DANUBE NEUROLOGY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 37. September, *2025*

INTERNATIONAL DANUBE NEUROLOGY SYMPOSIUM FOR NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education:
http://danubeneurology.eu

Head Office: University of Szeged, Department of Neurology ✉ H-6725 Szeged, Semmelweis u. 6., Hungary ✶ **Tel**.:+ 36 62 545-348 ✶ **Fax**:+ 36 62 545-597 ✶ **E-mail**: vecsei.laszlo@med.u-szeged.hu ✶ International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education: **http://danubeneurology.eu**

BOARDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DANUBE NEUROLOGY SYMPOSIUM FOR NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

General Secretary
Prof. Dr. L. Vécsei

Deputy Secretary Generals
Prof. Dr. V. Kostic
Prof. Dr. K. Rejdak

Executive Board
László Vécsei Gen. Secr. (Szeged)
Michael Brainin (Klosterneuburg)
Vida Demarin (Zagreb)
Pavel Kalvach (Praha)
Amos Korczyn (Tel Aviv)
Krystyna Mitosek-Szewczyk (Lublin)
Gerhard Ransmayr (Linz)
Heinz Reichmann (Dresden)
Konrad Rejdak (Lublin)
Peter Riederer (Würzburg)
Maja Relja (Zagreb)
Representative of the European Association of Young Neurologists and Trainees

Deputy Members
E. Auff (Vienna)
J. Afra (Budapest)
M. Gavranovic (Sarajevo)
A.B. Guekht (Moscow)
V. Komarek (Praha)
J. Kotowicz (Warsaw)
L. Lisy (Bratislava)
R.Z. Moukhamedzianov (Kazan)
Z. Mubrin (Zagreb)
J. Opara (Wroclaw)
M. Piradov (Moscow)
I. Velcheva (Sofia)
B. Volk (Freiburg)

Managing Board
S.A. Apostolski (Beograd)
S. Baloyannis (Thessaloniki)
H. Binder (Vienna)
N. Bornstein (Tel Aviv)
D. Bozicevic (Zagreb)
V. Brinar (Zagreb)
A. Czlonkowska (Warsaw)
M. Drobny (Martin)
D.G. Gherman (Kishinev)
E.I.Gusev (Moscow)
H.-P. Hartung (Düsseldorf)
N. Loncarevic (Sarajevo)
I. Milanov (Sofia)
D. Muresanu (Cluj Napoca)
R. Naumovski (Skopje)
T. Negrycz (Lvov)
I. Pascu (Tirgu Mures)
Z. Pirtosek (Ljubljana)
N. Psatta (Bucuresti)
I. Ravnik (Ljubljana)
I. Rektor (Brno)
E. Ruzicka (Praha)
K. Selmaj (Lodz)
O. Sinanović (Tuzla)
P. Traubner (Bratislava)
J. Volkmann (Würzburg)
S. Yancheva (Sofia)

Associate Members
Y. Agid (Paris)
L. Battistin (Padova)
G. Boysen (Copenhagen)
Cui Liying (Beijing)
A. Culebras (Syracuse)
J.L. De Reuck (Gent)
R.A. Dierckx (Gent)
G. Ebinger (Brussels)
K. Einhäupl (Berlin)
R.B. Godwin-Austin (Nottingham)
B. Johansson (Lund)
J.M. Lopes Lima (Porto)
Lu Chuan-Zhen (Shanghai)
J.M. Martinez-Lage (Pamplona)
J. Olesen (Copenhagen)
A. Portera-Sanchez (Spain)
R. Regli (Lausanne)
D. Russell (Oslo)
H. Staunton (Dublin)
G. Stern (London)
A. Twijnstra (Maastricht)

Honorary Members
H. Krejcowa (Praha)
J. Tichy (Praha)
† Prof. Z. Stelmasiak (Lublin)

Contents:

1. Short Report about the Activity of the Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis (SMS) Under the Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences *(by Professor László Vécsei)*

We inform you about the activity of the Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis (SMS) under the Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences. The first step was to organize survey at national levels related to **MS Registry** in different countries (altogether around 107 million people).

1.1. The publication about the international data is available in Multiple Sclerosis and Related Disorders, 2023 Jan;69:104406. doi: 10.1016/j.msard.2022.104406.
(The link of the abstract: *https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36413917/*).

1.2. The Hungarian data has been published in PLoS One (see the link below):
https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0264328

1.3. The international data about the **CSF analysis and special molecular biomarkers in MS** has been published in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences (https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms26178274):

by Anett Járdánházy, Thomas Berger, Harald Hegen, Bernhard Hemmer, Halina Bartosik-Psujek, Vanja Basic Kes, Achim Berthele, Jelena Drulovic, Mario Habek, Dana Horakova, Alenka Horvat Ledinek, Eva Kubala Havrdova, Melinda Magyari, Konrad Rejdak, Cristina Tiu, Peter Turcani, Krisztina Bencsik, Zsigmond Tamás Kincses and László Vécsei

Real-World Laboratory Analysis of Molecular Biomarkers in Multiple Sclerosis Centers in Central-Eastern European Countries Covering 107 Million Inhabitants

Abstract
A multicenter molecular biomarker survey was conducted in Multiple Sclerosis (MS) centers across Central-Eastern European countries, encompassing a population of 107 million. Our aim was to provide a “snapshot” for future studies investigating the use of molecular biomarkers in MS. A self-report questionnaire was distributed via email to MS centers in seven Central-Eastern European countries (Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia) and to four reference centers (two in Austria, one in Germany, and one in Denmark), focusing on cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analysis and molecular biomarkers in MS. Responding centers routinely request CSF oligoclonal band (OCB) testing in suspected MS cases, although no consensus exists on the number of CSF-restricted bands required to define OCB positivity, either within or between countries. More than half of the surveyed centers in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the reference centers request kappa free light chain (κFLC) testing in patients with suspected MS. Neurofilament light chain (NfL) is frequently used as a molecular biomarker for MS

in Romania, Slovakia, and the reference centers. In summary, besides the use of CSF-specific OCB there is no consensus among the surveyed countries regarding the use of molecular biomarkers in MS.

1.4. The publication about the CSF analysis and special molecular biomarkers in Hungary is under preparation.

1.5. The **neuroimaging programme** is also in progress.

1.6. **Danube Headache Programme**
We are going to start a new survey aimed to assess headache centers in the region. Headache centers that would like to join (from Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia), please let us know at our contact details below:
anettjardanhazy@gmail.com, vecsei.laszlo@med.u-szeged.hu

Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis

Austrian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis
Professor Thomas Berger: MS Registry, Molecular Biomarkers thomas.berger@meduniwien.ac.at
Dr Gabriel Bsteh: Registry gabriel.bsteh@meduniwien.ac.at
Dr Harald Hegen: Molecular Biomarkers harald.hegen@i-med.ac.at

Croatian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis
Professor Vanja Basic Kes: MS Registry kesvanja@gmail.com
Professor Mario Habek: Molecular Biomarkers mario.habek@mef.hr
Dr Lucija Zadro Matovina: MRI imaging lucija.zadro@gmail.com

Czech Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis
Contributors to the programme: Professor Eva Kubala Havrdova and Associate Professor Dana Horakova
Dr Jan Kolcava: MS Registry kolcava.jan@fnbrno.cz
Dr Pavel Stourac: Molecular Biomarkers Stourac.Pavel@fnbrno.cz
Dr Jan Kocica: MRI imaging kocica.jan@fnbrno.cz

Hungarian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis
Associate Professor Krisztina Bencsik: MS Registry bencsik.krisztina@med.u-szeged.hu
Professor László Vécsei: Molecular Biomarkes vecsei.laszlo@med.u-szeged.hu
Professor Tamás Zsigmond Kincses: MRI imaging kincses.zsigmond.tamas@szte.hu

Polish Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis
Contributor to the programme: Professor Halina Bartosik-Psujek
Professor Waldemar Brola: MS Registry wbrola@wp.pl
Professor Konrad Rejdak: Molecular Biomarkers k.rejdak@umlub.pl
Dr Malgorzata Siger: MRI imaging gosia_siger@yahoo.com

Romanian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis
Professor Cristina Tiu: MS Registry cristinatiu@yahoo.com
Professor Rodica Balasa: Molecular Biomarkers rodica.balasa@umftgm.ro
Dr Simona Petrescu: MRI imaging simonapetrescu@yahoo.com

Serbian Symposium for Mulitple Sclerosis
Professor Tatjana Pekmezovic: MS Registry pekmezovic@sezampro.rs
Professor Jelena Drulovic: Molecular Biomarkers drulovicjelena@gmail.com
Professor Sarlota Mesaros: MRI imaging sharlotam@gmail.com

Slovakian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis
Professor Peter Turcani: MS Registry turcani1@gmail.com
Associate Professor Jarmila Szilasiová: Molecular Biomarkers szilasiovaj@gmail.com
Associate Professor Nora Klimová MRI imaging klimova@fnsppresov.sk

Slovenian Symposium for Multiple Sclerosis
Dr Alenka Horvat Ledinek: MS Registry alenka.horvat@kclj.si
Associate Professor Uros Rot: Molecular Biomarkers uros.rot@kclj.si
Dr Jozef Magdic: MRI imaging jozef_magdic@yahoo.com

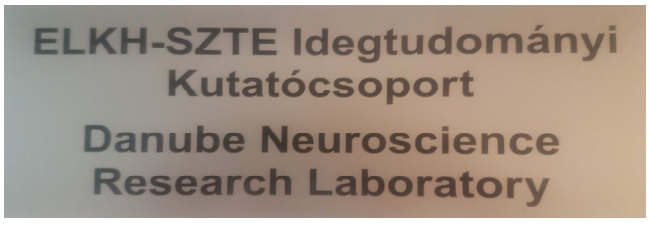
Collaborating European MS Centers
Collaborating MS Registry Center
Professor Melinda Magyari
Danish Multiple Sclerosis Center,
Department of Neurology,
Head of the Danish Multiple Sclerosis Registry,
Copenhagen University Hospital, Rigshospitalet
Copenhagen, Denmark

Collaborating MS Molecular Biomarker Center
Professor Bernhard Hemmer
Past-President of ECTRIMS
Head of Department of Neurology
Professor Achim Berthele
Technical University
Munich, Germany

Collaborating MS MRI Imaging Center
Professor Christian Enzinger
Co-Chair of MAGNISM
Department of Neurology Medical University of Graz
Graz, Austria

2. Danube Neuroscience Research Laboratory *(by Professor László Vécsei)*

We started to establish the "Danube Neuroscience Research Laboratory" in Szeged, Hungary. We focus on the pathomechanisms of neurological disorders in animal and clinical studies (such as the role of excitotoxins, mitochondrial disturbances, neuropeptides, kynurenines, biomarkers of neurological disorders, etc.). We suggest to organize a "Network of Danube Neuroscience Research Laboratories" and foster the collaboration between different research activites.



3. From Case Reports to Citations: The Hidden Power of Niche Publications *(by Masaru Tanaka and Professor László Vécsei)*

Masaru Tanaka [1,*,#] and László Vécsei [1,2,*, #]
[1] Danube Neuroscience Research Laboratory, HUN-REN-SZTE Neuroscience Research Group, Hungarian Research Network, University of Szeged, Tisza Lajos krt. 113, H-6725 Szeged, Hungary
[2] Department of Neurology, Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical School, University of Szeged, Semmelweis u. 6, H-6725 Szeged, Hungary
* Correspondence: tanaka.masaru.1@med.u-szeged.hu (M.T.); vecsei.laszlo@med.u-szeged.hu (L.V.);
Tel.: +36-62-342-847 (M.T.); +36-62-545-351 (L.V.)
[#] These authors contributed equally to this work.

Case reports, once relegated to the sidelines of medical publishing, are reemerging as powerful vehicles of discovery and innovation. Their renewed relevance lies in the intersection of open access models, digital discoverability, and artificial intelligence (AI)-driven indexing, which collectively amplify their visibility and influence. In neurology, a single patient's presentation can unveil the earliest markers of novel syndromes, atypical drug responses, or rare comorbidities. By filling gaps that randomized trials often overlook, case reports serve as fertile niches of clinical knowledge, transforming isolated observations into signals that shape diagnostics, therapeutics, and even public health preparedness.

Many landmark breakthroughs in neurology first appeared in the form of case reports, acting as sparks for broader scientific exploration. Early descriptions of autoimmune encephalitis, novel epilepsy syndromes, and the neurological sequelae of COVID-19 exemplify how single observations can shift entire paradigms. These narratives not only refine diagnostic reasoning but also provide fertile ground for therapeutic innovation, as seen with precision approaches guided by exome sequencing in rare neurodevelopmental disorders. By translating isolated clinical puzzles into structured knowledge, case reports create a scaffold for systematic studies, ultimately informing guidelines and accelerating the path from bedside insight to bedside intervention.

The digital era has given case reports unprecedented visibility, transforming them from isolated anecdotes into globally accessible clinical resources. Open-access publishing ensures that rare and novel cases, such as paraneoplastic syndromes linked to unusual antibodies, can be consulted by physicians anywhere without subscription barriers. AI and natural language processing further accelerate this accessibility, enabling even the most specific observations to surface instantly in searches and databases. Beyond access, curated metadata and electronic case reporting systems enhance interoperability, creating structured knowledge that informs both bedside care and population-level surveillance. This democratization of information ensures no clinical insight is ever too small to spark discovery or therapeutic innovation.

For practicing neurologists, case reports serve as direct bridges from literature to bedside, offering insights that randomized trials often fail to capture. They illuminate atypical trajectories of common diseases, highlight red flags in complex diagnostic puzzles, and showcase therapeutic strategies tested in real-world contexts. A single report of an unusual drug reaction or a multidisciplinary approach to refractory neuropsychiatric symptoms can alter daily practice far more rapidly than large-scale studies. By mirroring the heterogeneity and unpredictability of clinical reality, case reports provide neurologists with immediate, pragmatic guidance. They also nurture hypothesis generation, fostering innovation where evidence is scarce, and ensuring that patient-centered problem solving remains central to neurological care.

Bibliometric analyses reveal that case reports are no longer peripheral but increasingly cited across reviews, guidelines, and even meta-analyses, reflecting a cultural and technological shift in their perceived value. In neurology, citation growth is particularly striking in rare disease, neuroimmunology, and neuroinfectious disease, where single observations often carry outsized weight. Open-access platforms and powerful indexing tools ensure that a report on, for example, an unusual antibody-mediated encephalitis can rapidly inform both clinical reasoning and research agendas. Case-based reviews further amplify this trend, transforming individual narratives into collective evidence streams that directly shape diagnostic frameworks and therapeutic strategies in complex neurological care.

A well-crafted case report can transform a single patient's story into a driver of global clinical progress. In neurology, documenting rare syndromes or unexpected therapeutic responses provides immediate lessons while shaping broader frameworks for diagnosis and care. These "small stories" catalyze recognition, spark innovation, and enable knowledge to cross borders, ultimately improving outcomes for patients everywhere.

References

1. Polunosika, E., Pastare, D., Karelis, G., & Vasylovska, V. (2025). Development of anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis in a patient with multiple sclerosis. BMJ case reports, 18(5), e263945. https://doi.org/10.1136/bcr-2024-263945
2. Nan, D., Zhang, Y., Han, J., & Jin, T. (2021). Clinical features and management of coexisting anti-N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor encephalitis and myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein antibody-associated encephalomyelitis: a case report and review of the literature. Neurological sciences : official journal of the Italian Neurological Society and of the Italian Society of Clinical Neurophysiology, 42(3), 847–855. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10072-020-04942-0
3. Vasilevska, V., Guest, P. C., Bernstein, H. G., Schroeter, M. L., Geis, C., & Steiner, J. (2021). Molecular mimicry of NMDA receptors may contribute to neuropsychiatric symptoms in severe COVID-19 cases. Journal of neuroinflammation, 18(1), 245. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12974-021-02293-x
4. McHattie, A. W., Coebergh, J., Khan, F., & Morgante, F. (2021). Palilalia as a prominent feature of anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis in a woman with COVID-19. Journal of neurology, 268(11), 3995–3997. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00415-021-10542-5
5. Schneider, J., Ye, D., Hill, A. M., & Whitehorn, A. S. (2020). Continued post-retraction citation of a fraudulent clinical trial report, 11 years after it was retracted for falsifying data. Scientometrics, 125(3), 2877-2913.
6. Gupta, S. M., Naqvi, W. M., Mutkure, K. N., Varma, A., Thakur, S., & Umate, R. (2022). Bibliometric Analysis on Bibliometric Studies of Case Reports in the Medical Field. Cureus, 14(10), e29905. https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.29905
7. Büyükkıdık, S. (2022). A bibliometric analysis: A tutorial for the bibliometrix package in R using IRT literature. Journal of Measurement and Evaluation in Education and Psychology, 13(3), 164-193.
8. Tsekhmister, Y. (2023). Effectiveness of case-based learning in medical and pharmacy education: A meta-analysis. Electronic Journal of General Medicine, 20(5).
9. Sayre, J. W., Toklu, H. Z., Ye, F., Mazza, J., & Yale, S. (2017). Case Reports, Case Series - From Clinical Practice to Evidence-Based Medicine in Graduate Medical Education. Cureus, 9(8), e1546. https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.1546
10. Battaglia, S., Schmidt, A., Hassel, S., & Tanaka, M. (2023). Editorial: Case reports in neuroimaging and stimulation. Frontiers in psychiatry, 14, 1264669. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2023.1264669

4. WFN News

(This document is also available in https://wfneurology.org/wcn-meetings).

World Congress of Neurology (WCN) meetings

The WFN holds biennial world congresses, which rotate throughout the regions (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe) of the world. The congress consists of scientific sessions, teaching courses, presentations and poster sessions, as well as structural and business meetings.

WCN brings together leading scientists, public health experts, policy-makers to translate recent momentous scientific advances into action that will address means to end the epidemic, within the current context of significant global economic challenges.

The WCN is a live event and is accredited by the EACCME (European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education), AMA (American Medical Association) and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, being evaluated to the highest international standards.
The XXVII WCN 2025 meeting will be held in Seoul, South Korea.

5. Newsletter Recommendations

WFN Newsletter
https://worldneurologyonline.com/

European Brain Council Newsletter
https://www.braincouncil.eu/ebc-newsletters/

6. Future Congresses in Chronological Order

6.1. CONy 2026:

Date: 26-28 March, 2026
Place: Krakow, Poland
https://cony.comtecmed.com/cony-2026/

6.2. EAN Congress 2026:

Date: 27-30 June, 2026
Place: Geneva
https://www.ean.org/congress2026

6.3. EFIC Congress 2027:

Date: 21-23 April, 2027
Place: Glasgow, Scotland
https://europeanpainfederation.eu/efic2027/

7. Present and Future Activities of the International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education

- The **International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education** fosters and coordinates fellowship programs for young neurologists from Danube Countries
- Coordination of future **Danube Neurology Symposia**
- The **Danube Neurology Newsletter** is available free of charge (also downloadable) on Internet in electronic version
- Information about future events (**Calendar of events**)
- We also consider as our task to help with the activity of the **WFN** and **EAN** in the Danube-countries.

8. Finances of the International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education

According to previous decision of the Danube Neurology Curatorium Meeting, the financial sources of the International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education from all kinds of symposia, conferences, meetings, teaching/training or other kinds of courses under the roof and auspices of our organization, are as follows:
According to a final report of the meetings, symposia, etc. to be handed in electronically to the Head Office in Szeged, Hungary, the financial surplus of all meetings should be divided 70:30 between the Local Organizers and the permanent International Danube Neurology Symposium Head Office in Szeged, Hungary. Or the amount of min. EUR 2,500 is to be transferred – together with the financial report – to the Head Office according to our invoice.

9. Web-site of the International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education

The home-page of the International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education consists of:

- the contents of all Newsletter (Nr.1-37)
- Managing and Executive Board Members of the International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education
- Past and future Symposia, Conferences, Meetings
- Other further important information.