6th WORLD STROKE ORGANIZATION REGIONAL MEETING
TBILISI 2015: STROKE PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2015
TBILISI, GEORGIA
Under the auspices of
World Stroke Organization (WSO)
European Stroke Organization (ESO)
Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU)
Georgian Stroke Association (GSA)
Petre Sarajishvili Institute of Neurology

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Vladimer Papava, (Georgia), Davit Sergeenko, (Georgia), Fridon Todua
(Georgia)

Supported by
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Dear colleagues and friends!

It is our pleasure to welcome you again for the 6th World Stroke Organization (WSO) Regional Meeting to be held in Tbilisi, Georgia on September 24-26, 2015. This year the Meeting has been endorsed by the World Stroke Organization, European Stroke Organization and other prestigious professional/academic organizations and is open to all who are interested in cerebrovascular diseases. On behalf the Organizing Committee, we extend a very hospitable invitation to all of you interested in stroke prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

Stroke Regional meetings in South Caucasus region became traditional and are organized triennially in Tbilisi, Georgia. Since our 1st Stroke Regional meeting in 2000 under auspices of International Stroke Society, which is now WSO pass fifteen years and four more Regional Stroke meetings are conducted. Every meeting we had increased number and expanded geography of the audience compared to each previous meeting. Our 6th WSO Regional Stroke meeting will expand further and will attract even more participants.

It is a not surprising that the meeting traditionally takes place in the capital of Georgia - Tbilisi. With the towering Caucasus Mountains forming the border between Europe and Asia, Georgia has long been an important contact zone. In this mystical land you will be captivated by a thrilling blend of eastern enigma and western elegance. The traditions of the East and West meet in Georgia to form a culture unlike any other in the world. Tbilisi lies in the center of eastern Georgia, in the foothills of the Trialeti mountain range. According to Georgian legends, it was founded in the 5th century by King Vakhtang Gorgasali who, while hunting, shot a pheasant which fell into a warm spring and was either boiled or healed. Either way, the king was inspired to found a city on the site, and the name of the city derives from the Georgian word “tbili” meaning "warm".

The conference will take full advantage of its location in Tbilisi – a charming city with more than 1500 years of history and an unforgettable blend of oriental and occidental culture. Its diverse architecture encompasses Eastern Orthodox churches, art nouveau buildings with ornate balconies and Soviet Modernist structures. Looming over it all are Narikala Fortress, a reconstructed 4th-century citadel, and Kartlis Deda, an iconic statue of Mother Georgia.

The city brims with history and has a dramatic setting on hillsides either side of the swift Mtkvari River. Its Old Town, at the narrowest part of the valley, is still redolent of an ancient Eurasian crossroads, with winding lanes, old balconied houses, leafy squares, handsome churches and countless busy bars and cafes. Tbilisi is also a modern city trying to move
forward in the 21st century after the strife and stagnation of the late 20th. Its streets are crowded with pedestrians, construction debris and hurtling or crawling traffic. Flagship building projects, from a new cathedral Sameba and presidential palace to revamped parks and museums, coexist with crowded old markets, confusing bus stations and shabby Soviet apartment blocks. Although the city has been destroyed and rebuilt some 29 times, the layout of the Old Town is largely intact with narrow alleys and big crooked houses built around courtyards. Tbilisi is still the beating heart of the South Caucasus and we are sure that you'll be able enjoyed it.

And at last… Georgian wines! When it comes to winemaking, Georgia is considered a cradle of wine. Grapevine has been cultivated in the fertile valleys of Georgia for about 8000 years. With over 500 varieties of endemic grapes and the world’s first cultivates grapevines, the traditions of viticulture are entwined with the country's national identity. It is also believed that the word “wine” is of Georgian origin (“gvino” in Georgian). Scientists have discovered the world’s oldest wine – a vintage produced 8,000 years ago. The find pushes back the history of wine by several hundred years. New discoveries show how Neolithic man was busy making red wine in Shulaveri (Georgia). Although no liquid wine from the period has survived, scientists have now found and tested wine residues discovered on the inner surfaces of 8,000-year-old ceramic storage jars. The end of September is a time of “Rtveli”, a very special tradition of winemaking, which has almost 4000 years history. Grape juice is stored in large "Kvevris", cone-shaped clay jugs buried in the ground, in which the wonderful processes of fermentation and maturation take place and the Georgian wine is bearing. We recommend you not to lose opportunity to take part in Rtveli ritual in the Kakhetian or Kartlian vineyards.

The members of faculty of these meetings consisted of foremost experts in the field of stroke medicine as well as prominent neurologists from the South Caucasian region. These extremely successful meetings would be impossible to organize without active support and participation of Georgian neurologists and we would like to extend our gratitude to all who help us to conduct these meetings successfully.

We look forward to welcoming you in Tbilisi at a very promising meeting dedicated to almost all aspects of stroke!

Sincerely yours,

Roman Shakarishvili  Alexander Tsiskaridze  Alexander Y. Razumovsky
Meeting Venue: Courtyard by Marriott Tbilisi Hotel
4, Freedom Square
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The official language of the meeting is English
Simultaneous translation to Georgian and Russian will be provided

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Thursday, 24th September 2015

Workshop “Stroke in the Black Sea Region and Central Asia”

Moderators: N. Bornstein, V. Caso, A. Tsiskaridze (WSO, ESO, GSA)

15:00 Introduction of ESO-EAST project
15:30 What can we learn from national registry - the Israeli model
16:00 How to set up effective acute stroke service

16:30 Coffee break

16:45-18:30 Presentations and general discussion
Stroke in Armenia (H. Manvelyan, S. Khachatryan)
Stroke in Azerbaijan (TBA)
Stroke in Georgia (A. Tsiskaridze)
Stroke in Kazakhstan (A. Zhussupova)
Stroke in Kyrgyzstan (I. Lutsenko)
Stroke in Turkey (K. Kutluk)
Stroke in Ukraine (Y. Flomin)
Stroke in Uzbekistan (B. Gafurov)

19:00 Special Event and Welcome Cocktail in the Georgian National Museum
Friday, 25th September 2015

08:30 Registration

09:00 Opening Ceremony and Welcome Addresses

Chairpersons: A. Razumovsky, R. Shakarishvili
Davit Sergeenko, Minister of Labor Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
Giorgi Sharvashidze, First Deputy Minister of Science and Education of Georgia
Vladimer Papava, Rector of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
Marine Chitashvili, General Director of Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation

Opening Lecture

09:30 Cerebral venous thrombosis                J. Ferro (Portugal)

Prevention

Chairpersons: D. Bereczki, K. Kutluk
10:00 Life style modification in stroke prevention  V. Demarin (Croatia)
10:30 Stroke prevention in clinical practice     A. Czlonkowska (Poland)

11:00 Coffee break

Prevention (cont.)

Chairpersons: A. Czlonkowska, M. Janelidze
11:30 Prevention of cardioembolic stroke: an update  K. Kutluk (Turkey)
12:00 Medical prevention of non-cardioembolic stroke: an update  N. Bornstein (Israel)
12:30 Carotid revascularization for stroke prevention  Z. Nadareishvili (USA)

13:00 Lunch

Diagnosis

Chairpersons: V. Demarin, Z. Nadareishvili
14:00 TIA as a medical emergency  
D. Bereczki (Hungary)

14:30 TCD in neurocritical care  
A. Razumovsky (USA)

15:00 Multimodal MRI in acute stroke  
Z. Nadareishvili (USA)

15:30 CT angiography in acute stroke and high risk TIA – do not leave the emergency department without it!  
A. Demchuk (Canada)

16:00 Coffee break

Complications
Chairpersons: A. Demchuk, T. Tatlisumak

16:30 Stroke complications  
N. Bornstein (Israel)

17:15 Intracerebral hemorrhage – complication of oral anticoagulant treatment  
A. Tsiskaridze (Georgia)

17:45 Complications of thrombolytic therapy  
T. Tatlisumak (Sweden)

19:00 Social Program

Saturday, 26th September 2015

Clinical
Chairpersons: V. Caso, A. Tsiskaridze

09:30 Stroke in women  
V. Caso (Italy)

10:00 Stroke in the young  
J. Ferro (Portugal)

10:30 Hemorrhagic stroke: an update  
D. Hanley (USA)

11:00 Coffee-break

Management
Chairpersons: H. Audebert, D. Hanley

11:30 Starting stroke treatment in the field: results of the Stroke Emergency Mobile project (STEMO)  
H. Audebert (Germany)
12:00 Management of acute stroke patients and early neurorepair approaches
   J. Krupinski (Spain)

12:30 Intravenous thrombolysis for stroke – the evidence and its application in practice
   P. Sandercock (UK)

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Thrombolysis and endovascular stroke treatment decision-making and system change - what is clear and where do we need more data?
   A. Demchuk (Canada)

14:30 Sonothrombolysis in acute stroke: an update
   A. Alexandrov (USA)

Stroke Service Organization
Chairpersons: J. Krupinski, P. Sandercock

15:00 Acute stroke units – what are the benefits and how do you set them up?
   P. Sandercock (UK)

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Stroke services organization in UK: emphasis on research networks
   B. Piechowsky-Jozwiak (UK)

16:30 TeleStroke Units: Providing state-of-the-art stroke care in decentralized systems
   H. Audebert (Germany)

Closing Lecture
Chairpersons: N. Bornstein, J. Ferro

17:00 Stem cells for recovery after stroke
   Z. Kokaia (Sweden)

17:30 Adjourn
   A. Razumovsky, R. Shakarishvili, A. Tsiskaridze

19:00 Farewell