



The European Stroke Initiative – Reducing the Incidence & Impact of Stroke

The EUSI is a joint initiative of the European Stroke Council, the European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS) and European Neurological Society (ENS)

Official journal:

**Cerebrovascular
Diseases**

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Xth EUSI Stroke Summer School

Local Organisers:

J.-C. Baron, P.J. Martin, E. O'Brien, E.A. Warburton

The 10th European Stroke Summer School was held in Cambridge between 10th and 16th September 2006, in the tranquil and green surroundings of Clare Hall College, one of the newer colleges on the edge of the city. The meeting room was informal, allowing easy communication between speakers and trainees. The unpredictable English weather allowed the participant to enjoy pleasant warm summer temperatures for most of the week.

Out of 46 applications, 35 applicants from 10 countries were selected by a panel of four assessors taking into consideration current professional status, previous attendance to EUSI Summer Schools, career intentions, publications, recommendation and place of work (Europe being favoured).

There was a total of 23 speakers, who were accommodated at Clare Hall, which made interaction with the trainees intense, especially over meals. Seven of the speakers were from Cambridge, 8 from other parts of the UK and 7 from other European countries (Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy and Sweden).

The lessons started at 9am each morning, and ended between 17.30 and 18.15hrs. On Friday afternoon participants were free to explore the city and beyond.

The days were divided into five main themes: the carotid plaque; secondary medical prevention; acute stroke; the aftermath of stroke; and rarer causes of stroke. Lectures lasted between 1-1½ hrs including discussion. Most talks included the discussion of real clinical cases, and the trainees were asked to give their opinion on best management. On Wednesday afternoon there was a special lecture with an update on therapeutic approaches in intracerebral haemorrhage. On Friday, just after closure of the sessions, a Quiz with MCQs provided by the speakers was organised and three Prizes were awarded.

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On Wednesday evening the attendants ventured into the city for dinner at Christ's College, one of the older colleges in Cambridge (founded in 1505). Having experienced traditional English Tea in the afternoon, they experienced traditional English weather in the evening with a downpour as they left the dinner. However, the weather did not dampen their spirit and many delegates went on to search out the Cambridge nightlife.

The organisers received back 34 out of the 35 evaluation sheets, asking each delegate's opinion on organisation, selection of topics covered, time allowed for discussion, whether the course was adequately clinically orientated and their overall satisfaction. Most delegates gave a score of 5 (excellent) or 4 (very good) for each section, with the average overall being 4.2.

In order to cover all relevant topics, the course was very intense and comments included the suggestion that a break in the middle of the week would have been preferable to the Friday afternoon, or that the days could have been extended to end at 19.30 to enable a longer lunch-time break. Unfortunately, mainly due to speaker availability, this was not possible.

One delegate suggested a quiz at the start and the end would have been good – to see how much knowledge they had gained. The organisers received many comments along the lines of 'A wonderful week overall – I have learnt a huge amount and made new friends whom I hope to see again', one delegate remarked 'where else could you learn stroke in a week?'

The photographs on the website www.neurology.cam.ac.uk/stroke/summerschool06 reflect the enjoyable week we had.

The organisers are grateful to the EUSI, NovoNordisk, AstraZeneca, Johnson and Johnson and Pfizer for their generous support.

www.eusi-stroke.org