to the professional and social cohesion and progress of neurosurgical profession and relations in Southeast Europe.

World's leading experts in the field of neurosurgery gave the extraordinary lectures with many appropriate videos, generously giving

SeENS – SouthEast Europe Neurosurgical Society
Vinogradska 29, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
e-mail: seensoffice@gmail.com;
secretaryseens@gmail.com
www.seens.eu

advices when and how to operate and how to avoid complications. Each participant learned something new for sure. Congress was interesting and visited not only by neurosurgeons but also by scientists from related disciplines, as well as spinal surgeons, neurologists, neuroradiologists, neuroendocrinologist, nurse oriented in neurosciences, psychiatrists, professionals of different types of health studies, undergraduate and postgraduate students and other professionals closely related with neurosurgery. The Federal Medical Chamber scored the Congress participants with appropriate CME credits.

The Congress was attended not only by the leading experts in the neurosurgical profession, but also leaders of continental and regional neurosurgical associations (President and Vice-President of the *World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies* (WFNS), President-Elect of the *American Association of Neurological Surgeons* (AANS), President of the *Asian Congress of Neurological Surgeons* (ACNS), Honorary President of the *Latin American Federation of Societies of Neurological Surgery* (FLANC), President of the *Central European Neurosurgical Society* (CENS) etc.

Pre-Congress courses

For the first course, Pre-Congress Live Surgery course with Prof. Juha Hernesniemi and his team from Helsinki, Finland, 70 participants from 15 countries were attended.



Picture 1. Participants of the Cerebrovascular course relentlessly followed the operation (October 21st, 2015).



Picture 2. Participants of the Pediatric course in a crowded hall of the Institute (October 22nd, 2015).

The Course participants had the opportunity to watching live surgery in the operating room but also in a multimedia hall close to the operating theater. They observed 3 operations (2 aneurisms and one AVM), and between the operations discussed with the operator about the cases, surgical technique, indications etc. The organizer is granted with free of charge for all

participants from South East Europe for Pre-Congress Courses (a total of 100 scholarships), and all residents for all Congress sessions.



Picture 3. The course has aroused great interest of young neurosurgeons and the participants in the course who spent the whole day from 8 in the morning until 9 o'clock at night. Between every particular surgeries, lectures was given and discussions during the breaks were very active.

The next day, October 22nd, 2015 was followed by the Pediatric Neurosurgical Endoscopy Course with leading teacher Prof. Memet Özek from Istanbul, Turkey. This course was also followed with lot of interest by fellow colleagues. The Course participants, 70 of them, had the opportunity to watch to the late afternoon many excellent presentation and discussions.



Picture 4. Prof. Juha Hernesniemi operates in the operating room, University Clinical Center of Sarajevo, date October 21st, 2015, during the Second Cerebrovascular Pre-congress live surgery Course.



Picture 5. Prof. M. Memet Ozek answers the questions of the participants about the details of the surgery of tumors of the third ventricle.

The night before the opening of the Congress, Sarajevo's Mayor Prof. Ivo Komsic officially welcomed distinguished guests to Sarajevo with Welcome Cocktail hosted in the City Hall. After this event, guests had a tour through the Museum and a short piano music program. Later on, guests had

the opportunity to visit the Down Town (Bascarsija) or enjoy in the dinners in some extraordinary restaurants with national and international kitchen.



Picture 6. Welcome Cocktail with Mayor of Sarajevo (City Hall, October 22, 2015).

Pre-Congress courses followed by central part of the Congress, the opening of the Congress and the plenary sessions, where we met pleads of brilliant surgeons and giants of neurosurgical profession from all over the world.

The Congress in pictures



Picture 7. Prof. Yong-Kwang Tu, President of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) after opening the Congress gives a plenary lecture in the Central Congress Hall.



Picture 8. Prof. Madjid Samii opening plenary session giving the lecture on PCU tumors.



Picture 9. During the Gala Dinner party invited speakers were awarded with special SeENS medals and honorary membership. With microphone Vice-President of the SeENS, Prof. Lukas Rasulic invites world renowned neurosurgeons to receive an honorary plaque. The first row, from the left: Ossama Al-Mefty (USA), Kenan Arnautovic (USA), Juha Hernesniemi (Finland), Frederick A. Boop (USA), Melvin Cheatham (USA), Yong-Kwang Tu (Taiwan), Madjid Samii (Germany), Yoko Kato (Japan), Lukas Rasulic (Serbia), Takeshi Kawase (Japan), Ibrahim Omerhodzic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Rasim Skomorac (Bosnia-Herzegovina). The second row: M. Memet Ozek (Turkey), Necmetin Pamir (Turkey), Selcuk Peker (Turkey), Helmut Bertalanffy (Germany), Andreas Demetriades (UK), Vincenzo Paterno (Germany), Kresimir Rotim (Croatia), Maria Luigi Cavallo (Italy), Francesco Tomasello (Italy).



Picture 10. During the Congress the meeting of the Executive Committee of SeENS was held. SeENS Secretary Prof. Tomislav Sajko finally announced the time and venue of the 3rd SeENS Congress which will be held in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 2017. From the left: Petar Vulekovic (Serbia), Slavko Duraskovic (Monte Negro), Yavor Enchev (Bulgaria), Aleksandar Caparoski (Macedonia), Feridun Acar (Turkey), Ihsan Solaroglu (Turkey), Ibrahim Omerhodzic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Lukas Rasulic (Serbia), Kresimir Rotim (Croatia), Tomislav Sajko (Croatia), Josip Jurisic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Vaso Antunovic (Serbia), Venko Filipce (Macedonia), Fatos Olldashi (Albania), Michalakis Spyrou (Cyprus), Roman Bosnjak (Slovenia), Borut Prestor (Slovenia).



Picture 11. Local and regional media, TV and radio stations, informed about the Congress events at daily basis, as well as newspapers and Web portals. On the left picture: President of the SeENS, Professor Kresimir Rotim gives an interview for the daily news night before official opening of the Congress (Bosnian national TV - BHT). On the right picture: Dr Ibrahim Omerhodzic, President of the Congress Organizing Committee gives a report for the courses, during live TV news for N1 TV station (CNN Exclusive News Channel affiliate).

The Congress in numbers

The Congress was attended by total of 562 participants from 32 countries. Attendees were medical students, doctors, residents, consultants, but also well known neurosurgeons and world leading masters in neurosurgery. Two Pre-Congress courses with 140 neurosurgeons and residents participated. During the cerebrovascular course, 3 patients with brain vascular malformations underwent surgery, among which 4 lectures was given by excellent cerebrovascular neurosurgeon. The pediatric course shown 9 lectures followed with 15 video presentations of complex operations. During the extraordinary four plenary sessions attendees were able to hear 37 excellent lectures. In the 6 main sessions additional 43 lectures of experts were presented. All was followed with 24 free topics presentations, and 2 additional sponsored demonstration and poster sessions with 32 presentations. The last day of the Congress *Young neurosurgeons corner* was happened with 37 presentations divided in 3 separated parts, and followed with 39 poster presentations. Apart of the Congress was *First Neurosurgery Nursing Symposium of the Southeast Europe Region*, also with 3 sessions and 44 presentations. All together, 281 different topics and lectures were given.



Picture 12. First Neurosurgery Nursing Symposium of the Southeast Europe Region aroused considerable interest and participated by over 100 participants from across the region.

They said about the Congress

“...We returned well at home with great memories from Sarajevo: the city, its history, your excellent organization of the 2nd SEENS Congress and the wonderful hospitality...”

Prof. **Rudolf Fahlbusch** (Germany), Director of the Center for Endocrine Neurosurgery at the INI, Hannover

“...The impressive number of present neurosurgeons (over 400), the number of speakers and their personality, the subjects discussed, the cultural and touristic program all contributed in an essential way to the intellectual and neurosurgical level of this manifestation. The entire mood was of friendship and kindness...”

Prof. **Alexandru Vlad Ciurea** (Romania), Ex-Vice President of the WFNS

“...Thank you so much. I always focus on yours countries. We will have another chance to do work or study together...”

Prof. **Yoko Kato** (Japan), President of the ACNS

“...It was for me a privilege to attend the 2nd SEENS Congress which had, in my opinion, a high scientific level and was very successful from the social point of view. I hope to have in the future further chances to join you in other meetings...”

Prof. **Francesco Tomasello** (Italy), Second Vice-President of WFNS

“...Your hard work bared fruits, it was absolutely outstanding meeting and thank you for the opportunity to participate and for warm and heartfelt welcome you extended to me...”

Prof. Ossama Al-Mefty (USA), Director of SB Surgery, BWH, Harvard School of Medicine, Boston

...Congratulation for your success of the 2nd SEENS... it was my honor to be a honorable member of SEENS, and it will be my pleasure to support your meeting in the future...

Prof. Takeshi Kawase (Japan), Former Vice-President of the WFNS

“...The other thing surprised me was the dynamic power in promoting standards of neurosurgical practice provided by young leaders of your Society...”

Prof. Yong-Kwang Tu (Taiwan), President of the WFNS

“...There was wonderful Congress... SEENS is very strong Society, and I will always support you...”

Prof. Madjid Samii (Germany), Past-President of the WFNS

“...Congratulations again on the successful meeting. I really enjoyed it.”

Prof. Frederick A. Boop (USA), President-Elect of the AANS

“...It was one of the best congresses I have been - and I have been in so many, close to 1,000...”

Prof. Juha Hernesniemi (Finland), Founding Member of World Academy of Neurological Surgeons

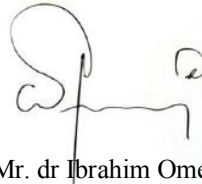
Instead of conclusion

During the Congress many new contacts was achieved, experiences and ideas was exchanged, plans for further development of mutual cooperation and prosperity of the profession have been agreed. An impressive number of attendees, number of speakers and their importance in the world of neurosurgery, topics and lectures, but also social and tourist program have contributed to this event to be evaluated by the participants with the highest grade. Some presentations are rewarded with standing ovations. The days of Congress have been imbued with good mood and friendly atmosphere.

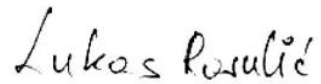
On behalf of the SeENS Presidency and Organizing Committee,



Prof. dr Krešimir Rotim
Clinic for neurosurgery, Director
CHC "Sestre milosrdnice", Zagreb
SEENS President



Mr. dr Ibrahim Omerhodžić
Department of neurosurgery
UCC of Sarajevo
Organizing Committee President



Prof. dr Lukas Rasulić
Clinic for neurosurgery
CC of Serbia, Belgrade
SEENS Vice-President



Prof. Tomislav Sajko
Clinic for neurosurgery
CHC "Sestre milosrdnice"
SeENS Secretary