

WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY

Research Group on the History of the Neurosciences

Annual Report 2012

Research Group Activities 2011

The Research Group on the History of the Neurosciences lost its founder and guiding light, Dr. Frank Clifford Rose, on November 1, 2012. He was a great historian, a charismatic leader and a good friend. The Research Group mourns his passage, but it is grateful for his contributions to our field.

The Research group is organizing a symposium at the 2013 World Congress of Neurology in Vienna in September. The topic is **The History of Evolutionary thinking in Neurology**. It will be published in the Research Group's official peer-reviewed journal, the *Journal of the History of the Neurosciences* (Stanley Finger, Peter J. Koehler and Malcolm MacMillan, editors). Like other activities of the Research group, the Vienna Symposium is likely to become the authoritative source on evolutionary concepts in neurology. The symposium will cover the medieval period, the Darwinian century and evolution in 20th century neurology. Contributors will present original research, though the topic will be familiar to practicing neurologists. The Symposium includes the following chapters:

- A. Karenberg (Cologne): Medieval ideas about the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system
- G. York (Davis) Darwinian and Jacksonian Evolution
- D. Steinberg (Fiddletown): Evolution in 20th century neurology

Future activities

The Research Group is planning to sponsor a symposium at each World Congress, and to publish these symposia in its official journal. The leadership aims that these symposia continue the Dr. Clifford Rose's pioneering tradition of presenting original research at the World Congress, and that the subsequent publications be the definitive history of the topic chosen.

It is worth pointing out that Thomson Reuters has released its 2011 Impact Factor data, and the *Journal of the History of the Neurosciences* has an impact factor that has gone up to 0.525. It now ranks 27th of 56 journals in the History and Philosophy of Science. The journal's 5-year impact factor is 0.592.

George K. York III, M.D.

Chair, WFN Research Group on the History of the Neurosciences

April 16, 2013