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The first EAN Science School: shaping the next generation of translational neurologists

(Short title: *The first EAN Science School*)

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Article

From March 26th to March 29th of 2022 occurred the first edition of the European Academy of Neurology (EAN)'s 'Science School', in Salzburg, Austria. The format was new for the EAN and for European Neurology. The School was dedicated to "*Pathophysiology of disorders of the nervous system*" with discussions ranging from immune-mediated disorders to stroke, epilepsy, neuronal circuits, and neurodegeneration. In contrast to most scientific events, the lectures and workshops focussed on scientific questions while simultaneously highlighting the historic aspects in the translational evolution of the Science to unravel prominent Neurology mysteries.

Translational Medicine is "an interdisciplinary branch of the biomedical field supported by three main pillars: benchside, bedside, and community"¹. An objective of the Science School was to encourage young neurologists on their path to a clinician-scientist career. Efforts that retain clinical neurologists in a scientific environment are needed, and the event provided a platform for discussing this multi-faceted path to facilitate translation of research into clinical outcomes². We truly believe the EAN Science School will become an educational flagship of European Neurology because of its (i) unique format of its lectures, (ii) broad range of topics within neurology, (iii) translational focus, and (iv) heterogeneous backgrounds of participants.

The Science School schedule provided an exciting and participative learning method for 3 days: in the mornings, there were 3 exploratory lectures about a research field, and in the afternoon 3 interactive workshops were respectively dedicated to discussing in smaller groups the previous lectures. Each lecture and workshop took a different perspective, and they were useful to broaden the view on medicine for the concept of translational medicine. These

approaches helped the speakers and the participants to discuss closely, and we were able to envision what is needed to develop a good scientific career.

Patients and human biology do not care about artificial and intellectual borders. Although it may appear contradictory in the context of the increasing sub-specialisation, many speakers put an emphasis on the importance of general neurology. Specialisation enables clinician-scientists to strengthen the translational links between clinical medicine and basic science, but the real complaints of patients might lead to important research questions. For this reason, the additional crosstalk between clinical neurologists and non-clinical neuroscientists from different backgrounds, cultures and subspecialities was of high importance and value. We believe that these multidisciplinary approaches improve the likelihood of the project to succeed and a field to advance.

The EAN organisation was amazing. The event took place at a time when it was still possible to feel the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic. A special thanks must be given to all the colleagues who came together in Salzburg, and for making everyone feel both like a partner neurologist and a friend on long journeys.

We, the authors, are humbled and proud to have been among the 47 EAN-RRFS members out of 21 countries that were admitted to this new and very promising format ³, the EAN Science School, and can only highly recommend it.

Authorship contributions

All authors were involved in reviewing the literature, writing, and commenting the manuscript.

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PD: Parkinson's Disease