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Education and training for Neurosurgeons

Since the 1960's, neurosurgery has developed into a fully recognised speciality combining neurological expertise and surgical skills. Modern radiographic techniques like multi-slice imaging by CT or MRI in particular have greatly improved diagnostic possibilities and on the other hand require concentrated knowledge about pathologies and a multidisciplinary approach. Additionally, therapeutic modalities have also changed fundamentally. Nowadays a neurosurgical trainee has to be able to use computerised devices like microscopes and neuronavigation and stereotactical devices while simultaneously optimising his or her manual skills. All these mentioned developments have made it possible to offer our patients almost atraumatic keyhole procedures with good outcomes and low morbidity.

As a matter of fact the complex efforts of the last decades have involved many subspecialisations within neurosurgery. Consequently, achieving basic neurosurgical knowledge seems to become more difficult year after year. The answer to this dilemma is exchange of information electronically but also within congresses, workshops and supervised courses.

Many neurosurgical societies like the EANS (European Association of Neurosurgical Societies) try to overcome boundaries and offer courses with changing emphasis every year, as well as facilitating national and international rotations. Apart from educational efforts best standard procedures and updates can be transported fast and multilaterally.

Nevertheless the young neurosurgeon at the beginning of his career sees himself standing in front of a huge mountain with a confusing clutter of hiking trails all heading towards "Mount Neurosurgery".

“Going International” tries to offer a map with safe trails and neurosurgical “base camps”.

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Neurochirurgie: <http://www.neurochirurgie.ac.at/>

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Neurochirurgie: <http://www.dgnc.de/>

European Association of Neurosurgical Societies <http://www.eans.org/>

Central European Neurosurgical Society <http://www.cens2008.com/>

American Association of Neurological Surgeons <http://www.aans.org/>

Congress of Neurological Surgeons <http://www.neurosurgeon.org/>

World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies <http://www.wfns.org/>

Should our path direct us to the top right away? Well, even professional “mountain guides” do not strive for the summit without a break but sit back to relax at their reached inter-station. Here the mastered mountain-trail can be viewed but also next steps reflected. It is at this level where gained experience and personal development pave the way for the new path to the favourite area of interest.

Also here “GI” provides hints for the advanced neurosurgical hiker going for sub specialisation and further perfection. Thus each individual crest can be reached in order to become a part of “Mount Neurosurgery”!