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Belgium

STAMP

CALL FOR PAPERS

December 31, 2003

Deadline for submission of abstracts. All abstracts submitted will be acknowledged.

January 15, 2004

Notification of acceptance or rejection of papers.

FINAL PROGRAMME

The final programme will be mailed to registered participants and upon request to interested colleagues.

CONGRESS INFORMATION

Venue

Château du Lac, avenue du Lac, 87
B-1332 Genvall, Belgium
Tel. : +32 2 655 71 11 – Fax : +32 2 655 74 44
E-mail : seminars.cdl@martins-hotels.com

Language : English

Accommodation

At the quiet and beautiful 'Château du Lac', 15 km outside Brussels. Sports facilities (tennis, golf practice, swimming pool) will be available during leisure time.

Free access available at the 'John Harris Fitness Centre' for participants accommodated at the Château.

When contacting the hotel, please state that you are attending the "Peripheral Nerve Symposium" to receive the reduced rate for the dates April 1st through April 4.

Indicative rate : SINGLE 535 € – included : 3 nights bed and breakfast, Château du Lac or Manoir du Lac (same location), access to sports facilities.

Address : Château du Lac, avenue du Lac, 87
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REGISTRATION FEES

Before Dec. 1, 2003	380 € (1)
After Dec. 1, 2003	420 € (1)
Resident/Student/Physiotherapist/Nurse	200 € (2)
Presymposium course of surgical anatomy	200 € (3)
Optional : Banquet (April 3)	70 € (4)

(1) Fees include meeting attendance, book of abstracts, lunches, welcome reception on April 2, and transport by coach from and to the airport on March 31 and April 4. Not included : hotel accommodation, meals except 2 lunches, access to sport facilities. Acknowledgement of registration and receipt of fees will be sent soon after the registration form and full payment are received. Upon request, a letter of invitation will be sent. Payments should be made free of all bank charges and commissions. A 4 % commission will be added to all payments made by credit card. Invoices will be expressed in EURO (€). The organizers cannot be held responsible for any personal injury, loss, damage, accident to private property, or additional expenses incurred as a result of delays or changes in air, rail, sea, road or other services, strikes, sickness, weather, war, sports and other causes. Luggage is at owners risk throughout unless insured. The symposium is organized by the 'Groupe pour l'Etude du Membre Supérieur', ASBL, Brussels.

(2) Please include a certificate signed by head of department.

(3) *Fees include participation in the one-day course, CD-rom, disposal of basic instruments and scrub, box-lunch at noon, and transport by luxury coach from Genvall to the Medical Faculty and return on April 1. The course is organized by the Department of Anatomy (Pr. M. Rooze), Faculty of Medicine, Université libre de Bruxelles.

(4) Included : coach transport Genvall-restaurant, touristic visit, and dinner in a typical Belgian restaurant.

Bank : Fortis banque, Montagne du Parc 3, 1000 Brussels – Belgium
on account BE 51 001-2343991-62 (International) or 001-2343991-62 (Belgium) of GEMS.

CANCELLATION

In the event of cancellation, a full refund (less € 100 as a handling fee) of the registration fees may be obtained provided that written notification is received by December 15, 2003. A 50 % refund will be made for cancellations received by January 15, 2004. No refunds will be made thereafter.

Join us next year !

BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

12th year

**ADVANCES IN PERIPHERAL NERVE
SURGERY AND REGENERATION**

**New Acquisitions in Nerve Regeneration – from
Molecular Biology to Surgical Techniques,
Rehabilitation and Evaluation of the Results**

Genvall/Brussels, Belgium

April 2-3, 2004

**Presymposium Hands-On-Course of Brachial Plexus and
Upper Extremity Nervous Anatomy - April 1, 2004**



Program Director

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Meeting place :
Château du Lac
Avenue du Lac, B-1322 Genvall, Belgium
Tel. +32 2 655 71 11 – Fax +32 2 655 74 44
E-mail : seminars.cdl@martins-hotels.com

Deadline for submission
of abstracts : December 31, 2003

See the final programme on our web site :
<http://www.ulb.ac.be/assoc/chorus/orthogenvall>

AIMS AND FORMAT

The first annual Brussels/Genva upper extremity symposium, held in May 1992, was on *Advances in Hand and Wrist Biomechanics*. Since this first meeting, the Château du Lac at Genva has hosted each spring the Brussels Upper Extremity Symposium, on a specific topic involving the hand and the upper limb. In 2003, the theme was "Advances in Anatomy and Clinical Examination of the Hand and Wrist", involving over 120 participants from 18 different countries. The primary goals of the Brussels/Genva annual upper extremity symposium, gathering together in a first-class resort close to Brussels experts from different fields (the previous symposia have been attended by orthopedic, plastic and general surgeons, anatomists, physiotherapists, rheumatologists, anesthesiologists, pain specialists, radiologists, nuclear medicine scientists, pathologists, engineers and basic scientists), are to promote the exchange of ideas, to establish guidelines on a consensual basis, and to foster collaborative investigations among various specialists.

The organizers invite you today to participate in the 12th symposium, on *Advances in Peripheral Nerve Surgery and Regeneration*. In the last decades, there has been remarkable progress in our understanding of biological mechanisms regulating nerve regeneration. The proximal chromatolytic reaction and distal Wallerian degeneration following nerve injury are better understood. Neurotrophic factors seem to play a major role in the survival of nerve cell bodies, and axonal sprouting appears to be influenced by the macrophagic invasion of the nerve wound. Various physical and chemical factors have been demonstrated to guide the regenerating axons. There is evidence that the regeneration is regulated by trophic factors released from the target tissue. The role of Schwann cells is better understood, they even may be cultured. Based on this new knowledge, various protocols of clinical research have been proposed, attempting at a reduction in neuronal death or to improve axonal growth. Neuropathology allows objective intraoperative assessment of nerve fiber quality. The techniques of microsurgical nerve suture have been refined. The procedures of nerve coaptation have evolved, including the use of fibrin glue or other methods. The deleterious effects of suture tension are well recognized, and the indications of nerve autografting better defined. As an alternative to autologous nerve grafts, nerve allografts, veins, frozen and thawed muscles or artificial tubes have been proposed. When direct repair is not feasible, techniques of neurotization (including by end-to-side anastomosis and direct muscular neurotization) are available. Some authors even reimplant avulsed nerve roots into the medulla. There are debates about the necessary duration of immunosuppression for nerve allografts, and several experiments as well as the experience in hand transplantation suggest a possible benefit of immunosuppressive drugs regarding nerve regeneration. Functioning free muscle transfers have become a reality.

However, despite all this new knowledge, the clinical outcome from nerve repair remains in many patients disappointing. Rehabilitation plays a major role and could enhance functional reorganization of the brain, even in the adult.

An important issue is also the assessment of the results. What is the current value of electrophysiologic testing ? What are the best methods of clinical assessment ?

The primary goal of this symposium is to summarize and discuss these new acquisitions in the knowledge of peripheral nerve regeneration and the clinical implications in surgery and rehabilitation.

SPECIFIC AIMS

- To summarize the state of knowledge of peripheral nerve physiology and regeneration after injury, including aspects of molecular biology ;
- To review theoretical concepts to enhance nerve regeneration ;
- To present the results of experimental protocols devoted to either prevention of neuronal death or to improvement of nerve regeneration ;
- To discuss the current and future techniques of nerve suture, autologous nerve graft and alternative procedures, including allografts ;
- To discuss timing aspects of nerve repair ;
- To evaluate new techniques as end-to-side nerve anastomosis or reimplantation of avulsed nerve roots ;
- To discuss rehabilitation and to determine the most appropriate methods for objective assessment of the results ;
- To formulate on these bases recommendations to the medical community ;
- To discuss unsolved problems and potential solutions ;
- To explore future directions of investigation.

The problems related to nerve compression or palliative surgical procedures will not be specifically discussed at the meeting.

ADVANCED COURSE OF BRACHIAL PLEXUS AND UPPER EXTREMITY NERVOUS ANATOMY

As an introduction to the symposium, an anatomic hands-on course will be organized on April 1 in the Department of Anatomy of the Medical School of the Université libre de Bruxelles. The number of participants in this one-day course of surgical anatomy is strictly limited to 30 participants, on a first-come first-serve basis. Experts will first present their anatomical demonstration, which the participants will follow on TV monitors. Each participant will then be invited to reproduce the dissection on a fresh specimen (one specimen per two participants). After the course, a CD-rom, based on the videos and dissections presented by the faculty, will be made available to the participants. Although scrubs and instruments will be provided, it is recommended that participants bring their own surgical loupes and delicate dissection instruments. Participants will be driven from Genva to the University and back in a luxury coach.

INTERNATIONAL FACULTY

<i>Alnot J.-Y. (Paris, France)</i>	<i>Loréa P. (Brussels, Belgium)</i>
<i>Bahm J. (Aachen, Germany)</i>	<i>Lundborg G. (Malmö, Sweden)</i>
<i>Barbier O. (Brussels, Belgium)</i>	<i>Mavroudakis N. (Brussels, Belgium)</i>
<i>Carlier A. (Liège, Belgium)</i>	<i>Mouraux D. (Brussels, Belgium)</i>
<i>Carlstedt T. (Middlesex, United Kingdom)</i>	<i>Restrepo J.L. (Nancy, France)</i>
<i>De Smet L. (Pellenberg, Belgium)</i>	<i>Robert Ch. (Brussels, Belgium)</i>
<i>Guelinckx P. (Hasselt, Belgium)</i>	<i>Schuind F. (Brussels, Belgium)</i>
<i>Hierner R. (Leuven, Belgium)</i>	<i>Terzis J. (Norfolk, USA)</i>
<i>Levivier M. (Brussels, Belgium)</i>	

REGISTRATION FORM

To be filled in and returned as soon as possible

Name

First name

Specialty

Title

Institution

Address

City Country Zip

Phone Fax

E-mail :

Arrival date Departure date

Special requests (diets, etc.)

Please fill in below as appropriate.

- I will participate in the *Peripheral Nerve Surgery and Regeneration Symposium (April 2-3, 2004)*.
- I would also like to participate in the *Presymposium Hands-On Course of Brachial Plexus and Upper Extremity Peripheral Nerves Surgical Anatomy – April 1, 2004* ; the number of participants is limited ; if some participants cannot be accepted, the fees will be reimbursed at no charge.
- I would like to attend the banquet and historical visit of April 3, 2004.
- I wish to present a paper. A 200-250 word abstract (+ copy on floppy disk) is attached or is sent by e-mail (Hand.congress@ulb.ac.be)
- I am considering participation in the Symposium. Please send me the final program.
- Please send me more preliminary announcements.
- My registration fees are paid as follows :
 - Enclosed check
 - Money order to Belgian account
BE 51 001–2343991-62 (International)
001-2343991-62 (Belgium)
 - Credit card (Euro/Master, Visa)
Card type :
Card account number :
Cardholders' name :
Expiration date (mo./yr.) :

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SIGNATURE

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DATE