

Bulletin No 5

Society of Friends of Otorhinolaryngology

Founded by the Academic Association of the Basel ORL University Department
with the ORL Clinics of the Cantonal Hospitals of Aarau, Liestal and Olten (ORL-BAL)

Activity Report 2006



Participants of the founding session of the AN (Audiology / Neurotology) group: Professor Ksenija Ribarić (in green) is it's newly elected president.

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Submitted in January 2007 by
Prof. Mihael Podvinec
President of the Society
Chefarzt der Klinik für
HNO-Krankheiten, Hals- und
Gesichtschirurgie, Kantonsspital
CH-5000 Aarau
Phone: +41 (0)62 838 5102
e-mail: mihael.podvinec@ksa.ch

Novelty: Introduction of courses in temporal bone preparation

Hands-on courses in temporal bone preparation, a prerequisite for learning ear and skull base surgery, were not known in Serbia to date. The Training Center for Otorhinolaryngology we have founded in 2005, in order to introduce hands-on teaching, has started its activities in February 2006 by organising the first two-day course under the direction of **Professor Gerard O'Donoghue, FRCS**, Nottingham. He immediately accepted our invitation to head the course, and did so with great expertise and humour, capturing the audience of 24 young participants. Since this first course, the pressure to organise follow-up events was enormous due to intense interest of the ORL community of Serbia, Bosnia and Montenegro.



Participants, lecturers and guests at the First Temporal Bone Course in Beograd



Professor O'Donoghue begins his demonstration by "shaving" a raw egg with the surgical drill

The second course was held in November, this time under the direction of **Mr. Jeremy Lavy, FRCS**, Senior Lecturer and ear surgeon, Head of the CI programme at the Royal National Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital in London, who had already impressed the local audience in a teleconference on CI the previous year.



Participants of the Second Temporal Bone Course in Novi Sad with Mr. Jeremy Lavy, FRCS (behind the lady with the long skirt)



Hands-on training, with the host, Doc. Dr. Dragan Dankuc in the foreground

In contrast to the first course, held in Beograd at the Military Medical Academy, the second one was held at the institute of Anatomy of the University in Novi Sad, with the decisive support of the University's ORL Department.

The Director of the Institute, **Docent** (Senior Lecturer) **Dragan Dankuc** was a brilliant host. Both courses were greatly supported by **Karl Storz** and **Carl Zeiss** companies from Germany, which provided first-class working material. We envisage continuing the courses in Novi Sad yearly, as the organisation was excellent and the venue ideal.

Teachers from the local Universities were invited to speak on various aspects of ear surgery on both events, thus establishing the connection between clinical and anatomical aspects taught at the courses. Papers were read in both courses by **Professors Dergenc, Đerić, Radulović and Stanković** as well as **Senior Lecturers Dankuc, Mrs. Ljiljana Vlaški and Dr. Letić, PhD.**

Considerable preparations on the part of our Society, including funding and transport of technical material to the TCO in Serbia, was necessary to initiate these courses. However, we have found many eager helpers in the ORL community. It is our objective that in the future, the initiative is to be taken over by our colleagues in the respective countries and hands-on teaching on anatomic preparations will find a place in the curriculum of specialist education, thus substituting tutored ear surgery, practiced up to date in the whole region as the only teaching method.

The opening of the first temporal bone preparation course – and the **initiation of activities of the TCO** - was a ceremonial occasion, as we had a number of guests from the University of Beograd and military colleagues.



At the opening of the Training Center and the 1st Temporal Bone Course, from left to right:

Maj. dr M. Milojević of the ORL Clinic of the Medical Military Academy,

Course Director Prof. G.O'Donoghue,

the author, and

Mr. R Nikolić, of Storz Co.

We were honoured by the participation of the **Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation Mr. Wilhelm Meier**, who has directed sizeable development projects in the past himself. In his address, he invoked the importance of sustainability in all such projects, thus supporting our own principal intention.



Swiss Ambassador Mr. W. Meier addresses the audience at the opening of the course.

Courses in functional endoscopic sinus surgery (FESS)

Professor Heinz Stammerger has, loyal to the established tradition of four years, held a two-day cost-free demonstrational course in his University Department in Graz for 30 colleagues from Serbia, Bosnia and from Montenegro in August. Every continuing year is an upgrade in knowledge and skill for his guests, as new methods are demonstrated repeatedly. This time, live endoscopic pituitary surgery was shown. Through his altruistic attitude towards the young generation of trainees of the Balkan region, **Professor Stammerger** has earned himself a permanent place in the hearts of young ORL colleagues from Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia.



Latest medical technology was used in the practical work sessions with PD Dr. Andreas Leunig



Course participants with the Course Director (center, with tie) just before the distribution of diplomas

A former collaborator of Professor Stammberger, **Privatdozent** (Senior Lecturer) **Dr. Andreas Leunig**, now at the Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich, has held the second two-day hands-on course in FESS at the Medical Military Academy in Beograd in April, supported by local surgeons **Senior Lecturer dr Ivica Penđer and Maj. dr Milanko Milojević**, which have both acquired considerable experience in the meantime themselves. The discussion was lively and the participants judged the course a full success. We are looking forward to the next course by **Doctor Leunig** in the spring of 2007.

Important new support to our Training Center by Karl Storz Co. Ltd., Tuttlingen, Germany, intended for mini-courses

On the decision of **Mrs. Sybill Storz**, two sets of surgical instruments for courses in temporal bone preparation and FESS respectively, were permanently deposited in the Military Medical Academy in Beograd. We see this decision as a great step forward in the work of the TCO and as a sign of recognition as well, as it is customary for this company to deliver instruments only for the duration of the courses on a weekly basis.

We sincerely thank Mrs. Storz and her team, especially **Mrs. Hannelore Griebisch**, for their kind consideration. As a result, mini-courses for two to three persons under qualified tutorship will be possible, starting with 2007, at the convenience of the participants, making high-end individual instruction for oncoming surgeons possible. This is a new step which adds to with the already generous funding of the FESS-course in Graz by this company.

Teleconference with Manchester, courtesy of the British Council in Beograd

On the fringe of the temporal bone course in March, a teleconference with **Professor Richard Ramsden**, present President of the British ORL Society and Director of the Manchester University Department, and his collaborators offered an interesting platform for the exchange of views on surgery of chronic ear disease. **Senior Lecturer Dragan Dankuc** of Novi Sad and **Professor Milan Stanković** of Niš presented their work and a number of younger surgeons participated in the lively discussion.



Ear surgeons from Great Britain (**Prof Ramsden, Drs Green, Rothera and Neff**) and from Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia discuss different aspects of treatment for chronic otitis media. Venue is the **British Council** in Beograd.

Founding of a Working Group for Audiology and Neurotology

Professor Ksenija Ribarić, neurotologist at the Institute of Neurology, Belgrade University, and audiologist **Professor emeritus Kiril Haralampiev** from Cetinje, Montenegro, were enthusiasts of the idea to found a AN working group. Our Society supported this fervently, and the first meeting took place on a snowy March morning at the Military Medical Academy with the author of this report as moderator. Discussions about future activities showed that very much is to be done in order to place audiologists on the medical map and to systematically organise education. Audiologist **Mrs. Milanka Drenovak** came from London solely for the purpose of offering her support and to organise networking with British colleagues. Two meetings of the group were held since. **Dr. Jovanka Ječmenica** was elected Secretary and further programmes are ready for 2007.

Advances in electronic information services (Website, new Blog)

The [website](#), instituted by our Society for all otorhinolaryngologists of Serbian and Croatian idiom has proven to be popular. The visitor statistics show a steady increase in visits (average: 2000 per month). The Serbian colleagues will now take full responsibility for the editing of their website and will also co-finance it in 2007.

Based on the information in the website, they have initiated a **Newsletter**, which reaches 70 of the 250-odd members of the ORL Section of the Serbian Medical Society. We sincerely thank **Doctor Katarina Stanković** for the assiduous management of the site.

The **author of this report** has instituted a [Blog](#), dedicated to the exchange of opinion on newest contributions in the ORL literature. New articles, deemed of interest to the local colleagues, are abstracted in Serbian idiom and commented. So far, several interesting discussions have been initiated. See <http://ductus.podvinec.ch>

Individual support and invitations to colleagues

Several visits to Switzerland and other countries have been organised and co-funded by our Society. **Dr. Maja Buljčik** from Novi Sad has participated in the international course in CASH sinus surgery in Berne. **Dr. Zoran Dukić** from Subotica has participated in the international FESS hands-on course in Graz. **Professor Rajko Jović** was a personal guest of our member **Dr. André Arnoux** at the Congress of the European Laryngological Society in London. **Professor Ljiljana Janošević and Dr. Ljiljana Jovančević** both presented a paper at the Congress of the European Rhinologic Society in Tempere. **Dr. Ljiljana Čvorović**, ORL specialist from the hospital in Zemun, spent a month in the Zürich University ORL Department on a grant.

Lectures in Serbia...

Dr. André Arnoux continues his regular visits to the ORL Department in Novi Sad, where he **lectures to specialists** and to students in English twice annually. He was also invited to participate at the **round table discussion** on laryngeal cancer at the national ORL Congress in October of this year.

... in Slovakia and in Hungary

Professor Josef Sopko has delivered, on invitation, keynote lectures in Phoniatriy at the 53. Congress of the Slovakian ORL Society, as well as at the 39. Congress of the Hungarian ORL Society.

Material support

Our Society has donated a series of used but functional diagnostic microscopes, light sources, audiometers and surgical instruments to various ORL institutions in Serbia, transporting them by van from Aarau to Beograd. The van was, for the second time in two years, put at our disposal by **SWISSCOM** (including fuel costs in Switzerland!), for which we are very grateful. Without the 6 suction pumps, donated by the **University Dental Medicine Centre in Basel**, the abovementioned courses would not have achieved the desired technical level.



The surgical linen is still to be loaded!



Mr. Jürg Biancone braves the elements on our way to Beograd

Travel expenses of the participants to the FESS course in Graz were co-funded. A little-used laptop and a new high-end portable **video-beamer**, at a value of € 1100 was bought locally and donated to the **ORL Section of the Serbian Medical Association** with the purpose of putting this facility at the disposition of institutions who have not yet had the means to buy it, but would like to modernise their educational facilities by borrowing this transportable unit.

In Slovakia, six diagnostic examination units, donated by **Professor Josef Sopko**, were transferred to the ORL Department in Kosice, Slovakia, and to Michalovce (birthplace of the famed artist Andy Warhol) and Topolcany.

Networking

As a result of previous networking endeavours, **Professor Ranko Dergenc**, President of the ORL Section of the Serbian Medical Society was invited to Salzburg, where he participated in the making of the final version of the UEMS Logbook for European specialists. We are happy to see that through the membership of **Professors Dergenc** and **Rajko Jović** in the UEMS Board, contact with the activities of the European Union of ORL Specialists has been established permanently. **Professor Rajko Jović** has established a specialisation programme for Serbia, which is compatible with the new European rules and is already published on our Website.

Personal news

Professor **Rudolf Probst**, former Director of the ORL University Department in Basel has been appointed Director of the ORL Department of the University in Zürich. We congratulate our founding member and former President of our Academic Association ORL-BAL. Ruedi will remain a member of our Society of Friends of ORL, and his support continues being a valuable help. See the curriculum of his successor, Professor **Markus Wolfensberger**, who is also new President of ORL-BAL, on our [website](#).

Outlook for 2007

We plan further support

- of hands-on courses as well as the newly founded Rhinology and AN groups,
- in facilitating networking and
- by hosting visits to Western European countries by younger specialists and trainees.

In view of this sizeable workload, we do not plan new ventures and will consolidate the existing ones instead.

Aknowledgements

In addition to all the people who have generously donated their time and/or money and those who are mentioned above, our special thanks go to:

-**Mr. Ranko Nikolić** and **Dipl. Ing. Vladimir Milosavljević**, representatives of the **Karl Storz** and **Carl Zeiss** companies respectively. Without their great personal engagement courses would simply not have been possible

-**Professor Klaus Albegger**, of Salzburg, Austria, President of EUFOS, for his active, constructive and caring cooperation

-**Mr. Jürg Biancone**, who as an unpaid volunteer, organised the van, drove it and administered all donations. Special thanks also to **Mr. P. Belsito** from **Swisscom**

-**Mr. Rolf Meier**, technician of the Kantonsspital Aarau, who constantly maintains giving us his valuable help

-**Dr. A. Sommerhalder**, ORL specialist from Lucerne, for donating an audiometer

-**Professor Bernhard Stamm**, Chief of the Institute of Pathology in Aarau, and **Mrs Verena Jäggi** for making the first TB course possible

-**Dr. Claudia Candreia**, senior specialist at the ORL Department in Berne, for graciously lodging and hosting one of our guests, Dr Buljčik, during her stay at the CASH course.

-**Dr. Jelena Sotirović**, Secretary to the TCO, who assiduously works at all times

- **Dental Medical School** in Basel, especially **Mr. Schaffner** and **Mr. Galli**, for donating instruments, especially the pumps!

-**Mr. Rolf Gloor**, Chief of the linen pool in Aarau, who again organised a donation of greater quantities of surgical linen

-The **British Council** in Beograd, especially **Mrs. Ivana Vukovojac** and **Mr. Predrag Kukobat**, for hosting our videoconferences

-**Mr. Roy Podvinec**, who has -as in previous years- kindly edited this report.

(Further photographs taken at our activities in 2006 may be seen on our homepage www.orl-bal.info under „Gallery“ and on www.orl-bal.info/srp - under „Galerija“ respectively)