A thousand new year's greetings from the ESNR

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Dear ESNR Members,
Dear Friends,

Another year has come and gone but it feels like only yesterday that we were writing last year's New Year's greeting. There must be some truth to the old saying that "time flies when you're having fun". Indeed, with pride and happiness, we can look back on what was really a very successful year 2011 for the European Society of Neuroradiology (ESNR).

Let's start with the "big news": our Society has rounded the cape of 1,000 individual members. On 28 November 2011, Dr. Santiago Medrano from Barcelona, became the 1,000th member of ESNR. In only a few short years, membership in our Society has tripled. We are firmly convinced that this resounding success is a reflection of our policy of being inclusive rather than exclusive, and of actively reaching out to all those with an interest in neuroradiology. We expect that with the full implementation of institutional ESNR membership for members of national neuroradiology societies, our numbers will continue to grow in 2012.

This brings us to the second item, which is the approval of the new ESNR statutes. On 17 December 2011, during a special business meeting in Antwerp convened by the ESNR Executive Committee, the new statutes of our Society were approved. The documents were diligently prepared by the

lawyers of Schmid Attorneys at Law in Zürich, Switzerland. The new statutes are more transparent and structured and will provide our Society with a better legal and fiscal background and protection.

Many of you will remember that several important proposals and amendments to the Constitution could not be approved during the Symposium Neuroradiologicum (Bologna, 4–9 October 2010) and during the 35th Annual Meeting (Antwerp, 22–25 September 2011), because we did not reach the required quorum in the ESNR General Assembly. Thanks to the new statutes, these decisions were confirmed during the special business meeting. We approved new ESNR members, whose applications were evaluated by the Membership Committee according to the new rules. The '*institutional membership*' was also approved and the presidents of the different national neuroradiological societies or sections will soon receive an invitation to join the ESNR and obtain institutional membership for their national members. We also introduced the concept of '*pending membership*', which allows new members to immediately enjoy reduced registration fees for congresses, courses and meetings organized by the ESNR. Thanks to the implementation of our new statutes, ESNR has become a better structured society, and with the institutional membership we will be able to further increase our membership.

The 35th Annual Meeting of ESNR, preceded by the 19th Advanced Course in Diagnostic Neuroradiology and the 3rd Advanced Course on Interventional Neuroradiology, took place in Antwerp from 22 to 25 September 2011, and was organized by Prof. Paul M. Parizel and Prof. Johan Van Goethem (Fig. 1). We can look back on a very successful and pleasurable meeting, attended by almost 700 delegates. The advanced courses in diagnostic and interventional neuroradiology were organized around a central theme: '*The aging brain and the crumbling spine*'. The scientific program of the meeting offered a well-balanced mix of diagnostic

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Fig. 1 Prof. Paul M. Parizel and Prof. J. Van Goethem, Co-Presidents of the 35th Annual Meeting of ESNR in Antwerp, look to the future

and interventional neuroradiology topics. Educational opportunities included refresher courses, state-of-the-art sessions, scientific sessions (including multiple parallel sessions), and poster presentations. Professor Claude Manelfe from Toulouse was appointed Honorary Member of ESNR in recognition of his outstanding contributions to European Neuroradiology; he received a standing ovation from the audience. On Sunday morning, the 35th Annual Meeting concluded with a joint session in conjunction with the American Society of Neuroradiology (ASNR) focusing on brain tumours, reflecting the ongoing need for cooperation in the fight against cancer. Despite the beautiful and sunny weather throughout the Antwerp meeting, the refresher courses, state-of-the-art lectures and numerous scientific parallel sessions were very well attended (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2 View of the 750-seat auditorium where the plenary sessions were held during the 35th Annual ESNR Meeting. All auditoria were located within the historic city campus of the University of Antwerp

On Tuesday, 21 September 2011 (the day before the start of the Antwerp meeting), a written and oral examination was organized by Professor Charles Romanowski for those students that completed the full cycle of the Pierre Lasjaunias European Course in Neuroradiology (ECNR). A total of 55 participants took the examination and received the European Certificate of Neuroradiology.

The European School of Neuroradiology (ESNR) had a very busy and a successful year as well. As we explained in our New Year's greeting last year, ESNR offers three levels of courses. At the **"first level"**, in conjunction with the European School of Radiology (ESOR), a *Galen Foundation Course* in basic neuroradiology was organized from 12 to 14 May 2011 in Iasi, Romania. At the **"second level"**, the course modules of the *11th Cycle of the Pierre Lasjaunias European Course of Neuroradiology (ECNR)* were on Tumours (Rome, 25–29 March 2011, Course Director: Prof. M. Gallucci) and Vascular Diseases (Tarragona, 28 October–1 November 2011, Course Director: Prof. A. Rovira). The 4th and final module of this 11th cycle will cover Trauma/Degenerative/Metabolic/Inflammatory Diseases and will take place in Milan from 12 to 16 April 2012 (Course Director: M. Gallucci). In the fall of 2012, we shall start the 13th Cycle of the ECNR, under the Co-Directorship of Prof. T. Tali and Prof. A. Gouliamos, and the course venue will alternate between Turkey and Greece. At the **"third level"**, a number of different initiatives were taken in the fields of pediatric, interventional and spine neuroradiology. The *5th European Course of Pediatric Neuroradiology (ECPNR)* took place in Marseille (20–25 January 2011) under the Co-Directorship of Prof. A. Rossi, Prof. M. Argyropoulou and Prof. N. Girard. This course is jointly organized by ESNR, European Society

of Paediatric Radiology and European Society of Magnetic Resonance in Neuropediatrics. The *3rd Cycle of the ESNR Course of Higher Qualification in Interventional Endovascular Neuroradiology* continued to offer participants hands-on training in small groups during courses that were organized in Paris, Stockholm and Limoges (Course Director: Prof. S. Bracard). The *2nd European Course Spine Interventional Neuroradiology* took place 26–29 October 2011 in Naples, Italy (Course Director: Prof. M. Muto). In addition to the activities organized in the setting of ESONR, we should not forget to mention the *2nd Joint Meeting of ASSR and ESNR on Spine Radiology*, which took place from 1 to 3 July 2011, in Barcelona, Spain, under the stimulating leadership of Profs. J. Van Goethem, M. Thurnher and M. Muto (ESNR Course Directors), Profs. W. Bartynski, B. Georgy, G. Petermann (ASSR course directors), and Prof. A. Rovira as local organizer.

For our journal *Neuroradiology*, 2011 was equally prosperous. *Neuroradiology* increased its impact factor to 2.870 (up from 2.616 in 2009), an increase of almost 10%. From this year onwards, our members have the possibility of choosing the “online only” version of the journal without receiving the printed copy, and this option has already been chosen by approximately 100 members. We also introduced two new types of papers. The first one, “*Continuing*

Education,” is a review paper based upon the author’s own experience, completed with relevant literature data. The second, “*Short Report*,” offers authors the possibility to publish very concise cases with a short text of 1,000 words, a maximum of 2 references and 2 figures.

In summary, 2011 has been, on all accounts, a very successful year for ESNR, and a year to remember. Success has many fathers and mothers (I don’t want to offend anyone) and, therefore, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of you who have contributed to this success, and to thank especially the ESNR Executive Committee, as well as the chairpersons and members of the different committees within our Society for their hard work. We are honoured and privileged to be surrounded by such smart and enterprising neuroradiologists.

We are fully confident that ESNR and its journal *Neuroradiology* will continue to grow and blossom in 2012.

On behalf of ESNR, we wish you a happy, healthy and successful new year 2012.

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