



Internationale Gesellschaft zur Erforschung von Hirntraumata  
International Neurotrauma Research Organization

# Annual Report 2011

**Vienna, Austria**  
**April 2012**

Internationale Gesellschaft zur Erforschung von Hirntraumata  
International Neurotrauma Research Organization  
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## **CONTENTS**

PEOPLE .....	3
Project office .....	4
ACTIVITIES in 2011 .....	6
Projects implemented .....	6
Project proposal submitted .....	8
Publications developed and submitted .....	8
Educational activities and Conferences .....	9
PLAN FOR 2012 .....	10
Conference participation: .....	10
Projects implemented .....	10
New project proposals .....	10

## PEOPLE

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## **Project office**

### **Day-to-day management:**

The office of INRO is run by **Sasha Brazinova**. Dr. Alexandra Brazinova is a medical doctor with further education in public health and PhD from Social Medicine. Dr. Brazinova is the President of Board of Directors of INRO. She does administrative management, works on the development of project proposals, coordinates project implementation, writes project reports. Dr. Brazinova is the project coordinator for the Prehospital project that is implemented by INRO in 2008-2012. In her scientific work she focuses on qualitative research and descriptive epidemiology, writes and participates in development of scientific articles. She also teaches at the Department of Public Health of Trnava University as a part time lecturer.

Prof. **Walter Mauritz**, the Vicepresident of INRO's Board of Directors, is the chairman of Department of Anaesthesiology at Lorenz Boehler Trauma Hospital in Wien, which is also a teaching facility. Furthermore, Dr. Mauritz is a visiting professor at Trnava University. Prof. Mauritz is the project leader for the Prehospital project that is implemented by INRO in 2008-2012. Prof. Mauritz is scientific and clinical advisor of INRO and he oversees the development of scientific work.

Prof. **Martin Rusnak** was the President of INRO's Board of Directors till Noveber 2011 when he, due to other work obligations abroad, stepped down and became member of the Supervisory Board. Prof. Rusnak oversees project implementation, development of new projects and scientific publications, data analysis. Prof. Rusnak is was also the dean of the Faculty of Health Care and Social Work, Trnava University, Slovak Republic (until the end of 2011).

Close academic affiliations of prof. Rusnak, prof. Mauritz and Dr. Brazinova bring students and young scholars interested in brain trauma research into INRO's activities. In 2011 several young researchers from Trnava University helped with project implementation at INRO – namely Zuzana Sklenarova, Veronika Rehorcikova, Dagmar Mastelova.

**ACTIVE research fellows at IGEH are:**

Dr. **Johannes Leitgeb** is a trauma surgeon at the University Clinic for Emergency medicine, General Hospital Wien (AKH). He has been involved in project activities focused mainly on clinical evaluations of brain trauma treatment data. Currently he is working on his PhD thesis on TBI management and writes and participates in development of scientific articles about INRO research outcomes.

Dr. **Marek Majdan** comes from Trnava University. He has a PhD in Environmental Health and Geographic Information Systems. For INRO he analyzes the data from the ITCP and Prehospital project database, using the statistical tool R software. He is responsible for data analysis of Prehospital project data. Dr. Majdan also participates in the development of scientific papers and project proposals.

Dr. **Zuzana Sklenarova** teaches at Trnava University. She is responsible for the follow-up of past INRO collaborators project. She participates in the development of scientific papers.

Mag. **Dagmara Mastelova** and Mag. **Veronika Rehorcikova** are doctoral students at Trnava University. They assist with Prehospital project implementation.

DI **Ivan Janciak** is an IT specialist, working at the University of Wien. He developed and maintains the ITCP and the Prehospital project databases for INRO and INRO's website.

**FORMER (passive) research fellows at INRO are:**

Dr. **Lucia Daubnerova** works as a consultant in public health in the Slovak Republic and abroad and as an INRO team member she participates in the development of scientific papers. She defended her PhD thesis on trauma management at Trnava University in 2010.

Dr. **Ingrid Wilbacher**, who used to work at INRO in 2002 – 2005, works for Austrian Social Insurance Company and finished her PhD thesis at Trnava University in 2009.

## ACTIVITIES in 2011

### *Projects implemented*

**'Prehospital Project'** (Project for optimizing early care for patients with severe brain trauma) (Projekt zur Optimierung der Erstversorgung von Patienten mit Schädel-Hirn-Trauma) was this year again our main objective.

This is a project funded by the grant of the Austrian Ministry of Health (BMGFJ) and Worker's insurance fund (AUVA).

The contracts of INRO with both AUVA and BMGFJ to implement this project were signed in October 2008. The whole project is planned for 5 years, starting in 2008 and ending in 2012.

The **summary of the project** is the following:

The project has started in the end of 2008. By the end of March 2010 we have collected data on 450 patients. We have entered and cleaned the data and tried to get all missing information in the period April – September 2010. Long term outcome of patients 6 months after the trauma was collected through phone interviews and entered till October 2010. Data were analysed in October 2010 and presented at conference with the representatives of all participating hospitals in November 2010 in Wien.

After the discussion of the presented data and existing TBI management guidelines at the November 2010 conference, Prehospital and Early Hospital TBI treatment guideline for Austria was prepared. The participating centres started using the guideline as of the 1. January 2011. In the period April 2011 – April 2012 the second round of data collection was implemented. The patient data will be analysed in May – June 2012 to see the difference in patient outcomes.

The project objective is to improve health outcomes of TBI victims by standardizing the treatment, with a special focus on the crucial early phase of the treatment.

The funding for the Prehospital project is over Eur 170 000 from the Ministry of Health and about Eur 100 000 from AUVA. Project is planned for 5 years (2008 – 2012).

**Project progress:** In 2011 we have implemented the following steps of the project:

Jan.: Prehospital and Early Hospital TBI treatment guideline for Austria was disseminated among the centers. Project contact persons informed about the guideline recommendations coworkers and all hospital's EMS providers. As of 1.1.2011 TBI patients in all participating centers were treated according the guideline, when possible.

Feb. – March: Preparation of data collection and distribution materials for data collection to centers

April – December: Continuous support to centers, data collection and entering of the data into the database. The entering of the data from the patient documentation into the electronic database was done by personal visit of the project manager to each center and entering the data into the computer at the site, so the center contact person can look up and provide the missing data on the spot.

#### Participating hospitals:

1. LKH Amstetten
2. LKH Feldkirch
3. Univ.klinik Graz
4. LK Waldviertel Horn
5. Univ.klinik Innsbruck
6. LKH Klagenfurt
7. AKH Linz
8. LKA Salzburg
9. LK Wiener Neustadt
10. LK St.Pölten
11. KH Schwarzach/Pongau
12. UKH Graz
13. UKH Linz
14. UKH Salzburg
15. UKH Wien XII (Meidling)
16. UKH Wien XX (Lorenz Boehler Unfall Krankenhaus)

### ***Project proposal submitted***

In 2011 we have developed and submitted project proposal to Framework Programme 7 of European Commission. The project is titled Reinforcing cooperation capacities in Quality of Health Care research, it is developed in cooperation with Georgian partners and it focuses at strengthening capacity of Georgian experts in Health Care research, with a pilot project in Traumatic Brain Injury monitoring and analysis. The proposal was not accepted.

### ***Publications developed and submitted***

In 2011 we have developed and submitted successfully the following scientific articles:

Leitgeb J, **Mauritz W**, Brazinova A, Janciak I, Majdan M, Wilbacher I, Rusnak M.: Effects of gender on outcomes after traumatic brain injury. *J Trauma*. **2011** Dec;71(6):1620-6.

Majdan M, **Mauritz W**, Brazinova A, Rusnak M, Leitgeb J, Janciak I, Wilbacher I.: Severity and outcome of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) with different causes of injury. *Brain Inj*. **2011**;25(9):797-805. Epub **2011** Jun 1.



## ***Educational activities and Conferences***

### **Feb.2011: TBI Challenge, Vienna, Austria.**

W.Mauritz had an invited presentation and whole INRO team chaired a session at this conference

#### **Our presentations:**

W. Mauritz: Early Management of Patients with TBI in Austria

M. Rusnak: Guidelines for management of patients with TBI TBI guidelines: an overview

A. Brazinova: Guidelines for early management of TBI: prehospital and early in-hospital care

J.Leitgeb: Guidelines for surgical TBI management

W. Mauritz: TBI in-hospital management

### **Feb.2011: Wounds of War III - coping with TBI in returning troops", the NATO-sponsored symposium, Vienna, Austria**

W. Mauritz: Early Treatment of TBI

### **Sept.2011: EUSEM congress (European Society of Emergency Medicine), Kos, Greece**

A.Brazinova: Prehospital and early in-hospital management of patients with brain trauma in Austria

### **Oct.2011: Acquired Brain Injury workshop. Ljubljana, Slovenia.**

A.Brazinova: active participation

### **Oct.2011: Well Being, Health and Humanity, Trnava, Slovak Republic**

M. Rusnak: Outcome Research

W. Mauritz: Trauma 1970-2010 in Austria. Implications for trauma care

A.Brazinova, W. Mauritz, M. Rusnak, M. Majdan: Brain Trauma Management in Austria versus Slovakia: Tale of two cities

J. Leitgeb: Long-term outcome after severe TBI

## **PLAN FOR 2012**

### ***Conference participation:***

March 2012: International Brain Injury Association, Edinburgh, Scotland

April 2012: Central European Congress of Emergency Medicine, Senec, Slovak Republic

April 2012: Euroacademia Multidisciplinaria Neurotraumatologica. Cluj-Napoca, Romania

September 2012: EUSEM conference. Antalya, Turkey

October 2012: Public Health Conference, Trnava, Slovak Republic

### ***Projects implemented***

In 2012 we will finalize the '**Prehospital project**'.

In May 2012 data collection will be completed and in June the data will be analyzed and prepared for presentation.

### ***New project proposals***

In 2012 we will submit the following project proposal:

FP 7: Prospective longitudinal data collection and Comparative Effectiveness Research for traumatic brain injury

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND FOR THE CONTINUOUS  
SUPPORT!***