

WORLD NEUROLOGY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 3, SEPTEMBER 2007

EDITORIAL

WFN Celebrates its Golden Jubilee

During the Annual Congress of the European Federation of Neurological Societies in Brussels, the World Federation of Neurology celebrated the completion of 50 years since its incep-

tion in that city in 1957. Some of those who had been present at its birth graced the occasion at a special half-day symposium and Presidential Reception. Among the prominent speakers were

Prominent Speakers at the Special Symposium held for WFN Celebrations



Johan Aarli



Jacques L. De Reuck



Benedetto Saraceno



Lord Walton of Detchant



Gallo Diop



Editor-in-Chief

current WFN President, Dr Johan Aarli; Dr Jacques L. De Reuck from Belgium, current President of the EFNS; and Lord Walton of Detchant, Past President of the WFN who was involved in the organization from an early stage. Lord Walton described the complete WFN history from its beginnings right up to the present time. He recounted the initial teething problems and some of the difficulties that have been faced in strengthening the WFN which started with 26

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- Calendar
- Obituary



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(**Editorial** contd from page 1)

delegates from 21 countries. It is a matter of pride that WFN has now scored a century and that its current membership strength has risen to 102 thanks to the hard work put in by the Membership Committee under the leadership of Professor Marianne de Visser. Even the Chinese Neurological Society has now joined the WFN, something which many had tried but failed to achieve in the past. This committee deserves our congratulations for their efforts.

Other speakers at the special symposium were Dr Benedetto Saraceno from Geneva, representing the World Health Organization; Dr Juan E. Mezzich, President, World Psychiatric Association; and Professor Gallo Diop from Dakar in Senegal who delivered an in depth account of the needs of African countries for neurological services which currently are greatly lacking. He is indeed a great help to the WFN Africa Project. Even though the efforts of the WFN in enhancing neurological education in African countries are only in their early stages, already they are showing good results and meetings have taken place in Boston and in August in Brussels. The WFN attaches the greatest importance to this Africa Project.

Neurologists throughout the world and in the WFN in particular, are in great



WFN Africa Project Meeting held on August 25, 2007 at Brussels



Public Relations Committee Meeting, held on August 27, 2007 at Brussels

EMG MACHINES

Bassett Hospital would like to donate two Cadwell Sierra EMG machines that are no longer in use to deserving neurologists who could use the equipment. Both machines are in excellent condition though there will be a need for some degree of maintenance, and supplies will also be required from time to time.

The older (and larger) of the two machines is about 15 years old and has an enclosed console which houses the computerized portion. The other is about 7 years old, has an attached laptop and is much more portable. Both have printers.

Other technical considerations include the standard US 120 volt lines; the need for eventual replacements for the earth, reference and active electrode wires; and disposable EMG needles.

If any reader is interested, please contact Michael Thomas Miller, M.D., (Division of Neurology, One Atwell Rd., Cooperstown, NY 13326 USA; e-mail: mtm1259@yahoo.com).

shock after learning of the sudden, tragic demise of an immensely popular colleague, the neuro-immunologist Professor John Newsom-Davis. He was an excellent teacher, a research scientist par excellence, a very good clinician and on the top of all that someone with friends in almost every country. It is a great loss to the whole global medical community that such an eminent man has lost his life in a tragic accident. On behalf of the WFN Trustees, officials and membership at large, I pray to God for peace for his departed soul and for his family to be given the strength to bear this terrible loss.

Jaqjit S. Chopra, FRCP. PhD
Editor-in-Chief

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

World Federation of Neurology is growing

"...the vibrant atmosphere of Brussels..."

(EFNS Congress Final Programme 2007)



Council of Delegates Meeting on August 26, 2007 at Brussels—Officials and Trustees

The Annual Delegates' Meeting 2007 took place in Brussels on August 26 during the EFNS congress. Brussels was chosen because it marks the 50-year anniversary of the World Federation of Neurology, "the Golden Jubilee". WFN was launched in 1957 at the International Congress of Neurological Science held there that year. Twenty-six delegates from 21 countries were present at the WFN's birth.

Since then, the organization has grown gradually and this year's meeting was attended by 52 delegates. We had the great honour to welcome the neurological societies of China, Congo, Iran, Libya, Nigeria and Senegal as new WFN members. The number of member societies is now 102, and we are grateful to the Membership Committee, under the leadership of Marianne de Visser, for their outstanding work.

The new member societies represent important groups of neurologists from different parts of the world. With the Chinese Neurological Society now aboard, World Federation of Neurology has for the first time become a true global organization.

During the work with the Neurology Atlas, it had become clear that less than 50% of the responding countries in Africa have a national neurological association. The importance of working with the African neurologists and the local health systems is critical for the roadmap for neurology in Africa which we started to prepare last year. The Membership Committee has therefore worked to establish new contacts in Africa. Congo, Nigeria and Senegal are among the major African countries, and their addition is an important step for-

ward. The Republic of Congo has a population of 4 millions and the national neurological society Aprones (*Association pour la Promotion des Neurosciences*) 18 members. The Nigerian Neurological Society alone has more than 50 members; and Nigeria has 131 million inhabitants. Société de Neurologie du Senegal has 24 neurologists and the population of Senegal is over 11 millions.

With the Libyan Neurological Society as a new WFN member, most of the Mediterranean countries are now included in the organization, representing a strong and active part of world neurology. It is also a great occasion to wish the Iranian Neurological Society welcome in the World Federation of Neurology. Iran has 20 neurologists and there were excellent scientific presentations from Iranian neurologists at the EFNS Congress in Brussels. With a population of 68 million people, epidemiological studies from Iran will be of great importance in the future.

The expansion of neurology in Africa develops from suggestions made by neurologists who actually practise in



Council of Delegates at their meeting on August 26, 2007 at Brussels

African countries. A Task and Advisory Force for Neurology in Africa (TAFNA), co-chaired by Professor Amadou Gallo Diop, Senegal and myself, is the hub for the co-ordinated WFN activities. TAFNA will advise, support, fund-raise, evaluate and accompany the WFN Africa Committee. The Africa Committee will be composed of African neurologists working and residing in the continent. A very first task for the committee is to prepare a directory of neurologists in Africa, similar to the directories of American Academy of Neurology (AAN) or the European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS). The directories are essential also for the selection of candidates for international training and for research funding. Professor

Amadou Gallo Diop from Dakar, central in so many WFN activities in Africa, has already made a wonderful job in preparing the directory of neurologists in Africa.

Educational activities are central in the WFN Programme for Africa. First, there is a need for training of more neurologists. The long term goal is that all countries on the continent train their own specialists in neurology. This is still far ahead, and a short term goal is therefore to train candidates outside the countries which today do not have training possibilities. This can be done in North-America, Europe, Australia or Japan, but international training is expensive when performed on another continent, which

may not always reflect the same disease panorama as in the countries where the neurologists will have their practice. In addition, new specialists may prefer to stay in the countries where they have qualified (brain drain). The alternative is to focus upon existing training centres on the African continent, with a higher probability that the candidates, when graduated, return to their countries of origin. It was also decided in Brussels to meet with neurology leaders from Africa to plan for the long term goal, how centres of excellence in neurology can be developed on the African continent.

Johan A. Aarli
President WFN

Short Report: Meeting of the Publications & Website Committee

Held on August 27, 2007 at Brussels

A meeting of the WFN Publications & Website Committee, chaired by Professor Piero Antuono, was held in Brussels on Monday, 27th August 2007 during the annual meeting of the European Federation of Neurological Societies.

The meeting reviewed the idea of publishing *World Neurology* in a new, tabloid version which had been the subject of ongoing discussions between the WFN and Elsevier for almost two years. Mock-ups of the new format had been produced and were circulated and it was confirmed that it could still easily be posted on the WFN website. The committee agreed to introduce the new format with effect from the March 2008 issue. A draft contract would be circulated to the committee for its consideration. It was hoped to agree a final document in the autumn.

It would not be the Editor's responsibility to produce all the material required to fill the tabloid version of the newsletter. Elsevier's new medical news service could provide some of the content. Highlights from the *Journal of the Neurological Sciences* had been included in *World Neurology* up to now and Dr Lisak thought this had been both very helpful and had publicised the journal to a wide audience. Regional Directors

too should be pressed to contribute more from now on and the number of pages could increase or decrease depending on the amount of material available.

At the time of the meeting the WFN Website had been down for about 10 days because of a problem with the server. The WFN Webmaster had wanted to change the server but Elsevier input was needed to do this. It was suggested that the best arrangement might be for the WFN to have total control of the domain name. The question of administrative support for the website was discussed and it was confirmed that the Trustees would be happy to approve appropriate support.

Dr Lisak said the current impact factor of the *Journal of the Neurological Sciences* was 2.413, the highest they had ever achieved and it now ranked 30 out of 130 neurology journals. He referred to a survey in which JNS appeared in the top 10 most useful journals. They had begun to move to an electronic system in May 2006 and had become exclusively electronic in August that year. A large number of manuscript submissions were being received and this would probably continue to increase until the end of the year.

Dr Lisak had also spoken to Dr Gallo Diop about joining the JNS Editorial Board to have an African presence there. There remained problems for those whose first language was not English and unfortunately the personnel to improve or help re-write such submitted material were just unavailable.



Publication & Website Committee Meeting, held on August 27, 2007 in Brussels

WFN Golden Jubilee Celebrations
President's Reception at Hotel Radisson, Brussels
August 27, 2007



World Federation of Neurology 1957-2007

In 1957, neuroscientists from many countries came together in Brussels on July 21 to 28 for the first Congrès International des Sciences Neurologiques (CISN). The Brussels congress was the sixth international congress of neurology. The first took place in Bern, Switzerland in 1931. Then followed London 1935, Copenhagen 1939, Paris 1949 and Lisbon 1953. The Brussels congress was not only the Sixth International Neurological Congress. It became the Fourth International Congress of Electroencephalography, the Third International Congress of Neuropathology, the First International Congress of Neurological Surgery and the fifth Reunion of the International League against Epilepsy (1).

During the preparatory meetings for the Brussels congress, Ludo van Bogaert had proposed that an international federation of neurological societies should now be organised. The idea was unanimously accepted and strongly supported and World Federation of Neurology was launched in 1957. Twenty-six delegates from 21 countries were present at the birth of the WFN. Ludo van Bogaert, who was the secretary-general of the congress, and Pearce Bailey were the prime movers. World Federation of Neurology thus grew from several international organizations. A meeting of electroencephalographers in London in 1947 had already led to the establishment of the International Federation of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology. At a conference of this group and others in Moscow in 1958 there was unanimous support for a resolution proposing the creation of an international organization representing the whole of brain research. This plan was welcomed by UNESCO, and in 1960 IBRO was established.

Ludo van Bogaert (1957-1965) was elected the first president of WFN for the first two periods. WFN was organised as a federation of neurological societies which organized international congresses, formed research groups and edited *World Neurology*, which in 1964 was renamed *The Journal of*

Neurological Sciences with Macdonald Critchley as an editor. Van Bogaert was the head of the Department of Internal medicine and Neurology at the Bunge Institute, and the Bunge Institute remained the location of the WFN during his presidency. Pearce Bailey was elected Secretary-Treasurer General.

Together with van Bogaert and Bailey, Georg Schaltenbrand (West Germany), Houston Merritt (USA), Macdonald Critchley and William McMenemy (UK) and Raymond Garcin (France) were central in the formative period of the organization. The National Institute of Health at Bethesda offered a grant of US\$ 126,190 annually for five years in order to establish an office and to cover secretarial, postal, telephone and all other administrative and travel costs (2).

The founders of WFN hoped that a world-wide federation of national neurological societies would promote the dissemination of information and scientific knowledge, that it would foster collaborative programmes and that it would enable colleagues in the third world to promote high standards of neurological care and to develop improved services (2). This later was rewritten as "It shall be the purpose of the World Federation of Neurology to improve human health worldwide by promoting prevention and the care of persons with disorders of the entire nervous system by: Fostering the best standards of neurological practice; educating, in collaboration with neuroscience and other international public and private organisations; and facilitating research through its Research Groups and other means".

During van Bogaert's presidency, it was decided that the delegates from the national neurological societies should meet towards the end of a world congress. The individual neurological societies were invited to come up with bids, and the venue for each congress was decided on the basis of the bids. A local organizing committee in the host country had then total freedom to organize the congress programme. This was

changed in 1977, when it was decided that the WFN should assume responsibility for choosing the venue for the subsequent world congresses and the programme, in collaboration with the local organizing committee. The word International was substituted by World as the name of the congresses.

Macdonald Critchley (1965-1973) succeeded van Bogaert as president, with Henry Miller as the Secretary-General. John Walton became the new editor of the *Journal of Neurological Sciences*.

Scientific Governance in the WFN had a long development. During van Bogaert's presidency, "problem commissions" had been established. These commissions were to focus on topics of special importance for clinical neurology. The National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness donated a grant of US\$ 214,108 for a commission to work on the geographical pathology on cerebral vascular disease. Other problem commissions were established for a variety of neurological conditions, and they represented the research arm of the organization. Van Bogaert eventually proposed that the problem commissions should come under the aegis of a new organization called the World Association of Neurological Commissions with some contact with the WFN. He did so because he felt that, as the funding from the NIH for the WFN had run out, perhaps an independent research organisation might be better at fundraising. However, Macdonald Critchley had strong reservations about the new structure, as he took the view that removal of its research functions would emasculate the WFN. At a separate meeting in Geneva in 1966, it was agreed that instead of leaving the World Federation of Neurology, the problem commissions, now called Research Groups, should form a Research Committee with its own Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer General under the authority of the President and the Secretary-Treasurer General of the WFN (Walton, 1993). The first Chairman was Professor Franceschetti, with David Klein as and Secretary-Treasurer

General. The idea was that each Research Group would in the future charge a subscription to the WFN. Unfortunately, fewer than half of the Research Groups ever paid their subscription.

Sigvald Refsum was elected the next President of the WFN at the World Congress of Neurology in Barcelona in 1973, and he also was re-elected for a second term four years later. In Refsum's time as President, John Walton was elected Chairman of the Research Committee. The WFN still suffered financial problems due to its insufficient income, and in 1977, a Finance Committee was established with George Bruyn as its Chairman. It was now proposed that each Research Group should attempt to raise funds for the support of their activities, of which 10 % would be paid to the WFN central funds.

For many years, the WFN Delegates at the Delegates meeting approved the programme of each World Congress before it was finalised. This became increasingly difficult with the passage of time but in both Vancouver and Buenos Aires the main themes were chosen by the delegates in consultation with the Research Committee and the local Scientific Committee. In London, one session that had been suggested by the Scientific Programme Committee was replaced by a different theme, creating a slight problem because of lack of pharmaceutical company interest in supporting it. Increasingly it had come to be recognised that the Scientific Programme Committee decided upon the topics and that the Council of Delegates could not really change them (2).

Richard Masland was elected President in 1981 during the World Congress of Neurology in Kyoto. James Toole was appointed Secretary-Treasurer General. Together, they took the initiative to publish *World Neurology*, an official newsletter of the WFN. George Bruyn, who was the Chairman of the Finance Committee, initiated an effort to improve the financial situation of WFN by establishing a sub-committee for Fund-Raising. That committee never came off the ground until 2004, in Jun

Kimura's Presidency. Meantime, the WFN World Congress of Neurology in Hamburg revitalized the Federation's funds.

John Walton was elected President in Delhi in 1989 and re-elected together with the officers of the Federation in Vancouver in 1993. He was the last President to be elected for 2 periods. It was decided by the Council of Delegates in 1995 that the President from then on would be elected for one four-year period only, and that the First Vice President should no longer be Chairman of the Research Committee. Frank Clifford Rose was the Secretary-Treasurer General. Klaus Poeck remained as the First Vice-President. James Toole was the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Neurological Sciences.

During Lord Walton's Presidency, in 1993, the World Health Organization convened an important meeting on Neurology in Public Health, where three goals were defined; (i) Neurology needs to be supported as a discipline and WHO can help in improving the position of neurology in the world; (ii) WHO can draw attention to neurological diseases; and (iii) WHO can promote a public health facet to the science of neurology.

During the period 1989-1997, several dramatic political events disturbed the world political situation; the Soviet Union broke down and a series of new countries now became members of the WFN. Previously, there had been a separate Research Group on Education, but it was decided in Vancouver to constitute a Continuing Education Committee, with Klaus Poeck as its first Chair. The Continuing Education Committee was charged with the responsibility of planning educational courses in association with future Regional and World Congresses. A new Committee on Public Relations was also established, with Don Paty as its first chair. Johan Aarli took over as Chair in 1995 because of Don Paty's illness.

In 1996, the World Federation was registered as a charity in the United Kingdom, so that its tax-exempt status was assured. The new status of WFN required constitutional changes in the

Federation's committee structure and officers. These were presented to the Council of Delegates in Buenos Aires in 1997, and the modified version was accepted (3).

James Toole was elected President at the World Congress in Buenos Aires in 1997. The members of the Management Committee were now defined as Trustees with better defined responsibilities. The Research Committee invited the Management Committee to handle executive matters on its behalf. A permanent Secretariat was now established at Chandos Street, in a building adjoining to and owned by The Medical Society of London.

The offices of the Secretary-General and Treasurer were separated and Keith Newton came in as Administrator. Jun Kimura came in as the First Vice-President. Theodore Munsat was elected Chair of the Research Committee and Robert P. Lisak the Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Neurological Sciences. Ted Munsat, who also was Chair of the WFN Continuing Education Committee, implemented international programs of continuing education, using that of the American Academy of Neurology's Continuum as a model. According to the new Constitution, it was decided that the Council of Delegates from now on should meet annually (4).

In 1999, Jagjit Chopra took over as the Editor of *World Neurology*. James Toole organized an important Strategic planning meeting with the WFN Officers at Sopwell House outside London. The group agreed on recommendations for the WFN's future mission which were presented to and agreed by the Council of Delegates.

Several initiatives were taken by the new Management Committee. For the first time, WFN endorsement was defined. "Endorsement is based on prior submission of the programme's goals, speakers and topics, and differs from co-sponsorship which requires active participation by the WFN in the meeting's planning and execution, such as occurs with the World Congress of Neurology" (5).

Toole formed a World Federation of

Neurology Foundation (WNFo) to take advantage of US tax laws to encourage charitable donations. This organization has grown over time to become an important part of WFN activities (6).

Jun Kimura was elected President at the London Congress in 2001. He was the first President elected from outside USA and Europe. During his period as First Vice President and Chair of the Constitution and Bye-Laws Committee, he put together, with legal assistance, the Constitution and Bye-Laws by which a registered charity under United Kingdom law can function as a worldwide organization. Johan Aarli was elected First Vice President and Richard Godwin-Austen continued as Secretary-General and Treasurer.

Jun Kimura modified the Committee structure and decided that each Trustee should also chair a committee. Ted Munsat, who was the chair of the Education Committee, enforced the programs of continuing education, initiated during James Toole's presidency and these developed into meaningful projects to help neurologists in developing countries despite shortage of funds.

During Kimura's Presidency, the discussion first arose whether *World Neurology* should appear only in electronic format, or continue in a paper version as it has done so far. It was decided to continue with the paper version and the electronic one.

Johan Aarli, in his capacity as Chair of the Public Relations and WHO Liaison Committee, collaborated with the Department of Mental Health at the WHO in the preparation of the *Neurology Atlas* which was first published in 2004. The Atlas presented data from 109 countries spanning all six WHO regions and covered over 90% of the world population. The frequency of some neurological disorders, both in primary care and in specialist care was estimated, and the number of neurological beds compared. The Atlas gave data for number of neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuropaediatricians and neurological nurses as well as therapeutic drugs available in primary care and the level of subspecialized neurological services (neuroradiology, stroke centres, etc).

In Kimura's administration, it was also decided that Regional Directors (formerly Regional Vice Presidents) should be

responsible for contact with the corresponding WHO office, be in close contact with the regional neurological association where it existed and that WFN should work to establish new regional neurological associations.

Johan A. Aarli was elected President of the World Federation of Neurology at the World Congress in Sydney 2005. He initiated the present Africa programme in close collaboration with the WHO.

Johan A. Aarli

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REGIONAL NEWS

The 13th Congress of the Syrian Society of Neurosciences (SSN)

6-8 September 2007, Lattakia, Syria

This congress was held in the Meridian Hotel, and was attended by about 180 participants from Syria and the neighboring Arab countries. The program included hot topics on cerebrovascular diseases, polyneuropathies, Alzheimer's disease, movement disorders, headache, and CNS infection. The last day of the congress was devoted to epilepsy and its management.

The social program included tours on the first day to Kasab, and on the second day to Slenfeh, where the marvelous green mountains extend to the Mediterranean Sea. Both were followed by a dinner, the former in the Rock

restaurant in Kasab and the latter in the View restaurant in Lattakia.

The congress was organized by the Syrian Society of Neurosciences which was established in 1993 and now has more than 300 members. The society has played an active role in the WFN CME program since 2003 and has held teaching courses bimonthly, in different subjects, in all the Syrian provinces.



Ahmad Khalifa, MD, FAAN
President of Syrian Society of Neurosciences
President Chapter of Epilepsy

First Annual Neurology Research Day, Pakistan

The Section of Neurology, Shifa College of Medicine & Shifa International Hospital proudly hosted the First Annual Neurology Research Day for Medical Students and Residents on September 1st, 2007. This activity was meant for medical students and residents in the fields of neurology, neurosurgery, radiology, rehabilitation medicine, pediatrics and psychiatry to provide them with an opportunity to showcase their original research in the form of posters or platform presentations. It is scheduled to be held every year in late summer/early fall. There were three presentations for the medical students' platform session and five presentations in the category of residents' platform presentations. Two posters were displayed by the medical students and six

posters were displayed by the residents.

There were cash prizes and awards comprised of a plaque, a certificate and 10,000.00 rupees in cash for the best presenters and the winners were: stroke awareness among at-risk patients - tertiary care experiences from Rawalpindi/Islamabad (by Yasir Mateen from Rawalpindi Medical College in the category of medical students' platform); awareness of health care professionals towards brain death, organ transplantation and euthanasia (by Dr. Hassan Ali from Shifa International Hospital in the category of residents' platform presentation); fatal primary intraventricular hemorrhage in the third trimester of pregnancy with rescue of the baby (by Dr. Shaista Tamizuddin from Shifa International Hospital in the category of residents' poster presentation); and knowledge and perceptions of physicians about early management of acute ischemic stroke (by Sidra Sheikh from Shifa College of Medicine in the category of medical students' platform presentation).

Prof. Akhtar Ahmed, one of the most eminent neurologists in Pakistan, was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his lifetime efforts in the field of neurology. He had received a gold medal at graduation, the only medal awarded in modern times, and he has remained pre-eminent throughout his academic career. Trained abroad, he nevertheless made every effort to help neurology flourish as a specialty in his own country. His efforts at that time were recognized by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan by declaring his department a Centre of Excellence. The tribute to Prof. Akhtar Ahmed was presented by Dr. Arsalan Ahmad, one of his students and now Head of the Section of Neurology at Shifa International Hospital.

This 1st Annual Research Day also marked the initiation of the Prof. Akhtar Ahmed Lectureship delivered by Dr. Muhammad Saleem Ilyas, Associate Professor of Neurology, Director of Continuing Medical Education & Continuing Professional Development, Dow University of Health Sciences, on 'Research in Neurology in Pakistan—

XVth Annual Conference of the Indian Academy of Neurology (A joint meeting with the Association of British Neurologists)

October 4-8, 2007, Mumbai, India



Inaugural Function



Prof J.S. Chopra, Editor-in-Chief, World Neurology and Founder President, Indian Academy of Neurology receiving an Award from Dr R.S. Wadia, President IAN, in recognition of his outstanding contribution and service to the Academy

how and why?' He elaborated upon basic research, applied research, steps in conducting research and in the end presented a whole new list of research areas for young and aspiring researchers.

A neurology quiz encompassing ques-

tions about neurology, history, basic and clinical neurology and cutting edge research in neurology was also conducted.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Ismail A. Khatri

CME Report from Cuba (Period 2006-07)

After my departure to Qatar for a contract in December 2005, the CME activities have been kept running smoothly and CME materials and other valuable books and journals donated by the WFN and Dr. Jock Murray have been distributed in the neurology services along the country. At this point, the cooperation of the acting head of the CME Dr. Rafael Dominguez has been crucial due to his enthusiasm and dedication. An important remark to be considered is the digitalisation and further distribution in Cuba of diverse AAN VHS kindly donated by Dr. Murray. These precious materials are: *Neurophthalmology, Neurootology, Muscle Diseases*

As there are diverse limitations to access internet and also the increasing population of neurologists and other related specialists that clearly outnumber the limited amount of CME numbers that are systematically posted by the WFN (12 copies for issue), I decided to scan and digitalise the most important CME series and burned in a CD and distributed along the island to the major neurological services, together with the VHS digitalised material. These 18 CME titles include: *Infectious Diseases, MS, Cognitive Disorders, Headaches, Muscle Disease, Stroke Management, Tropical Neurology, Neurogenetics I & II, Epilepsy*

I & II, Trauma, Neurological Complications of Substance Abuse, Critical Care Neurology, Dementia, Neurological Complications of Organ Transplant, Movement Disorders.

It is important to say that this digitalised material has been very much welcomed by colleagues who appreciate the immediateness and availability of these subjects that they can reproduce for other neurologists, neurophysiologists and neurosurgeons. For this intense and demanding activity, supporting technical devices were kindly funded by the WFN and more recently by the Canadian Neurological Society through Carrie Becker. We all recognise and appreciate this valuable support. In addition, the great volume of diverse journals and books donated by the WFN and Dr. Jock Murray have been allocated to libraries in Santiago de Cuba (Hospital Dr. Juan Bruno Zayas) and the National Institute of Neurology, which I personally carried and delivered last February, together with updated issues of the WFN's *Journal of the Neurological Sciences*. It is important to mention the enthusiasm and interest demonstrated by Dra. Gloria Lara, Vice Director of the NNI, for the appropriate reception and distribution of this material. She has performed an excellent job distributing these pre-

cious shipments to the different neurological services in Havana and throughout the country. In spite of my having been abroad for a time, CME activities have been kept running smoothly because we have a committed and enthusiastic CME acting coordinator, Dr. Dominguez, who has provided continuity for this activity. The only negative aspect is that he is not yet receiving CME materials at his current address in Santiago and there have been some delays with groups' CME reports. For further documentation of these activities, I will post to WFN headquarters in London samples of the scanned and digitalised material.

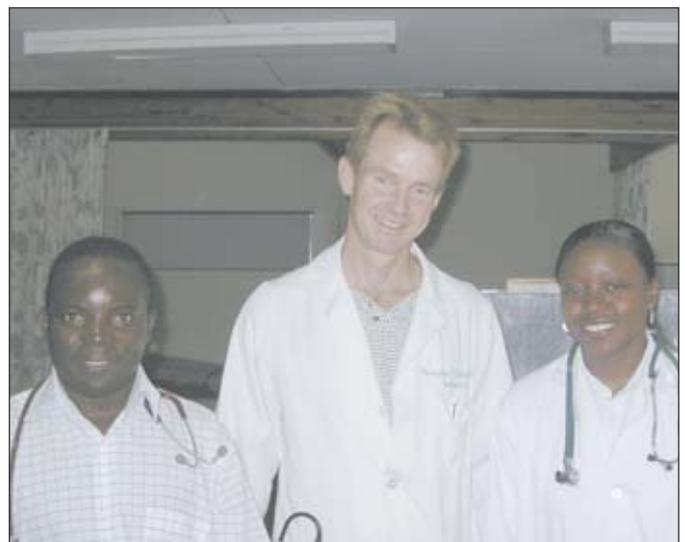
I would also like to mention the constant support from Keith Newton and Prof. Ted Munsat for this CME activity in our country.

Dr. Francisco Javier Ruiz Miyares
Hamad General Hospital
Department of Neurology
Doha, State of Qatar

Visit of Dr Doug Postels to Malawi as WFN Visiting Professor



Making Rounds in the Malaria Research Ward



Dr Postels with Dr George Chagaluka (left) and Dr Rachel Lotha (right), pediatric registrars at QECH

American Academy of Neurology Hosts Tropical Neurology program

November 1, 2007, is the deadline for submitting abstracts for the 2008 Scientific Program at the AAN 60th Annual Meeting in Chicago. The AAN Annual Meeting is one of the world's largest scientific programs in neurology with more than 1,600 scientific presentations. The AAN is encouraging submissions for the Integrated Neuroscience program on Tropical Neurology.

The abstract submission site is available from early September. Abstracts can be

submitted online by visiting the AAN website at www.aan.com. First authors may submit a maximum of two abstracts. Previously presented/published abstracts will be accepted with prior presentation disclosure.

Please note that the AAN's scientific journal *Neurology*[®] has waived the right-of-first-refusal requirement for abstract publication.

For more information, contact Erin

Jackson at ejackson@aan.com or (651) 695-2704.

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Brain Ageing and Dementia in Developing Countries

Report on the WFN-WHO-IBRO co-sponsored symposium on neurobiology of dementia: epidemiology, genetics and clinical perspectives in collaboration with the Institute for Ageing and Health, Newcastle General Hospital and Newcastle University, United Kingdom

10th - 13th April, 2007

Safari Park Hotel Conference Centre, Nairobi, Kenya



Convenors beating drums to gather all (Piero Antuono on left)

This exciting symposium, jointly endorsed by the WFN and WHO was truly a landmark event exactly 100 years after Alzheimer's description of his first case. The event in Kenya highlighted neuroprotective mechanisms in brain ageing and risk factors for dementia. It also featured several advances in epidemiological studies and developments in treatment and management of dementia. This second meeting of its kind was attended by 100 delegates from 25 countries. The symposium was convened by Profs Raj Kalaria (UK-Kenya) and Piero Antuono (WFN, USA) and the programme engaged experts

from several countries, who have wide experience in epidemiological studies as well as bearing first hand knowledge of dementia, particularly Alzheimer's disease in their own countries. However, a remarkable element of the symposium was that young investigators from Africa could be sponsored to attend it.

The symposium was invaluable and timely in that the rising ageing population worldwide even in African countries is expected to increase frequency of non-communicable diseases such as ischaemic heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, psychiatric disorders and stroke. Neurodegenerative dementias, stroke-related dementia and late-onset depression will also increase in the developing countries which are rapidly undergoing demographic transition.

The three day symposium began with

warm karibuni from Dr Sam Gatere (Emeritus Prof, Kenya) and the official launch of the Kenya Alzheimer's Association (KAA). Incumbent officers (Prof David Ndeti and Mrs Stella Gatere) of the KAA spoke about the burden of ageing and need for care even in Kenya where communicable diseases seem to take precedence. The opening session ended with a delightful talk on Art and Dementia (Angiola Fasanaro, Italy). The programme included some 70 communications on various aspects of dementia and how it impacts the developing world. Current activities of the Mental Health section of the World Health Organisation (WHO), of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) and the 10/66 study of the Alzheimer's International (UK) were reviewed. It was also a forum to tease out prevalence/incidence estimates from cross-cultural populations in developing countries and compare with those in Europe and USA (Jose Luchsinger, USA; Rob Friedland, USA; Kathleen Hall, USA; Sola Ogunnyi, Nigeria; Valery Feigin, New Zealand;). Reviews on genetics (Julie Williams; Stuart Pickering-Brown; Henry Houlden, UK) and gene-environmental interactions (Deb Lahiri, USA; Donald Lehman, UK) and influences such as physical activity, stress and diet (Elizabeta

Mukaetova-Ladinska, UK) provided further 'food for thought.' Several speakers focused on treatment (Paul Francis, UK) including herbals (Elaine Perry, UK) for stabilizing and improving treatment

and care of dementia sufferers (Akira Homma, Japan; ES Krishnamoorthy, India). Professors Sam Gatere (Kenya) and Raj Kalaria (UK-Kenya) were privileged to be interviewed about

dementia by a prominent TV station in Nairobi.

Raj Kalaria (WHO-IBRO) and Piero Antuono (WFN)

Junior Travelling Fellowship—A Report

The Junior Travelling Fellowship enabled me to attend to the 59th Annual meeting of the American Academy of Neurology in Boston, USA, from April 28th to May 5th, 2007. I was able to update my knowledge for my regular medical practice in Neurology and how this has already influenced in my daily activities, for me, my patients, the hospital and certainly the community. Your assistance has been invaluable so as to present the scientific investigation done in our institute that had a good acceptance among our different colleagues from all over the world, making good comments about them.

Dr. Pablo Bonardo
Hospital Britanico Servicio de Neurology,
Buenos Aires, Argentina

I attended the 27th International Epilepsy Congress in Suntec city Singapore between 8th-12th July 2007. It was a memorable experience for me to attend such a high profile scientific meeting that attracted participants

from all over the world; I learned many new things, made new contacts and discovered new opportunities. The programme itself was quite rich and the Congress venue was a splendid sight. I sincerely want to appreciate the WFN for the award of the travelling fellowship without which I wouldn't have been able to attend this programme.

Dr Mustapha Adekunle F.
Nigeria

As the winner of a Junior Travelling Fellowship 2007 of WFN, I had a great opportunity to attend the XIII International Headache Society Congress which was held in Stockholm, from June 28th to July 2nd. The Congress was really a great success, with more than 1500 participants from all over the world. The scientific programme was of a very high academic quality, covering basic, clinical, therapeutic and research aspects of all types of headache. The topics were very interesting, especially those dealing with neurobiology, genetics and chroni-

fication of headaches. During the conference, I presented my scientific paper entitled: "The clinical presentation and affective disorders in burning mouth syndrome" in the Poster session D2-Chronification of headaches.

I also took part in the meeting of the Subcommittee of the young Trainees and Neurologists of the International Headache Society, where we had the opportunity to discuss important topics concerning educational, research and grant possibilities and activities for young neurologists interested in the field of headaches.

I also enjoyed the social aspects of the conference and the great Swedish hospitality. I would like to express my great gratitude to the World Federation of Neurology for giving me the opportunity to attend this great Conference.

Dr Milija D. Mijajlovic
Institute of Neurology, Clinical Center of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia

CALENDAR 2007

5th Meeting of the Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology

November 2-4, 2007
Istanbul, Turkey
www.asno2007.org/

5th International Congress on Vascular Dementia

November 8-11, 2007
Budapest, Hungary
<http://www.kenes.com/vascular/>

Clinical Update: Epilepsy in Adults and Adolescents

November 9, 2007
London, UK
www.rsm.ac.uk/academ/e10-2-epilepsy.php

12th Asian-Australasian Society of Neurological Surgeons / 13th World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies Interim Meeting

November 18-21, 2007
Nagoya, Japan
www.aacns07.umin.ne.jp/

3rd International Congress on Brain & Behaviour

November 28-December 2, 2007
Thessaloniki, Greece
<http://www.psychiatry.gr/congress>

17th International Congress on Parkinson's Disease and Related Disorders

December 9-13, 2007
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.parkinson2007.de/

2008

EuroNeuro 2008

January 17-19, 2008
Maastricht, The Netherlands
www.euroneuro.eu/

3rd Biennial Conference of the International Society for Bipolar Disorders

January 27-28, 2008
Delhi, India
January 30, 2008
Agra, India
www.kenes.com/isbd/

4th Annual Update Symposium Series on Clinical Neurology and Neuphysiology

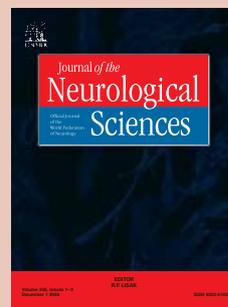
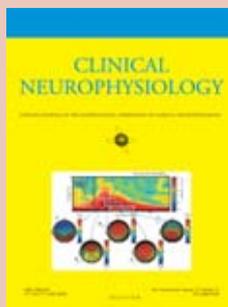
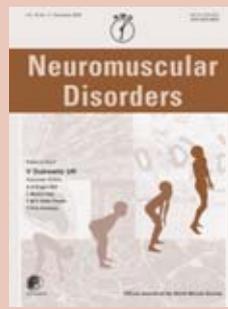
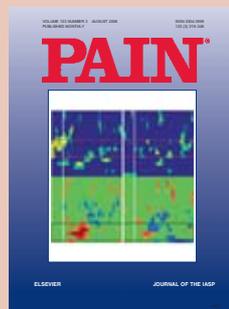
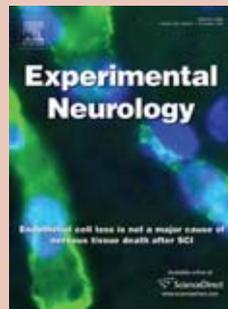
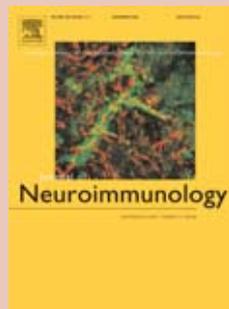
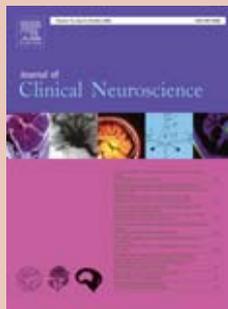
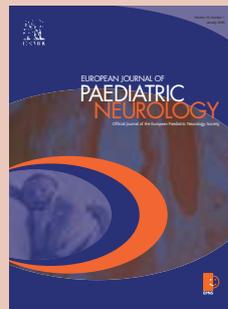
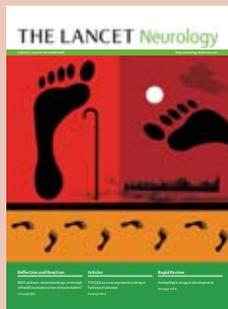
February 18-19, 2008
Tel Aviv, Israel
www.neurophysiology-symposium.com

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www.elsevier.com/clinicalneurology

Obituary

Professor John Newsom-Davis 1932-2007



John Newsom-Davis was killed in a road accident in Romania 24 August 2007. He was the leading researcher on myasthenia gravis of his generation. Although he retired in 1998, he was still active as a clinician scientist, and at the time of his premature demise, he was busy organising the huge multi-centre trial of thymectomy to decide if this operation still has a place in modern treatment of myasthenia gravis.

John Newsom Davis was born in Hertfordshire 18 October 1932. In the RAF, 1951-53, he was trained to fly Meteors and Vampires, an unusual achievement for a national serviceman. He qualified in medicine at Cambridge and the Middlesex Hospital Medical School in 1960 and trained in clinical and experimental neurology at the Institute of Neurology, Queen Square in the 1960s. He was at the Cornell Medical Center in New York 1969-70, and then joined the consultant staff at the Institute of Neurology and Royal Free Hospital, London in 1970. He became the first MRC Clinical Research Professor in 1980. In 1987, he moved to Oxford as the Chairman and Professor of Clinical Neurology. In his retirement, John Newsom-Davis served as editor of the journal *Brain* 1997-2004 and he was President of the Association of British Neurologists 1999-2000. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1961 and awarded a CBE in 1996.

John's interest in neuroscience started with electromyographic studies with Tom Sears, but he soon focused on myasthenia gravis immunology, and remained for more than 25 years the world's authority on the autoimmune pathogenesis not only of this, but also of many closely related neuromuscular diseases. When he began his studies on myasthenia gravis immunology, Lindstrom and co-workers had already demonstrated the presence of antibodies to the muscle acetylcholine receptor in their sera. John was the first to demonstrate how patients with myasthenia gravis improved after plasma exchange, and that the concentration of these antibodies fell during the treatment. Some patients with myasthenia gravis are "seronegative", i.e. such antibodies are not detectable in their sera, but these patients also improved with plasma exchange and his group subsequently went on to show that some, but not all, seronegative patients had antibodies to another protein of the motor end plate, the muscle specific kinase, the MUSK protein. The results of his research have also increased our understanding of the full spectrum of non-immune, genetically determined congenital myasthenia gravis, where the commonest mutation sites appear to be the acetylcholine receptor epsilon-subunit and rapsyn.

A major contribution was to demonstrate how plasma exchange improved the clinical weakness in Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome, indicating that this too was an autoimmune disease, and his group went on to describe autoantibodies to voltage-gated calcium channels (VGCC) in over 90% of patients, and to show how these antibodies lead to VGCC loss and impaired quantal release of transmitter. Following on from this, he then demonstrated similarly the role of antibodies to voltage-gated potassium channels in peripheral nerve hyperex-

citability including cramp-fasciculation syndrome. Further work has shown their presence also in limbic encephalitis and Morvan's syndrome, extending the field of autoimmune channelopathies. John had a special ability to attract young researchers, both clinical and basic scientists, and his group has a unique position in contemporary neuroimmunology. His laboratory became a leading centre for neuroimmunology and welcomed neurologists from all over the world.

John was an excellent lecturer and visited neurological departments worldwide. Although very busy, he always seemed relaxed, with concern for his colleagues and friends and interest in their work. He retired as a professor in 1998, transferring his energies to ABN and *Brain* and thence to the thymectomy trial, but he left in place a group that continues to provide new findings and leadership in the fields of autoimmune and genetic ion channel diseases. He will be sorely missed as a youthful and inspiring clinician and neuroscientist.

John Michael Newsom-Davis, neurologist: born Harpenden, Hertfordshire 18 October 1932; Lecturer, University Department of Clinical Neurology, National Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System 1967-69, Consultant Neurologist 1970-80; Neurological Research Fellow, Cornell Medical Center, New York Hospital 1969-70; MRC Clinical Research Professor of Neurology, Royal Free Hospital Medical School and Institute of Neurology 1980-87; Professor of Clinical Neurology, Oxford University 1987-98 (Emeritus); FRS 1991; CBE 1996; editor, *Brain* 1997-2004; married 1963 Rosemary Schmid (one son, two daughters); died Adjud, Romania 24 August 2007.

Johan A. Aarli