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Congress Report: 3rd National Conference of Neuro-Oncology with International Participation

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THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF
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Congress Report: 3rd National Conference of Neuro-Oncology with International Participation

Ioan Stefan Florian

In 2013, after 4 years of absence, the 3rd National Conference of Neuro-Oncology with International Participation was organized from April 17–20, 2013, at the Hotel Golden Tulip in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, under the generous patronage of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Iuliu Hatieganu” Cluj-Napoca, “Prof. Dr. Ion Chirircuta” Oncology Institute Cluj-Napoca, the Romanian Society of Neurosurgery, the Society for the Study of Neuroprotection and Neurorecovery, and last but not at least the Romanian Medical Academy.

The first edition of the National Conference of Neuro-Oncology with International Participation took place in Cluj-Napoca in 2007. This national conference was a great success in attempting to unite under the same roof multiple, and apparently different, medical specialties involved in the diagnosis and treatment of tumours of the nervous system.

Encouraged by the success of our action, and wishing to expand our work in this demanding field by stressing the newest scientific acquisitions in a domain of medicine in which multidisciplinary collaboration is mandatory, we organized the 2nd National Conference of Neuro-Oncology with International Participation which took place from November 20–22, 2008, in Cluj-Napoca under the same generous patronage of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Iuliu Hatieganu” Cluj-Napoca, “Prof. Dr. Ion Chirircuta” Oncology Institute Cluj-Napoca, the Romanian Society of Neurosurgery, the Romanian Society of Radiation Oncology, and Medical Oncology, and the Romanian Society of Neuro-Oncology, under the auspices of the European Association for Neuro-Oncology.

The 3rd National Conference of Neuro-Oncology with International Participation in 2013 gathered more than 180 active participants from the fields of neurosurgery, neurology, oncology, and pathology and covered the following main topics:

- Molecular therapies in malignant gliomas
- Cerebral metastases
- Palliative care
- Controversies in the surgery of spinal tumours
- Low-grade gliomas: how to deal with?
- Varia

This year’s edition was honoured with the presence of distinguished invited speakers from Europe such as Wolfgang Grisold, MD (Austria), Jürgen Piek, MD (Germany, co-president of the conference), Vladimir Benes, MD (Czech Republic), Sotirios Bisdas, MD (Germany), Olivier Chinot, MD (France), Yavor Enchev, MD (Bulgaria), Marc-Eric Halatsch, MD (Germany), Ralf Ketter, MD (Germany), Christian Matula,



Figure 1. Closing ceremony.

MD (Austria), Nyary Istvan, MD (Hungary), Kathy Oliver (UK, International Brain Tumour Alliance), Ferenc Pongracz (Hungary), Lukas Rasulic, MD (Serbia), Apostolos Stathopoulos, MD (Belgium), Francesco Tomasello, MD (Italy), Steffi Urbschat, MD (Germany), and Istvan Valalik, MD (Hungary).

The high standard of the presentations as well as the novelty and various projects presented offered to all participants the chance of a fruitful exchange of ideas and widening their professional horizons.

As a take-home message I would like to include the following quotation by Kathy Oliver, Co-Director, International Brain Tumour Alliance: “*I do believe that one day we will defeat brain tumours as long as we maintain a truly collaborative approach between patients and doctors and across disciplines, geographic borders, and generations.*”

In our attempt to do so, we warmly welcome you to join us for the 4th National Conference of Neuro-Oncology with International Participation to be held in 2015 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

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