

The Presidents



2001_ Klaus V. Toyka
Würzburg, Germany

1. Reasons for joining the ENS

I joined the founders' group upon invitation by Gérard Said through Austin Sumner's mediation. With the early co-founders PK. Thomas and Andreas Steck, I already had research connections and Ian McDonald was a mentor, friend and music partner for years. As the person in the Directing Committee (Executive Committee) responsible for membership recruitment, I remember that initially our founding efforts were not always appreciated by influential authorities in the larger European national societies. With the clear concepts developed between 1985 and 1988, and through the high quality of the early meetings recognition of the ENS gradually increased and the membership grew.

2. On the values and missions of the ENS

The ENS was the European society with bylaws shaped after the American Academy of Neurology. Members were selected upon individual application on the basis of achievements and interest in the clinical and basic neurosciences irrespective of their nationality. The unique spirit of the society spread out rapidly and helped us to initiate European networks of collaboration, exchange programs, and joint grant applications for experimental studies. Its organization was simple and straight forward with no intention for politics. Prof. Said's administration was slim and highly efficient.

3. Important achievements during my presidency

During my presidency we formed a team of the three successive presidents to promote the formal collaboration with the EFNS aiming at running joint symposia and European meetings. These moves did not materialize at that time. Austin Sumner, Ken Tyler - both representing the AAN, and the late John Newsom-Davis and I (for the ENS) paved the way for a higher recognition of the ENS in North America resulting in a formal liaison with the AAN.