



Xth EUSI Stroke Summer School

Local Organisers: J-C Baron, PJ Martin, E O'Brien, EA Warburton

Course report and evaluation

The 10th European Stroke Summer School was held in Cambridge between 10th and 16th September. Although Cambridge is a busy city, we were fortunate to be able to hold the event in the more 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, and directly opened onto beautiful gardens. The unpredictable English weather was kind to us and we enjoyed pleasant warm summer temperatures for most of the week.

Participants and faculty members

We intended to restrict attendance to 35 trainees, in line with the spirit of the Summer Schools. 46 applications were received, the standard of which was very high and, after taking into consideration current professional status, previous attendance to EUSI Summer Schools, career intentions, publications, recommendation and place of work (Europe being favoured), 35 applicants from 10 countries were selected by a panel of four assessors.

There was a total of 23 speakers, two of whom attended for the whole duration of the Summer School. The speakers 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).

A list of all participants and faculty members is attached.

Programme

We started at 9am each morning, except for Thursday which was 9.30am, and ended the sessions between 17.30 and 18.15hrs. On Friday afternoon participants were free to explore the city and beyond. We arranged for the more energetic participants to have access the gym and swimming pool at Clare Hall, although the setting was such that several chose to go jogging before breakfast.

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. This was preceded by traditional English Afternoon Tea

(sandwiches, cakes, strawberries and cream). On the Friday, just after closure of the sessions, a Quiz with MCQs provided by the speakers was organised and three Prizes were awarded.

On Wednesday evening we 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, we experienced traditional English weather in the evening with a downpour as we left the dinner. However, the weather did not dampen our spirit and many delegates went on to search out the Cambridge nightlife.

The full programme is attached.

Evaluation

We 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 lunchtime 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. We 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?”.

Comment from the organisers

We feel privileged to have hosted this event. All the hard work was rewarded with the pleasure of being able to share our knowledge and experience with people from around Europe who were eager to learn as much about the main components of stroke as possible in the given time. 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.