

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

Hyderabad, 13-14 December 2010

Short Report

The first teaching course of the WFN RGACD took place 13-14 December in the Nizam's Institute for Medical Sciences (NIMS) in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India. It was officially opened by Prof. M Gourie Devi, former president of the Neurological Society of India and founder of the Annals of the Indian Academy of Neurology (Pict 1).

The local organization was provided by Dr Suvarna Alladi (NIMS), with full support of the Neurology Department, NIMS, and cognitive neurologists from all over India. The faculty consisted of three international (T. Bak, S. Cappa & V. Ramachandran) and 18 Indian speakers. The programme (<http://www.wfn-teachcogn.in>) covered a wide range of topics, from aphasia and to social cognition and frontal-executive functions, with an emphasis on practical skills of cognitive assessment. Particular attention was devoted to topics of special relevance to India, such as vascular cognitive impairment (very frequent in India), multilingualism and influence of culture and education on cognitive performance.

The course was attended by 222 delegates (Pict 2): 61 neurology postgraduates, 56 trained neurologists, 39 psychiatrists, 21 speech/language therapists, 16 psychologists, 15 research associates, 7 geriatricians and general physicians and 2 neurosurgeons. They came from different regions of India, from Kerala in the South to West Bengal in the North. The talks were followed by questions and discussion. Out of 106 people who filled in the feedback form, 103 expressed the desire to attend similar courses in future. The choice of topics, faculty and organization were perceived as particular strengths.

As planned, the Teaching Course led to the creation of the Local Network of Expertise (LNE) for India, comprising of Drs Ratnavalli, Alladi, Mathuranath, Ghosh and Dutt. The LNE India will be from now on in charge of organising future teaching courses and other educational and scientific activities in India, promoting local collaboration and offering advice to neurologists in charge of cognitive clinics. The LNE will report on its activities on the biennial WFN RGACD meetings. Dr. Amitabha Ghosh has kindly agreed to organize the next teaching course in Kolkata, to take place in late 2011 or early 2012.

