

Bulletin No 4

of the

Society of Friends of Otorhinolaryngology

Founded by the Academic Association of the Basel ORL University Department with the Clinics of the Cantonal Hospitals of Aarau, Liestal and Olten

Activity Report 2005



Participants of the now traditional FESS course in Graz, Austria, August 2005

ORL Basel
BA Aarau
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ORL-BAL website, with homepages for our partner organisations (www.orl-bal.info)

A focal point of our activity in the past year was the construction of a sustainable website, initiated and financed by ORL-BAL. Its objective is to provide our Association with an up-to-date information and communication platform. We were able to achieve this goal with restricted financial means, publishing the most important basic information of the continuing education network ORL-BAL in English. Current information and photographs are published in an ongoing manner. Thus, a visitor of our homepage gets an idea of our mission and is also informed on our current activities. This is particularly useful for applicants for a training position in the Basel-Aarau-Liestal and Olten educational network. Here they can find the terms for professional training in our specialty.

Certainly, a lot remains to be done and the current updating of the information requires continuous attention. However, the number of visitors to the website is growing constantly. In December 2005, we registered 637 visits, which is quite satisfactory for such a highly specialised website.

A subsidiary website, which we have put at the disposal of our partners in Serbia and Montenegro, is developing quickly. A local colleague is updating the information regularly and a lot of photographic material has already been incorporated as well. As users, the colleagues there have considerable difficulties: using a website for current information flow is not yet a “natural reflex”, only 30% of the physicians own a PC, hardly any university or hospital has access to high-capacity connections to the internet, antiquated/slow machines and scant effective protection against computer viruses and other malware (in view of their costs). However, we are convinced that this project is a meaningful pioneering task and we shall continue our logistic and financial support of it in the coming years. For direct access to view this subsidiary website use its URL: <http://www.orl-bal.info/srp/>.

The existence of our website makes it possible to reduce status reports like this one down to essentials, details and graphic material can be consulted on the website.

We are grateful to our members and to readers of this report for comments and suggestions. Please communicate them to us by using the internal link “Contact” on our homepage.

Training Center for Otorhinolaryngology (TCO)

A second point of emphasis in 2005 was to press ahead with our project of a training center for otorhinolaryngologists in Belgrade. Contacts with universities in Serbia revealed remarkable goodwill, but a complete lack of potential for even a basic infrastructure as a contribution to the project. Finally, an offer was made by the Military Hospital in Belgrade which suited our needs. The host can offer a substantial infrastructure, including premises, the local ORL Society will undertake the organisation of the courses and invite, with our help, prominent international speakers for the courses and seminars.



Col. **Dr. Dušan Bijelić**, head of the ORL clinic of the Military Hospital (right) with his associate Maj. **Dr. Milenko Milojević**

In this project, we received active support from the company Carl Storz GmbH & Co. KG, , Tuttlingen, which provides all material needed for the individual working stations free of charge and has thus become our main sponsor. The Karl Zeiss Surgical GmbH company, Oberkochen, will supply the TCO with the necessary microscopes, so that the first course in temporal bone dissection will take place by the end of February 2006. Prof. Gerard O'Donoghue, FRCS from Nottingham will be Course Director. He has visited the country as part of the Cochlear Implant projects and has repeatedly declared his willingness to support our venture, under firm refusal of any remuneration.

The program also includes lecturers from local universities and we hope to thus institute an entity which will permanently and efficiently support the Continuing Medical Education program of ORL trainees and active specialists in the country. If the developments are favourable, we might be able to offer seminars to neighbouring countries of the south west Balkans in future as well. A policy paper of the TCO can be found on our website.

CME events, meetings and lectures

We organised a series of lectures in May 2005 in Belgrade on Diagnosis and Treatment of cerebrospinal fluid fistulae (“CSF leaks”). On the occasion of a meeting of the local ORL society where over 100 otorhinolaryngologists were present, Prof. Andreas Huber, Director of the Laboratory Centre in Aarau, spoke on Beta-trace analysis, a modern technique for detecting CSF in secretions. Dr. Cem Mecoc of the Ankara University was invited by us to speak on the treatment of CSF leaks, a topic on which he has published an important study during his stay of several years in Salzburg, Austria. The results of this study offer a sound algorithm for the diagnosis and treatment of CSF leaks. Prof. M. Podvinec reported on laterobasal liquor fistulae and initiated the forming of an interdisciplinary group of local professionals to treat liquor fistulae. The question of local interdisciplinary care has not been satisfactorily approached to date. Many ideas for future projects were discussed in the framework of this visit. Professor Huber visited a number of regional medical laboratories.



Professor Andreas Huber, Aarau, appraises one of the Green Trams given by the city of Basel to the people of Belgrade. Used but sturdy streetcars, epitomes of Swiss precision handwork, they are indeed popular with the public.

PD Dr. Antje Welge-Lüssen and Dr. André Arnoux were guest lecturers at the occasion of the Autumn meeting of the ORL Section of the Serbian Medical Association, in November 2005. Olfactology is frequently a “foster child” of our specialty, and Dr. Welge-Lüssen was able to present the new and interesting aspects of this topic brilliantly. Illuminating it from several aspects, she also gave

two more lectures at the Society of Neurology and at the University of Novi Sad. She presented her hosts with newest materials for testing olfactory dysfunction, of which she is a co-developer. She has initiated international projects which we will follow closely.



PD Dr. Welge-Lüssen lectures on surprising new facts in Olfactology

Dr. Arnoux reported on new treatment modalities for cancer and on results of interdisciplinary, combined surgical, radio-oncological and medico-oncological treatment of cancer of the larynx in Swiss centres. As a member of the Swiss work group for Head and Neck Surgery he was highly qualified for this presentation.

In December 2005 Dr. Arnoux visited the ORL University Clinic in Novi Sad. As in the previous year, he held lectures for specialists as well as for students and participated in oncologic surgery. This permanent commitment is greatly appreciated by his hosts.

Individual support

Several visits to Switzerland and to other countries were organised and partly financed.

Professor Rajko Jović of the Novi Sad University ORL Clinic was invited by Dr. Arnoux to visit the international conference on the treatment of tracheal stenosis in Seefeld, Austria. Professor Jović is one of the few experts on this difficult and challenging field in his country. He greatly enjoyed the opportunity to directly exchange experiences with international authorities.

Dr. Mila Bogdanović from Niš made a second short visit to Aarau and Zürich, where she collected literature necessary for her otological work.

About 20 colleagues profited from the new handbooks we provided.

Two colleagues visited, with our support, a rhinologic course, respectively congress in Great Britain resp. in Italy.



Dr. Ljiljana Jovančević with the president of the ORL world congress in Rome, Professor Naser Kotby



Rhinologist **Prim. Dr. Dušanka Milošević** with **Professor Valerie Lund, FRCS**, of the Royal Institute of Otorhinolaryngology in London, where she had stayed for five weeks.

Networking

Building contacts with other professional societies and associations is an important concern of our colleagues in Serbia and Montenegro. Based on the motions of our Society, the Serbian ORL Section of the SMA was accepted as an observer by the „Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes ORL“, and its president Prof. Ranko Dergenc was invited to a working session in Salzburg. This, in turn, resulted in a visit by Prof. Klaus Albegger, President of the Austrian ORL Society and host of the next European ORL Congress, who spoke on Cochlear Implants in Belgrade. Talks which took place during these visits laid good foundations for closer collaboration, especially in the domain of short term educational visits for younger colleagues. The importance of the integration of the Serbian ORL Section of the SMA into European professional associations and the introduction of up-to-date standards cannot be sufficiently stressed.

Our website induced a number of colleagues from Great Britain and Sweden to take interest in collaboration. Thus it came about that the Dr. Borka Čeranić and Dr. Milanka Drenovak, both from Great Britain, were invited to Belgrade to give talks in audiology. They consented to continue co-operation, specifically in search of appropriate targeted short-stay training positions in their country.

The Ambassador of Switzerland to Serbia and Montenegro, Mr. Wilhelm Meier, welcomed our activities in Serbia and promised his support, for which we are very grateful.

III Course in Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery in Graz

Professor Heinz Stammberger, Director of the ORL University Department in Graz, Austria, welcomed for the third consecutive time 30 colleagues from Serbia and Montenegro to a brilliantly organised two-day demonstrational course in FESS. On this occasion advanced topics were discussed and surgery in less common cases was demonstrated live from the OR, amongst others an endoscopic closure of a CSF leak from a congenitally persisting Sternberg canal in the sphenoid bone. News of this extremely valuable and altruistic activity of Professor Stammberger for our partners in S&M has become broadly known, and a large daily newspaper in Belgrade reported on it. As in the past, our Society has supported this course by organisational activities and direct sponsoring. The accommodation costs of the course participants were borne by Carl Storz GmbH & Co. KG, Tuttlingen, for which we are grateful to this company.

Hearing screening of newborn children in Montenegro

This project is proceeding only very slowly, due mainly to the lack of financing. The persons responsible for the project, Dr. Nena Schmid from Basle and Dr. Elvir Zvrko of Podgorica, Montenegro, are proceeding with it determinedly. We hope to be able to report substantial headway next year.

Outlook for 2006

Training Center for Otorhinolaryngology (TCO): two courses are planned for the year 2006. In April PD Dr. Andreas Leunig of Munich, Germany, will direct a hands-on course in functional endoscopic sinus surgery (FESS). Another course in surgery of the palate for snoring and sleep apnoea with Prof. Wolfgang Pirsig of Ulm, Germany, is in preparation for September.

In February, the founding of a "Working group Audiology/Neurotology" is foreseen in the TCO. Our Society will act as initiator and moderator. The goals of this work group are the initiation of regular Continuing Medical Education sessions for audiologists and neurotologists, which in turn may result in the introduction of uniform standards and interdisciplinary, multicenter co-operation and of clinical studies. Both are inexistent at the present time. Professors Ksenija Ribarić and Kiril Haralampiev have undertaken the organisational part and will subsequently lead the association. Our further endeavours will be aimed at establishing similar working groups in further areas of our specialty (Paediatric ENT and others). We intend to interconnect these working groups with analogous groups in Switzerland and other countries.



Professors Ksenija Ribarić and Kiril Haralampiev, planning the formation of a work group "Audiology/Neurotology"

Appointments and personal news

Dr. med. Antje Welge-Lüssen, Senior specialist at the ORL University Department in Basel has been appointed Privatdozentin (Lecturer) in Otorhinolaryngology, thus also becoming member of our Board. We sincerely congratulate and welcome Antje to our group. In Aarau, we welcome and congratulate Doctor Nena Schmid, of the Basel Department, who has been appointed successor to Doctor Claudia Pieren as Consultant for Paedaudiology in the Aarau Cantonal Hospital. We wish Dr. Pieren lots of success in her new private practice in Schaffhausen.

Acknowledgments

At a symposium in Aarau to mark the occasion of his sixtieth birthday, the President of the Society of Friends of Otorhinolaryngology was presented with a bank check to 5'000 Swiss Francs by the Basel group of members. This sum is earmarked for supporting activities of the Society outside Switzerland and constitutes a formidable boost to our finances. The President extends his heartfelt thanks for this gesture of friendship and confidence.

Our activities would not be possible without the generous support of our Corporate Members. In addition to Carl Storz GmbH & Co. KG we would like to extend our thanks for their active organisational help and for their material contributions to the companies Karl Zeiss Surgical GmbH, AstraZeneca Switzerland, Essex Switzerland, Novimed Dietikon, Solvay Pharma Switzerland, IBSA Institut Biochimique Switzerland, Laubscher & Co, Basel and Takeda Pharma Switzerland.