

News and views

Cost Action B12 Conference Radiotracers for in vivo assessment of biological functions 22–23 April 2005, Warsaw, Poland

This meeting was held in the Hotel “Europejski” in the very heart of Warsaw, the capital of Poland. COST — **E**uropean **C**ooperation in the field of **S**cientific and **T**echnical Research is an inter-governmental network for cooperation in research, established in 1971. It is used by the scientific communities of 34 European countries and Israel. The funds provided by COST (only around 20 million euro) support the cooperation networks, through which, more than 30,000 European scientists are involved in research having a total value exceeding 2 billion euro per annum.

The COST Warsaw conference gathered radiopharmacists and specialists of nuclear medicine from Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Korea, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and the USA. The local organiser was Dr. Renata Mikolajczak from the Radioisotope Centre POLATOM, Otwock/Swierk near Warsaw/Poland.

The proceedings comprised 8 programme lectures, 20 oral presentations, 30 poster presentations and 5 working group reports. These proceedings have been published as Supplement A of Nuclear Medicine Review — CEE 2005; 8. 1–27.

The scientific programme was focused mainly on the following areas:

- the radioligands for different types of glutaminic, nicotinic and serotonergic receptors in neuropsychiatric disorders;
- heart receptors assessed with ^{11}C and ^{18}F radiolabelled nor-adrenaline analogues;
- radiolabelled peptides in diagnostics and therapy;
- 11b-hydroxylase enzyme inhibitors in endocrine disorders;
- technetium chelates.

The most memorable lectures were the presentations by:

- I. Carrio — the President of EANM (Barcelona, Spain) on the detection of arteriosclerotic plaques, as a new challenge in cardiovascular medicine;
- S. Aime (Ivrea, Italy) on MRI routes to cellular and molecular imaging;
- C.A. Mathis and W.E. Klunk (Pittsburgh, USA) on the development and application of amyloid imaging agents for Alzheimer’s disease;
- G.J.Meyer, H.J.Helmeka and W.Knapp (Hannover, Germany) on the production and labelling of astatine-211;
- A. Hubalewska, R. Mikolajczak et al (Cracow, Poland) on the application of $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -EDDA/HYNIC-TATE scintigraphy in detection and staging of carcinoid tumours.

All abstracts are available in Supplement A of Nuclear Medicine Review — CEE 2005; 8. 1–27.

Warsaw is not exactly the most beautiful city in Central Europe, as some of its inhabitants believe, but the weather was good, the organisation was excellent and this event will probably be long remembered by all participants. Congratulations to Dr. Mikolajczak as the local organiser and to the COST community!

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1st German-Polish Symposium of Nuclear Medicine, Frankfurt/Oder–Stubice 4th–5th February, 2005

Contact between Polish and German nuclear medicine has recently been limited to occasional meetings of individuals. With the extension of the European Union, a need for closer, official cooperation has been expressed by both countries. In 2003, the Berlin-Brandenburg Society of Nuclear Medicine (BBGN) initiated cooperation with the Polish Society of Nuclear Medicine (PTMN). The Presidents of these Societies decided that a common conference would be the best starting point for better bilateral contact.

The 1st Polish-German Symposium took place on 4th–5th February, 2005. The venue of the meeting was symbolic: the Collegium Polonicum of Polish-German Viadrina University, located on the river Odra/Oder, close to the entrance of the bridge connecting Frankfurt on the Oder/Odra River and Stubice on the Odra/Oder River — German and Polish parts of what was formerly one city. After the scientific sessions, the participants crossed the river and the border to take part in a get-together party or for a sight-seeing tour in freezing winds.

The Symposium gathered ca. 80 participants from both countries; quite a number for the first meeting of its kind. The meeting was opened by two honorary guests: Prof. Wolfram Knapp, President of the German Society of Nuclear Medicine (DGN) and Prof. Piotr Lass, President of the Polish Society of Nuclear Medicine (PTMN) and — surprisingly — Prof. Knapp held his opening speech in Polish language!

The main subject of the meeting was “Radioiodine therapy of benign thyroid diseases”. Lecturers from both countries presented different aspects of radioiodine therapy: pathogenesis of thyroid diseases, dosimetry, the problem of orbitopathy and others. At the end of the scientific session, 7 original papers were presented by participants. All lectures and presentations were accompanied by interesting discussions. Finally, we had an opportunity to discuss current economical and organizational issues

of nuclear medicine in both countries, now that we are all citizens of a United Europe. For better understanding, native languages were spoken with simultaneous translation.

The delicious dinner and dance in the Oderspeicher (Oder River Granary), a friendly restaurant on the German bank of the river, as well as the industrial exhibition of a dozen German and Polish companies, were perfect opportunities to get to know each other better on a more personal level. Such bilateral meetings will be continued in future years, perhaps during a warmer month. We also hope that other forms of cooperation will develop, such as common scientific projects or visits to each others' departments. This is of special importance nowadays, as our regions and countries are linked to each other more and more closely.

We would like to thank the Presidents of the Societies for their initiating idea and support, all the participants for their involvement and good atmosphere and the industry for their assistance.

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