

**WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY
RESEARCH GROUP ON APHASIA & COGNITIVE DISORDERS
(WFN RG ACD)**

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

at our last Biennial meeting in Istanbul in May 2010 we set ourselves following objectives:

1. To provide a forum for cutting edge scientific debates and exchange of ideas
2. To raise the profile of aphasiology and cognitive/behavioural neurology world-wide
3. To encourage and nurture young talent in the field
4. To establish links with other WFN research groups
5. To provide expert guidance to clinicians

2011 has been a successful year in pursuing all five goals.

Special Issues of Behavioural Neurology

At the Istanbul meeting the editors of Behavioural Neurology kindly agreed to publish contributions from the symposia of the meeting. Two special issues of Behavioural Neurology with 15 contributions of our last meeting in Istanbul have been completed (<http://iospress.metapress.com/content/103143/>), the third one is being finalized.

Next Biennial Meeting, Hyderabad, 9-12/12/2012

As decided at our last meeting and advertised on our website, the next Biennial Meeting will take place 9-12 December 2012 in Hyderabad/India. Dr. Suvarna Alladi, the local organiser, has set up a web-page, providing up-to-date information for the meeting at: www.wfnrgacd2012.in.

We would like to invite our members to submit topics for symposia before **1 May 2012**.

Typically, the symposia last 60-90 minutes, with 3-4 speakers from different countries. The organiser(s) should provide the names of the participants, their titles and a short abstract (ca. 250 words) summarising the issues addressed by the symposium. As last time, symposia related to language and cultural aspects of cognition should be submitted to: thomas.bak@ed.ac.uk, all others to fmanes@ineco.org.ar. If you are considering a symposium but are not sure if other people might be planning a similar one too, you are welcome to contact either of us and we will try to co-ordinate the efforts. We also invite submissions for the poster session. The programme will be finalised by June 2012.

Young researchers

As at the last meeting we will have a special poster competition for young researchers. In addition, one symposium will be organised entirely by The Forum of Young Researchers (FYRE), so the submission for it should be sent directly to: marco.cavallo@unito.it. Please contact Marco also if you have any suggestions for the agenda of the FYRE meeting, which will take place during the Biennial Meeting. One of the proposals we would like to develop is a personal mentoring scheme, as kindly suggested by Audrey Holland, in which experienced members can offer their advice and support to young ones.

Uniquely at this meeting we will offer young researchers accommodation in private homes of friends and colleagues of the local organisers, which will provide not only a free accommodation, but also a unique insight into the life of our guest country. Priority for these places will be given to FYRE members presenting a talk or a poster.

Relationship with the WFN and other WFN Research Groups

As mentioned in the report for the year 2010, the WFN under the leadership of Vladimir Hachinski (and Donna Bergen as RG co-ordinator) has set out as the priorities for its Research Groups (renamed as “Applied Research Groups”): educational activities, opening of the groups to young clinicians and researchers, involvement of clinicians world-wide, collaboration between different RG’s and a stronger presence on the WFN website. All these priorities are in full synergy with our own ones, as delineated at the beginning of this report. This has been recognised by the WFN and as a proof of this recognition we have obtained a WFN grant to organise three teaching courses in cognitive neurology in 2012, as described in more detail below.

We were represented as a group with two symposia (one on aphasia, one on cognitive disorders in general) at the World Congress of Neurology in Marrakesh in November 2011. We are now in touch with the WFN to secure the inclusion of aphasiology and cognitive and behavioural neurology as symposia and teaching course topics for the next World Congress of Neurology, which will take place in Vienna in September 2013.

RG ACD Website

The WFN has rejuvenated its website and is keen for the research groups to use it as a forum to post information and to keep it updated. We very much support this initiative and have rearranged our website including in it, apart from general information, yearly reports and reports from teaching courses as well as links for future meetings:

<http://www.wfneurology.org/wfn-applied-research-groups>

Teaching Courses

In December 2010 we held our first teaching course in cognitive and behavioural neurology in Hyderabad (more details in the report on our website). The course was a great success, having been attended by 222 clinicians from all over India. Building on this event as an example of our capacity to provide high quality educational courses at relatively low costs, we have applied to the WFN for a grant to hold further courses. The application was submitted jointly with the WFN RG on Motor Neuron Disease, which committed itself to sending one of their representatives to each of the three courses. An important requirement of the application was to provide letters of support from the national neurological associations as well as from the local organisers, committing themselves to provide the necessary infrastructure for the meeting. We are very grateful for this support.

The WFN grant, which we received in spring 2011, enables us to organise three courses in 2012: in Kolkata in January (which has just taken place), in Beijing in June and in Cali (Colombia) in August. After each course we will put a report on our website. We hope that with time these courses will become increasingly financially independent and will provide a continuous, clinically relevant up-date on the developments in aphasiology and cognitive and behavioural neurology.

Thomas Bak, Chair, Facundo Manes, Co-Chair