

Second largest sport science conference lifted by Dutch win

World Cup fever infects socials at the ECSS 2014 congress in Amsterdam
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Arnold de Haan, congress president -- 'a great diversity in all aspects of life'

The World Cup contributed to the 19th annual Congress of the European College of Sport Science, ECSS Amsterdam 2014, as the Dutch beat the Costa Ricans in the quarterfinals during the closing party at Nemo, Amsterdam.

With or without football, it was the second largest congress in the history of the ECSS. With the 'sport science around the canals' theme, full use was made of Amsterdam's watery network.

With more than 2,700 participants, numbers were only beaten by Barcelona last year. In total there were 1,900 presentations and 125 contestants selected for the Young Investigators Award which was, once again, the highlight of the congress with research work presented by upcoming scientists from multidisciplinary fields.

The science was presented in the form of plenary sessions, invited sessions, oral sessions, mini-oral sessions and e-posters. In parallel to the congress programme, there were symposia and workshops as well as special interest group meetings provided for specific audiences.

During the opening ceremony, congress president Prof. Arnold de Haan addressed some of the science's particular problems: "Nowadays we are confronted by great diversity in all aspects of life and in Amsterdam we have a multi-cultural society just like in many cities and countries all around the globe," he said. "This requires specific actions to enable a peaceful, harmonious and successful society. At the same time the diversity in sports requires specific attention. Not only by having separate competitions for instance, for men and women, different age categories... There are also specific training routines needed for sportsmen at the level of individuals who all have their own properties and skills that need to be optimised for their specific competition. In addition, we need to design interventions that support the physical activity needs of all, from prevention to cure and health. Diversity and consequences for physical activity, performance, training and health is an important topic of this congress. The plenary sessions address topics such as gender, age and ability, which latter is extremely important for the Paralympic games. But also many invited sessions address health, performance, training of individual sportsmen as well as patients."

ECSS president Prof. Marco Narici concluded: "I want to congratulate the local organisers for developing such a great scientific programme. This is going to be a very interesting and exciting week of sport science."