“The Changing Brain” was chosen as the main theme of the congress even though the meeting was a general neuropsychology congress covering a range of topics in neuropsychology, neurology, and psychiatry. The main theme was chosen based on the conviction that clinical disciplines of importance to public health must develop strong knowledge about recovery of function, intervention, and treatment.

This is still a major challenge in neuropsychology despite increasing knowledge about brain plasticity. Therefore, the organizers of clinically relevant symposia and other contributors were challenged to include presentations and discussions focusing on the ability of the brain for change and recovery.

We were able to present a full four-day program, packed with novel scientific contributions as well as workshops and plenary lectures. The opening lectures of the conference took place in the Aula of the University of Oslo.

This hall is quite spectacular with 250 square meters of murals by the famous Norwegian painter Edvard Munch. After the opening lectures, the City of Oslo gave a grand reception in the City Hall in the same room where the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony takes place every year in December.

The total number of registered participants was 890, which is the largest number of participants at any European INS meeting. Participants and presenters came from virtually all over the world, with a majority of participants coming from Norway and Europe.

In addition, there were large groups from countries far away such as Australia, Japan, Brazil, Canada, and Korea. Only about 7% of the participants came from the US.

We had expected between 500-600 participants and were...
surprised by the much larger number of registered participants. After all, Norway is about the most expensive country in the world and located inconveniently in the outskirts of Europe. We think there are three major reasons for the large attendance:

1. First and foremost, we were fortunate to be able to present several world class scientists and speakers covering a wide range of neuropsychological topics.

2. Secondly, the conference was announced thoroughly at a very early stage and until the opening. We announced the conference on international and national websites and we e-mailed more than 25,000 psychologists worldwide on several occasions with information and links to the conference website.

3. The third and a very important reason for the great attendance was that the Norwegian Psychological Association accepted the four-day program (32 hours) as a continuing education course for Norwegian specialists in clinical psychology and clinical neuropsychology.

This proved popular and almost 50% of the participants were Norwegian psychologists. Many of these are colleagues who do not ordinarily attend neuropsychology meetings.

At every INS meeting a high quality Continuing Education program designed to meet the requirements of APA is offered. This is primarily relevant for psychologists from the U.S. as APA requirements are not necessary in other countries.

At this meeting, the official CE program was thus formally relevant for only about 7% of the participants, and probably had little impact on the meeting attendance compared to the Continuing Education program that was approved by the Norwegian Psychological Association.

We think there is a lesson to be learned from this: If INS, which is dominated by the U.S., wants to gain international strength then there is a need to adapt even better to an international reality than the case is today.

As our example shows, this can be achieved by a stronger focus on locally relevant continuing education requirements. We think that our adaptation to the local reality in Norway is the main reason that we, against many odds, were able to arrange the largest European INS meeting so far.

Forthcoming Conferences

12th International Forum on Mood and Anxiety Disorders
Nov 7-9, 2012
Barcelona, Spain
Web site: www.ifmad.org/2012

18th Australian Psychological Society Clinical Neuropsychology Conference
Nov 22-25, 2012
Launceston, Tasmania
www.the-ins.org/includes/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Clinical_Neuropsychology_Calendar_for_Submissions.pdf

41st Annual Meeting of the INS
Brain Health through the Lifespan
February 6-9, 2013
Waikoloa, Hawaii
Submit Abstracts at http://ins2013.abstractcentral.com/
Web site: www.the-ins.org/41st-annual-meeting-hawaii/
Email: ins@osu.edu

Symposium — “Advances in Sportsneuropsychology and Concussion Management”
Würzburg, Germany
February 22-23, 2013
http://pdf.koenigundmueller.de/kurs/FB130222C.pdf

International Conference on Recent Advances in Neurorehabilitation
March 7-8, 2013
Valencia, Spain
Web site: icranconference.com/

21st European Congress of Psychiatry EPA 2013
April 6-9, 2013
Nice, France
Two ILC Programs

The ILC sponsors an editing service composed of INS members who volunteer to work with international colleagues who wish to publish their research in English language journals.

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Contact: John Woodard at john.woodard@wayne.edu.

The ILC also operates a Book and Journal Depository. Institutions demonstrating need may apply for a shipment of donated books and journals. Contact William Seidel at wtswts5@yahoo.com.

For more information, go to http://www.ilc-ins.org/programs.shtml

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INSNET is the free bulletin of the International Liaison Committee of the International Neuropsychological Society & is published twice a year. Copyright 2012 by the International Neuropsychological Society 700 Ackerman Road Suite 625 Columbus, Ohio 43202 USA

ISSN 1939-3911 (print) ISSN 1939-392X (online)