



SPECIAL ARTICLE

A brief history of the meetings of the Spanish Association for the Study of the Liver (1967–2015)[☆]



Breve historia de los congresos de la Asociación Española para el Estudio del Hígado (1967–2015)

Miguel Bruguera^{a,b,c}

^a Universidad de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

^b Servicio de Hepatología, Hospital Clínico, Barcelona, Spain

^c Asociación Española para el Estudio del Hígado (AEEH), Spain

Received 22 September 2015; accepted 4 November 2015
Available online 30 April 2016

In February 2015, the 40th conference of Spanish hepatologists took place in Madrid, Spain. To mark this anniversary, the board of directors of the Spanish Association for the Study of the Liver (AEEH) invited all conference attendees to a gala dinner in the Casino de Madrid, at which I was given the opportunity to present the history of AEEH conferences. I sincerely appreciated the invitation because, with the exception of the founding conference in 1967, I have attended all the conferences held so far—actively participating in most of them—and I feel that my membership of the AEEH has instilled in me the feeling of forming part of one big family, and has been key to my professional development. Networking with colleagues (who usually become friends), the scientific discussions, the encouragement to learn more and the teaching obligations have become for me a constant source of gratification. I took this presentation, therefore, as the chance to pay tribute to the Spanish hepatologists who have helped make the AEEH the exemplary organisation it is today.

The creation of the AEEH can be attributed to professor Manuel Díaz Rubio (1908–1976)¹ (Fig. 1), professor of Medical Pathology in the Faculty of Medicine in Madrid. It was he who, in the mid-1960s, brought together a select group of Spanish physicians—gastroenterologists and internists interested in liver diseases—to discuss the latest developments in this field of medical pathology in a conference. Díaz Rubio was highly regarded as an expert in liver disease, having studied under professor Hans Eppinger in Vienna and conducted research in the field of viral hepatitis and cirrhosis.^{2,3} The meeting took place in Madrid in 1967, with a total of 44 speakers taking part. At an assembly celebrated at the end of the meeting, the attendees welcomed Díaz Rubio's proposal to form a scientific society dedicated to the study of the liver. It would be called the Spanish Association of Hepatology (AEH), and would meet every 2 years to discuss scientific advances and to make proposals for collaborations between Spanish experts.

At that time, hepatology was only a branch of gastroenterology and received scant attention in studies in medical pathology. In more scientifically advanced countries, few hospitals included a service dedicated to liver patients, the aetiology of most liver diseases was unknown, and few drugs with therapeutic value were available. Laparoscopy and liver biopsy were the only diagnostic methods available. In Spain at that time, some modest teaching initiatives had

[☆] Please cite this article as: Bruguera M. Breve historia de los congresos de la Asociación Española para el Estudio del Hígado (1967–2015). Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2016;39:324–328.

E-mail address: bruguera@clinic.ub.es



Figure 1 Prof. Manuel Díaz Rubio (1908–1976).

been launched to present the state of the knowledge on the diagnosis and treatment of liver diseases, as Dr. Ramón Bataller Sifré reported in his brief summary of the creation of the AEH published some years ago.⁴

The attendees were satisfied with the meeting and elected the first AEH board of directors, which was chaired by M. Díaz Rubio, with 3 vice-chairs: C. Marina Fiol, F.J. García Conde and M. Hidalgo; a secretary, A. Guarner; a treasurer, J.L. Goñi, and 5 members: F. Andreu Kern, F. Conchillo, R. Mora, I. Serés and A. Varela.

The next meeting also took place in Madrid 2 years later and, like the first, was chaired by professor Díaz Rubio and organised in the form of round tables with 4 or 5 speakers presenting different aspects of the core topics. The topics at that meeting were: dysglobulinaemic cirrhotoses, cirrhosis and diabetes, chronic acalculous cholecystitis, cardiac liver and renal function in chronic liver diseases. In 1971, the meeting was held in Seville, chaired by Fernando Andreu Kern. This was the first in a series of itinerant biannual meetings held in Spanish cities where there was a physician interested in hepatology who was capable of organising the conference. The conference celebrated in Barcelona in 1973 was chaired by Francisco Vilardell Viñas, head of the gastroenterology department in the Hospital de San Pablo. The following biannual meetings were held in Tenerife in 1975, chaired by Pedro de las Casas Alonso, head of the gastroenterology department in the Hospital Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria; in Valencia in 1977, chaired by Joaquín Berenguer Lapuerta, head of the gastroenterology department in the Hospital de La Fe; in San Sebastian in 1979, chaired by José Ignacio Arenas Miravé, head of the gastroenterology department in the Hospital Virgen de Aránzazu; in Oviedo in 1981, chaired by José María Arribas Castrillo, head of the internal medicine department in the Hospital Central de Asturias; and in Pamplona in 1985, chaired by professor of medical pathology Jesús Prieto Valtueña, of the Clínica Universitaria de Navarra.

In Pamplona, the AEH assembly agreed a series of proposals put forward by Juan Rodés which, although considered very important, have probably only had an indirect impact

Table 1 Chairmen of the AEEH.

1867–1973	Manuel Díaz Rubio, Hospital Clínico, Madrid
1973–1977	Carlos Marina Fiol, Clínica de la Concepción, Madrid
1977–1981	Fernando Andreu Kern, Hospital Virgen del Rocío, Seville
1981–1985	Carlos Hernández Guío, Clínica de la Concepción, Madrid
1985–1989	Juan Rodés Teixidor, Hospital Clínic, Barcelona
1989–1993	Pedro Escartín Marín, Clínica Puerta de Hierro, Madrid
1993–1997	Miguel Bruguera Cortada, Hospital Clínic, Barcelona
1997–2001	Joaquín Berenguer Lapuerta, Hospital la Fe, Valencia
2001–2005	Jesús M. Prieto Valtueña, Clínica Universitaria, Pamplona
2005–2009	Vicente Arroyo Pérez, Hospital Clínic, Barcelona
2009–2011	Fernando Pons Romero, Hospital Valdecilla, Santander
2011–2013	Rafael Esteban Mur, Hospital Valle de Hebrón, Barcelona
2013–2015	Jaime Bosch Genover, Hospital Clínic, Barcelona

on the development of Spanish hepatology: 1) to celebrate the conferences annually, which meant increasing the frequency of contacts and positive incentives that these entailed; 2) to do so in Madrid, in a hotel, in order to enable doctors from all over Spain to attend the event, make better use of the time available, reduce the temptation to go sight-seeing, and to make the most of the conference; 3) to give the board of directors the responsibility of organising the conference and setting the agenda in order to make this as professional as possible; 4) to eliminate the round tables and replace them with papers selected by an *ad hoc* commission elected by the assembly, with a discussion after each one; 5) to include a poster session to present papers that could not be included in the general sessions; 6) to include a keynote lecture given by an invited foreign expert (Table 1); 7) to award 2 grants annually: the Juan Rodés grant and the Carlos Hernández Guío grant, to young members of the AEEH with an educational project that involved a 1-year stay in a centre in a foreign country or a shorter stay in Spain to learn a research technique. More activities have been added to the conferences over the years, such as a pre-conference training course for resident physicians, and satellite symposia sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry.

During the early years of the AEH, the tenure of the chairperson elected, like the members of the board of directors, by an assembly held at the end of each conference, was 4 years, but was reduced to 2 years from 2009. Table 2 lists the names and work places of the different AEH chairpersons. The association changed its name at the start of the 1980s to the Spanish Association for the Study of the Liver (AEEH) to bring it in line with the Pan-European association (*European Association for the Study of the Liver* [EASL]) and the different European national associations.

During the early years, the AEEH was statutorily a subsidiary of the Spanish Society of Gastroenterology (SEPD),

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/3290003>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/3290003>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)