

The Presidents



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1. Reasons for joining the ENS

While working in the Department of Neurology at the University Hospital in Lausanne where I was in charge of a laboratory doing work on peripheral neuropathies, I had the opportunity to meet Professor Gerard Said at several scientific meetings. In 1985, attending the Peripheral Study Nerve Group meeting in Mürren, Switzerland, I heard from Gérard Said about his vision and plans to found a European Neurological Society. I was asked by Gérard to join the Directing Committee as a founding member in 1986 in order to organize the Inaugural Meeting in Nice in 1988. Much of what is considered to be a unique ENS success is a result of the combined leadership abilities of the founders of the Society, Gérard Said, P.K. Thomas, Anita Harding, Georges Franck, Ian McDonald, Klaus Toyka, Pierre Rondot and Andreas Steck

2. On the values and missions of the ENS

3. Important achievements during my presidency

I assumed the presidency of the Third ENS Meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1992, a meeting which saw the vital expansion of the teaching program and the scientific sessions. I was subsequently invited to take over additional tasks, crucial for the development of the Society through the years. One of the first steps was the organization of the teaching courses, a responsibility that I kept for many years, being a regular teacher in the course of peripheral neuropathy. I was elected President of the ENS, an office held from 1996 to 1997. Another major responsibility, which I took in 1992, was that of Treasurer of the ENS. The excellent financial situation of the Society allowed the establishment of the ENS Fellowship Stipend Program, which draw young neurologists into the activities of the ENS.

I was very much interested in facilitating the scientific development and accomplishment of young neurologists. The Fellowship Program grew out of the Society's commitment to advance medical education and research in clinical and experimental Neurology. Essential to the success of this initiative was the work of the Evaluation Committee, a board, which had the responsibility of selecting the best submitted projects, and to evaluate the appropriate research facility for the realization of the respective scientific proposal. I served as Chairman of the Fellowship Evaluation Committee since its establishment in 1997. The 10th Anniversary of the Fellowship Stipend Program was celebrated in 2008. During this time over 80 ENS Fellowship awardees produced outstanding scientific results while carrying out their projects, thus documenting the success of this Stipend Program. I retired from this responsibility in 2009 to give the leadership to Professor Heinz Reichmann. I maintained close contact with the European Association of Young Neurologists in Training (EAYNT) and supported their various activities at ENS Meetings. I was together with Prof. Gustave Moonen ENS representative to the European Board Examination in Neurology (EBN) and a member of the Board's Examination Committee. The first EBN board examination took place at the 19th ENS in Milan, Italy, on June 2009 and was held annually alternating with the EFNS.

I was privileged to assist the ENS in different activities being involved in the promotion of medical education and of scientific excellence. The ENS was a unique organization providing the best forum for an exchange between neurologists from all European countries in all domains of our discipline. I left the ENS Executive Committee during the 21st Meeting in Lisbon, in May 2011. My departure represented a turning over of the Society's reins to a new generation of Committee members.