

Editorial: Founding members of the ESNR

Guido Wilms¹ · Majda Thurnher²

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In this issue of *Neuroradiology*, an erratum is published concerning the list of founding members of the ESNR, as mentioned in the supplement to the September issue of the journal with the abstracts of the annual meeting in 2015 (Naples—page S7) as well as in 2016 (Belgrade—page S4). In fact, erroneously under the heading “Founding Members”, only 29 of the 68 founding members of the European Society of Neuroradiology (ESNR) were mentioned. This carelessness is even more regretful considering the high importance and respect ESNR attributes to these founding members. This is illustrated by the fact that the Executive Committee of the ESNR decided in 2008 at the initiative of the ESNR president at that time, Marco Leonardi, to give the Scientific Awards of the ESNR for diagnostic and interventional neuroradiology “In honor of the Founders of ESNR”, recently changed into “In honor of the Pioneers and Past-Presidents of ESNR”.

Although the redaction of the supplement is in the hands of the congress president and the Executive Committee of the ESNR, I take, as the Editor-in-Chief of the journal, full responsibility of this mistake. With this contribution I wish to apologize for this error by adding the complete list of founding members in the erratum and also visible on our website (Table 1) (<http://www.esnr.org/en/about-esnr/history-of-esnr/founding-members-of-the-esnr/>).

As you note, most founding members come from the leading countries in Neuroradiology in the early 1970s of the previous century: France (15 founding members), Germany (11), United Kingdom (11), Italy (7), and Sweden (7). Belgium had three founding members; Austria, former Czechoslovakia, Denmark, The Netherlands, Spain, and Switzerland each two; and finally, Norway and Poland each one founding member. When going over the list, the most striking observation is that many of these names are in our memory and in our hearts as the pioneers of European Neuroradiology. Even if many of them already passed away, we remember their names from their scientific work and their worldwide reputation as dedicated neuroradiologists.

An impressive 300-page well-illustrated book on the history of ESNR was published in French in 1989 by Emmanuel Cabanis and Marie-Thérèse Iba-Zizen Cabanis (“Contribution à l’histoire de la neuroradiologie européenne/Société européenne de neuroradiologie, Paris, Editions Pradel, 1989, second edition 1994) at the occasion of the XVIth Annual Congress of the ESNR organized by the author.

On our website, Luc Picard summarizes the history of ESNR and its foundation in 1969 (<http://www.esnr.org/en/about-esnr/history-of-esnr/history-of-esnr-l-picard/>) in a text translated from his original text in French.

The society was founded at the initiative of Auguste Wackenheim (Strasbourg, France) and Jean Paul Braun (Colmar, France), in close collaboration with Ziedses des Plantes (Amsterdam, The Netherlands) at a time when CT nor MR were available and neuroradiological diagnosis was based on invasive techniques. The seat of the society was in Colmar, France. The purposes of the ESNR were mainly scientific and educational, with organization of annual scientific meetings and courses. With the advent of the CT-scan and MRI and the

✉ Guido Wilms
guido.wilms@uzleuven.be

Majda Thurnher
majda.thurnher@meduniwien.ac.at

¹ Department of Radiology, UZ-Gasthuisberg, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven, Belgium

² Department of Biomedical and Image-Guided Therapy, Medical University of Vienna, University Hospital Vienna, Vienna, Austria

development of interventional neuroradiology, the subspecialty of neuroradiology became more important and attractive to many physicians, and the society grew and attracted more members from Europe and outside. The evolution between 1969 and 2008 can be read in the abovementioned publications.

But despite the hard work of the members of the subsequent executive committees, course- and congress-organizers, the organization and management of the society remained suboptimal and open to improvement. The many changes of the constitution were never officially confirmed at the commercial court in Colmar, nor were annual reports delivered. Logistic support, secretarial assistance, and bookkeeping were not transparent.

With growing membership and growing needs for organizing structured teaching and certification, new legal and fiscal requirements for professionalization seemed mandatory.

Therefore, on December 19, 2008, in Zurich, the old ESNR was dissolved, and a new society, named “European Society of Neuroradiology Diagnostic and

Interventional” was founded. This society is a private limited liability company (PLLC) that resorts under the Swiss law. The seat is in Zurich, Bahnhofstrasse 8 where the officially appointed secretariat is housed. The society is legally represented by Schmid Rechtsanwälte, Bahnhofstrasse 106, CH-8021 Zürich. The statutes of the new society are legally verified; the bookkeeping is transparent and verified by statutory auditors. Taxes are lawfully paid to the Swiss government.

We thought it was necessary to pay tribute to the founding members of the ESNR by correcting the incomplete published list. Furthermore, We considered it our duty to complete the history of the ESNR with the new developments since 2008, confirming that the “European Society of Neuroradiology Diagnostic and Interventional” is now a robust professional organization with correct legal and fiscal representation in Switzerland.

Guido Wilms is Editor-in-Chief of Neuroradiology.

Majda Thurnher is President of the ESNR (2014–2016).