

The 15th ESDaP congress, Roskilde, Denmark, June 6-8 2013

From Gregor Jemec, Solveig Esmann & Michael Heidenheim.

It was a pleasure having you all here in Roskilde.

Many different congresses are offered every year, but not so many are repeated year after year. Since 1987 when the first ESDaP congress was held in Vienna, the society has had a congress every 2nd or 3rd year, bringing us to a total of 15 congresses so far. The sheer longevity of the congresses is a tribute to the enterprise of the ESDaP and recognition of how well it serves its purpose.

The success can be measured in other ways as well. This time, 135 very interested and active members attended from 35 different countries. The geographical spread was very big, with participants coming from as far away as New Zealand and Peru. Although most participants were still from Europe, the geographical spread strongly implies that the ESDaP is getting to be more intercontinental and underlines its importance in the field of psychodermatology. We hope that the trend will continue and that not only the number of attendees will rise, but that the globalisation continues on the back of shared humanistic values.

The programme was highly structured into one single track starting with Professor Raben Rosenberg's (DK) lecture on psychopharmacology as one anchor point, and ending with Dr Nienke Vulink's (NL) spirited lecture on body-dysmorphic disorder as the other anchor. In-between these two anchors a range of excellent presentations presented the audience with topics as varied as psychoneuroimmunology (Professor Francisco Tausk, US), non-pharmacological psychotherapy (Dr Nicole Rosenberg, DK), Stigmatization (Professor Uwe Gieler, D) and Self-inflicted dermatoses (Professor Silla Consoli, F). The latter speaker provided a link to the latest position paper by the ESDaP (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=PMID:%2023303467>). The ambition of the organizing committee to create a unified structure, where lectures would be linked and presented as a coherent whole was largely successful, when judging by the attentive participation of the audience and the subsequent feedback.

A new concept was also that of the ESDaP prize essay, which gives young researchers the opportunity to secure free registration as one year membership of the Society. The prize essays were aimed at increasing not only involvement in the programme, but also to ensure that the congress would be exposed to new data within the themes of the congress. By advertising the prize essays well in advance, opportunity is given to create and present new data that fall thematically within the specific field of psychodermatology highlighted at the congress. The organising committee strongly recommends this activity to future congress organisers. Following the prize essay contest, five new members could be welcomed into the ESDaP: Drs. Deepthi Konda, Lakshmi Bhuvaneshwaran Kartha, Sylvia van Beugen, HC Ring and Tamara Gracia. Prize

winner Ekaterina Matyushenko was already a member. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all participants to the Prize essay.

The social programme allowed time and opportunity to meet old friends, and the compact venue allowed new friendships to be forged to the benefit not only of the members but also of the ESDaP.

We are sure that Professor Lvov and his team are already hard at work preparing the 16th ESDaP congress in St. Petersburg in 2015; and look forward to seeing them creating a new and exciting even better congress in their beautiful city.

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