Europe meets in Berlin – EFORT 2012

The 13th EFORT Congress 2012 is in Berlin – Germany’s most important scientific event of the year in orthopaedics and traumatology. This Congress offers an exceptionally comprehensive overview over the whole field of orthopaedics and traumatology, spiced with different reports from many participating countries and international experts. Along with updating on all speciality areas, it offers a record number of submissions and a silicon of formats for generalists, specialists and specialists still in training, customised to meet the needs of the group involved. And the venue is unbelievable – Berlin at the cutting-edge between West and East Europe.

The European Federation of National Associations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (EFORT) is staging the 13th EFORT Congress in the German capital from 23 to 25 May 2012. It is the most important scientific event in European orthopaedics and traumatology and surgery. Nearly 4000 abstracts were submitted, delegates from more than 90 countries are expected.

One of the highlights of the congress will be dedicated to the “UN-Decade of Action for Road Safety!” and will focus on trauma topics including accident prevention and the treatment of injuries and their consequences. In addition, there will be a car crash scenario on-site, further described elsewhere on this page.

A second focus lies on the treatment of degenerative diseases of the musculoskeletal system taking up the topic of the “European Year for Active Ageing 2012”. The presentations in this area will focus mainly on degenerative diseases of the musculoskeletal system. Main priorities will include the current state of the art in operative and conservative treatment options, in modern approaches to rehabilitation and pain treatment, in multidisciplinary approaches to back pain therapy and the management of metastases. In addition, participants might have a chance to explore themselves how aging is limiting mobility in all parts of daily living.

The scientific program attracts all interested parties – generalists, specialists and residents in training – with customised continuing education tailored to their needs. There will be a balance between invited expert presentations and younger researchers giving free presentations, opening the doors for new and unconventional approaches.

International renewed experts conduct state-of-the-art presentations on current topics in instructional lectures and symposia. The various Specialty Sections hold events that allow experts to exchange knowledge and views at the highest level. Berlin will also have Experts meet Experts (E2E) sessions diving into the topics of arthroplasty fractures, panarthroplasty fractures, revision in cruciate ligament reconstruction and the treatment of fragility fractures.

In the Centennial Case Discussions (CCCs) colleagues are invited to discuss case-oriented cases such as the treatment of multiple injuries, deformities in the lower extremities, hip joint dislocations or vertebral infections. In a different format the Cross Fire Sessions (CFS) require recognised experts to present controversial views on topics such as cemented versus non-cemented stems in geriatric hip-replacement patients, operative versus conservative treatment of osteoporotic vertebral fractures or the treatment of ulnar capital femoral epiphysitis. The Comprehensive Review Course (CRC) covers in a single day the essential material one needs for the European and national examination as a specialist in orthopaedics/traumatology. Two honorary lectures will be presented by Professor Reinhard Daxa, who pioneered pelvic osteotomy, and Professor Bernhard Murrmann, a true pioneer in elbow surgery and elbow endoprostheses. And finally, the industry exhibition is incomparable in scale and format and will certainly deliver fresh impetus.

The two local organisers of EFORT 2012, Professor Dr. Dieter Wirtz, Director of the Clinic for Orthopaedics and Traumatology at the University Clinic in Berlin, and Prof. Dr. Karmen Dezhnovith of Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin and head physician in the Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology of Medical Park Humboldthilfe are convinced that this program will satisfy all needs of the delegates. Berlin at the former border between the west and the east of Europe is nowadays one of the most attractive cities in the continent and famous for its creativity and ability to mix people. This will also allow the participants to dive into the stream of the city, to catch the flow and to enjoy the Berlin cultural attractions as well as the famous night life. The traditional Congress Party, the so called Berlin Night, will be held at the legendary KaDeWe to experience several of these many facets the city has to offer. The local hosts express “the combination of entertainment and culinary delights should help participants to become closer on a personal level as well. Besides their discussing professional matters, we hope they will also forge friendships with each other and between the cultures of Eastern and Western Europe. Berlin is easy to reach and a unique point of convergence for the cultural, political and social history of Eastern and Western Europe. We hope to be able to welcome large numbers of colleagues from Eastern Europe in particular to this event.”

Berlin Night, 24 May 2012

Kaufhaus des Westens (KaDeWe)

What started as an adventurous idea by the Berliner merchant Adolph Jaffé in 1805 surpassed all expectations, when the Kaufhaus des Westens (KaDeWe) was opened in March 1927. As the leading department store in the country, it presented customers with an array of decorative goods from around the world – from the latest Paris fashion show items to exotic south west fruits. Unfortunately, like many places in Berlin, the KaDeWe was almost completely destroyed after a plane crash in the World War II. As a symbol of comeback and after historic jubilation of the Berlin population, the KaDeWe reopened in 1950. On Friday 25 May this landmark in Berlin’s past and present will be opening its gourmet temple exclusively for us. Wander around and taste delicacies from all four corners of the world. Afterwards, enjoy music and dance in the beautiful Roof Garden.

Tickets can still be purchased at the Congress Registration desks at EUR 60.00 or local VAT.

EFORT Car Crash Scenario

This year’s Congress focuses on the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020). This initiative was created by the United Nations to increase awareness and take worldwide action on road safety, following a global action plan. Based on six pillars, the initiative evaluates the situation in road safety and the measures in place to increase it and to improve first-response and post-crash care. EFORT has tailored a range of congress sessions to cover a broad spectrum of trauma and post-trauma topics. We are delighted that we have also secured a speaker from the IRMRS for our special symposium on injury prevention (Thursday, 24 May at 14:15, Soestrome room).

In Hall 15 you will find the event area, with a display of a car which has been damaged in a crash test prior to the Congress. You will have the opportunity to watch the recorded car crash in detail. Professional staff from ACTE, a company providing crash tests for many major auto companies, will be available to give an insight into the biomechanical background of such a crash. This experience is complemented with information and statistics from the UN, to give you a comprehensive overview of the field.

Last but not least do not miss the spectacular live car crash which will take place at the crash test of the IEC in the break on Friday, 25 May, at 10:15. A stuntman will crash his car into a parked car, demonstrating the drastic consequences of such a high-impact collision under controlled conditions.

EFORT News