



Announcements & reports

AROUND THE WORLD

The 1st Congress of the European Paediatric Neurology Society (EPNS) in Conjunction with the 1st Interim Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Neurosurgery (ESPN) held at the Royal Beach Hotel, Eilat, Israel, 19-23 March 1995

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The Meeting was an historic occasion for three special reasons:

- (1) This was the first Congress of the newly established, open European Paediatric Neurology Society, which evolved as a mutation from the European Federation of Child Neurology Societies (EFCNS).
- (2) This was the first official combined meeting of the two European Societies for Paediatric Neurology and Paediatric Neurosurgery. It was a unique occasion for bridging the gap in communication between the two disciplines for the benefit of children and their families.
- (3) The venue of the Congress was located at the border of Jordan, Egypt and Israel in an historic new era of peace in the region. The Congress was attended by more than 450 participants from 40 countries. The scientific program consisted of plenary sessions with up-to-date review lectures, round table discussions, short oral communica-

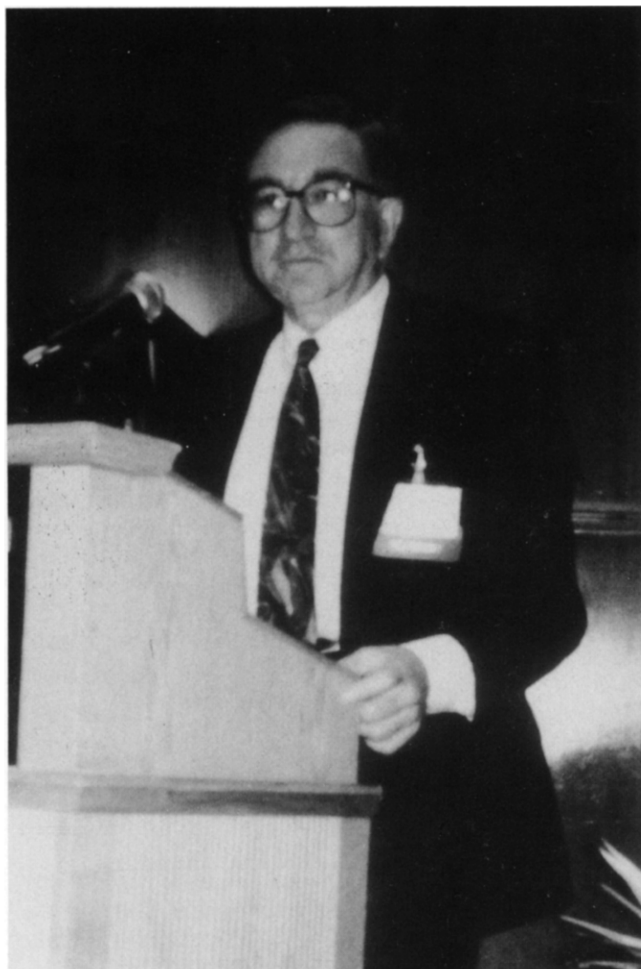


Fig. 1. Professor Victor Dubowitz, MD, President of EPNS.



Fig. 2. Professor Shaul Harel, MD, Congress President.

tions and poster presentations. The main topics of the Congress included:

Environmental determinants in brain development
Fetal and neonatal neurology
Head injuries
Mechanisms and new strategies in epilepsies
Mid-line tumors
Neuro-oncology
Neuroimaging (update)
Neuromuscular disorders
Social and preventive medicine in pediatric neurology
Surgical indications and management of abnormal movement disorders
Synostoses and craniofacial anomalies
Vertebro-spinal neoplasms and injuries

The combined Congress was a most interesting and stimulating experience, and many of the participants expressed great satisfaction with both the scientific and social programs.

The 2nd EPNS Congress will be held in Maastricht, The Netherlands, 8–11 October, 1997, and we look forward to another enjoyable and productive meeting.

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NCNP NEWS

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The National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry (NCNP) was opened in 1986 as the kernel institute of Japan which aims to promote highly advanced medical care and research for mental, nervous, muscular and developmental disorders. At present, NCNP consists of two hospitals, two research institutes and an administration department, which are located at two separate campuses, that is, the one in Kodaira, Tokyo, and the other in Ichikawa, Chiba. Both have a constellation of a hospital and a research institute.

The research divisions related to developmental disorders include three departments, as follows: Department of Mental Retardation and Birth Defect Research (Director: Sachio Takashima) and Department of Inherited Metabolic Disease (Director: Norio Sakuragawa) in the National Institute of Neuroscience, Kodaira, and Division of Developmental Disorders (Director: Makiko Kaga) in the National Institute of Mental Health, Ichikawa. In addition, research on muscular disorders is carried out at the Department of Neuromuscular Research (Director: Kiichi Arahata) and Department of Ultrastructural Research (Director: Ikuya Nonaka) of the National Institute of Neuroscience. The clinical division of Child Neurology (Directors: Toshiaki Hashimoto and Kenji Sugai) belongs to the National Center Hospital for Nervous, Mental, and Muscular Disorders in Kodaira, and collaborates

with the research divisions mentioned above on clinical research and training for speciality.

In order to promote collaborative studies in related research projects, NCNP has granted an annual budget to 28 research committees in Japan in the fiscal year 1994, five of which are directed to those for developmental disorders of the brain, as listed below.

Titles and chairmen of the research committees on developmental disorders in 1994:

1. Etiology and prevention of brain dysgenesis
Kenzo Takeshita (Professor, Department of Child Neurology, Tottori University School of Medicine, Yonago) with 35 collaborative members
2. Chemical pathology, prevention and treatment of genetic metabolic disorders affecting CNS
Norio Sakuragawa (Director, Department of Inherited Metabolic Disease, National Institute of Neuroscience, NCNP, Kodaira, Tokyo) with 13 collaborative members
3. Pathophysiology, long-term prognosis and medical treatment of children with severe mental and motor disabilities
Toru Kurokawa (Director, National Nishibeppu Hospital, Beppu, Oita) with 41 collaborative members
4. Pathogenesis and prevention of circulatory disturbance in fetal and neonatal brain
Sachio Takashima (Director, Department of Mental Retardation and Birth Defect Research, National Center of Neuroscience, NCNP, Kodaira, Tokyo) with 19 collaborative members
5. Basic research on developmental disorders of higher cortical function
Keiichi Uyemura (Professor, Department of Physiology, Keio University School of Medicine, Tokyo) with 17 collaborative members

The 1994 Meeting of the Research Committee of Pathogenesis and Prevention of Circulatory Disturbance in Fetal and Neonatal Brain

Time: 9 December 1994

Venue: National Center Hospital for Nervous, Mental, and Muscular Disorders, NCNP, Kodaira, Tokyo, Japan

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PROGRAM

1. Mechanism of neonatal death in neonatal hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy
Sachio Takashima, Osamu Soma, Mitsuhiro Kato, Kimiko Deguchi, Masashi Mizuguchi (Department of Mental Retardation and Birth Defect Research, National Institute of Neuroscience, NCNP, Kodaira, Tokyo)