"WFNS 2019 International Meeting – One world, one neurosurgery"
Belgrade, Serbia, March 21st - 24th, 2019

OFFICIAL REPORT

"WFNS 2019 International Meeting – One world, one neurosurgery" took place at Hotel Crowne Plaza, Belgrade, Serbia, from March 21st - 24th, 2019. This Meeting was organized and hosted by: Serbian Neurosurgical Society (SNSS) and Italian Society of Neurosurgery (SINch) in conjunction with Southeast Europe Neurosurgical Society.

The Congress has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) with 29 European CME credits (ECMEC®s) and the Health Council of the Republic of Serbia as an International Congress with up to 15 credits.

"WFNS 2019 International Meeting – One world, one neurosurgery" gathered 775 participants from 73 countries worldwide, in total.

The importance of the event has been recognized by all relevant institutions in Republic of Serbia and it was held under the auspices of the President of Republic of Serbia, H.E. Mr. Aleksandar Vucic and endorsed by Ministry of health Republic of Serbia and Minister of health Ass. dr Zlatibor Loncar and Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and Minister Mladen Sarcevic.
The Meeting in pictures
On March 21st, 2019, Pre-meeting courses: WFNS Education, WFNS Endoscopy, WFNS Surgical Anatomy, AO Spine, Global Neuro, Spine Intraoperative Navigation, were held.

The Opening ceremony was held on March 21st, 2019. Prof. Lukas Rasulic, Meeting Co-President and President of the Serbian Neurosurgical Society and Southeast Europe Neurosurgical Society, along with Prof. Dr Marco Cenzato, Co-President of the Meeting and President of the Italian Society of neurosurgery, Prof. Dr Francesco Tomasello, Honorary President of the Meeting and Honorary president of WFNS, Prof. Dr Kresimir Rotim, Honorary President of the Meeting and Honorary president of SeENS and Prof. Dr Franco Servadei, Honorary President of the Meeting and President of WFNS, officially opened the Congress and welcomed invited speakers, participants and guests.
On behalf of Minister of Health, Ass. Dr Zlatibor Lončar, Prof. Dr Radisav Scepanovic, State Secretary; Mr. Paolo Battinelli, Attaché in Embassy of the Republic of Italy, Dr Marina Sokovic, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia, Prof. Dr Ivanka Popovic, Rector, University of Belgrade, Academician Nebojsa Lalic, Dean Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Prof. Dr. Jesus Lafuente, EANS President and Prof. Dr Madjid Samii, Honorary president of WFNS, gave their support and welcomed guests. After the Opening Ceremony the welcome reception was held.
On March 22nd, after the opening remarks the first Plenary session started followed by the Global Neurosurgery Session and Women in Neurosurgery Session. At the beginning of the Global Neurosurgery session, Minister of health of the Republic of Serbia, Ass. dr Zlatibor Loncar, welcomed invited speakers and participants.

Picture 3. Minister of health, Ass. dr Zlatibor Loncar at the Global neurosurgery session, March 22nd, 2019
The scientific program continued and 4 Main topic sessions, 24 keynote lectures, 8 Oral presentation sessions and E-poster presentation and discussion session were held. At the end of the scientific program, on March 22nd, 2019, the Presidential dinner for faculty was held in the “Guard home” in Belgrade.

On March 23rd, 2019, Plenary session 2, 4 main topic sessions, 24 keynote lectures, 8 Oral presentation sessions, E-poster presentation and discussion session and Young neurosurgeons forum were held, as well as the Serbian Neurosurgical Society and Southeast Europe Neurosurgical society EC Meetings.
In the evening, Social dinner for faculty and participants took place in the hotel Crowne Plaza. Prof. Rasulic awarded honorary memberships in Serbian Neurosurgical Society and Southeast Europe Neurosurgical Society.

On March 24th, 2019, Plenary session 3, 4 main topic sessions and E-poster presentation and discussion session. Within the Closing ceremony, Young neurosurgeons, best oral presentation and best e-poster awards were announced.
WFNS 2019 Belgrade International meeting in numbers

The meeting was attended by total of 775 participants from 73 countries from 5 continents, including faculty, participants, industry partners, guests, medical students and volunteers. First day, pre-meeting courses were held and attended by 115 participants and 81 faculty members.

During the extraordinary 3 plenary sessions, 12 main topic sessions, 48 keynote lectures, more than 200 experts from the field introduced participants in the following topics: Neuro-oncology, Neurovascular, Neurotrauma and intensive care, Spine and peripheral nerve, Pediatrics, Functional and stereotactic neurosurgery and varia. Around 200 oral presentations within 16 sessions and more than 300 e-posters were presented as well.

They said after the Congress

“dear Lukas, I want to thank you for allowing me be part of such a successful event. Moreover I and my wife want to thank you and your wife personally for the great hospitality and friendship. I think that you have to be extremely satisfied by the success of this wonderful meeting, because it was at the best. Looking forward to have you in our national meeting in in September ....”
Marco Cenzato, Italy

“Thank you to the whole organisation team around Lukas for a great event! High compliments for such an successful organisation! “
Rudolph Fahlbusch, Germany

“ Thank you for the invitation and for such a fine effort on behalf of the WFNS. Serbia was wonderful and I am so glad that I could join you and experience it . “
Christopher Loftus, USA

“ Thank you all for a wonderful conference! Excellent in every way, and extremely well-organised. “
Alistair Jenkins, UK

“Dear prof Lukas Rasulic, dear Lukas! Thank you so much for the perfect organization of the Congress, for your hospitality. I had a chance to meet my friends and colleagues and spend nice time in beautiful Belgrade, yours sincerely,
Alexander Konovalov, Russia

“ Dear professor Rasulic, Just wish to express my thanks again for my invitation to Belgrade for WFNS International Meeting. The event was overwhelmingly successful - you and your team should be congratulated for a perfect organizational work! ”
Mikhail Chernov, Russia/Japan

“Dear Lukas, I wanted to thank you one more time for the excellent congress, as well as for the outstanding surprise. It was an amazing experience from which I will only have fond memories. Please transmit my congratulations to all of the team involved. Thank you again, my brother. Sincerely yours,
Ioan Stefan Florian, Romania
Dear Lukas, first of all let me take this opportunity to thank and congratulate you once again for the fantastic organization (both scientifically and socially wise) of the WFNS Belgrade Meeting. You’re an amazing and inexhaustible conger organizer...and we’ll have even more fun for EANS 2020.

Francesco Sala. Italy

Dear Lukas: My heartfelt congratulations on one of the most memorable WFNS meetings, with your unbeatable touch!! Warmest regards and appreciation,

Miguel A. Arraez, Spain

Congratulation for a job well done. ”

Imad Kanaan, Saudi Arabia

We all appreciate your hospitality very much and see you in this September in Beijing! ”

Ling Feng, China

Thank you very much for your kind hospitality and for arranging such a great and successful meeting! We were all impressed by small and big details along with the scientific content of it. Congrats to all of the organising committee and to Prof. Rasulic in particular!

Alessandro Perin, Italy

Dear Lukas, once more my congratulations for the excellent meeting. Its success is mainly due to your organizing ability and sympathy that attracted so many persons from so many countries, even very far. Bravo! Ezio

Concenzo Di Rocco, Germany

Dear Prof Rasulic, Congratulations for the amazing congress that you have organized. Everything was perfect. Thank you for your hospitality and your kindness ...

Souad Bakhti, Algeria

Thx for invitation! I enjoyed it very much! Best regards to all the team! Beste Grüße,

Henry W. S. Schroeder, Germany

Dear ladies and gentlemen, I thank you again personally for your outstanding hospitality and perfect organization! Warmest regards!

Peter A. Winkler, Austria

Thank you. Congratulations to the Organizers. All the best. ”

Marc Sindou, France

I want to congratulate Professor Rasulic and Organizing and Scientific Committee for the exquisite hospitality and the excellent organization of the event. ”

Angelo Lavano, Italy

Dear Organisers! The WFNS 2019 was perfect. It was great event. Congratulations and admiration for excellent organisation. Looking forward to your future projects.

Roman Bosnjak, Slovenia

It was a honor to invite me at the WFNS meeting in Belgrade. The scientific presentations improve my knowledge. Thank you for wonderful hospitality. I hope to see you again in Serbia or in Italy. ”

Piero Andrea Oppido, Italy
Instead of conclusion

During the Congress many new contacts were achieved, experiences and ideas were exchanged, plans for further development of mutual cooperation and prosperity of the profession have been agreed. An impressive number of attendees, number of speakers and their importance in the world of neurosurgery, topics and lectures, but also social and tourist program have contributed to this event to be evaluated by the participants with the highest grade.

Report brought by Prof. dr Lukas Rasulić