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MEETING REPORT

REPORT ON THE 35TH INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON FUNCTIONAL ENDOSCOPIC SINUS SURGERY (FESS), GHENT, BELGIUM, SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2025

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Abstract: This report describes our participation in the 35th International Course on Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery, held in Ghent, Belgium. The course took place on September 10-12, 2025 and was designed to expand theoretical knowledge and enhance practical skills in surgical techniques for disorders of the paranasal sinuses and skull base, under the guidance of leading experts in otorhinolaryngology.

Keywords: paranasal sinuses, skull base, sinus surgery

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REPORT

The 35th edition of the International Course on Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery was held in Ghent, Belgium, on September 10-12, 2025. The course was organized by Ghent University under the chairmanship of Prof. Thibaut Van Zele. The primary objective of the meeting was to broaden both theoretical and practical knowledge through hands-on training on preserved specimens, with particular emphasis on endoscopic surgical techniques for diseases of the paranasal sinuses and skull base. The program consisted of six thematic modules and included lectures on the pathophysiology of paranasal sinus diseases, as well as the evaluation of surgical indications and determination of the appropriate extent of surgery. The practical component comprised demonstration dissections led by the main lecturers—Prof. Richard Harvey, Prof. Christos Georglas, and Prof. Manuel Bernal Sprekelsen—together with 18 hours of hands-on training on cadaveric specimens. Participants were able to further develop their surgical skills using modern equipment and advanced surgical instruments, including intraoperative navigation systems.

Key topics addressed during the course included:

1. The pathophysiology of chronic rhinosinusitis, available pharmacological treatment options, and indications for surgical intervention.
2. Techniques and modifications of endoscopic sinus surgery in patients with chronic rhinosinusitis, including antrostomy, ethmoidectomy, frontal sinusotomy, and sphenoidectomy.
3. Surgical options and techniques for the management of neoplastic lesions of the paranasal sinuses and skull base.
4. Analysis, guidelines, and techniques for the management of intraoperative and postoperative complications following endoscopic sinus surgery.

In the final session, the lecturers outlined potential future directions in the treatment of paranasal sinus diseases and skull base tumors.

CONCLUSIONS

Participation in the 35th International Course in Ghent constituted a highly valuable experience for physicians specializing in otorhinolaryngology. The opportunity to acquire new surgical skills under the supervision of leading international experts, as well as to exchange knowledge and engage in discussions on emerging trends in nasal and paranasal sinus surgery, was particularly beneficial. The knowledge gained during the course is expected to contribute to continued professional development and to the improvement of the quality of patient care.

AUTHORS' DECLARATION

Manuscript preparation: Maciej Fus, Aleksandra Bernat. The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.