

**SECOND TEACHING COURSE
OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY RESEARCH GROUP
ON APHASIA & COGNITIVE DISORDERS (WFN RG ACD)
Kolkata, 6-7 January 2012**

Short Report

After the success of the first teaching course in 2010 in Hyderabad, the Local Network of Expertise (LNE) for India was established to take the responsibility for organising further courses on a regular basis. It comprises currently of Drs Ratnavalli, Alladi, Mathuranath, Ghosh and Dutt. Dr. Ghosh agreed to organize the teaching course in Kolkata.

The organization of the second course was made possible by the WFN grant “Cognitive Clinics Worldwide”, which we gratefully acknowledge. It finances three teaching courses (India, China and Colombia), organized jointly with the WFN Research Group on ALS. When planning the course, we accommodated the comments and suggestions from the Hyderabad course. The feedback we received was very positive; however, many participants wished to have a less tight schedule, leaving more time for discussion and personal interaction with the speakers. We have incorporated this into our programme.

The course took place 6-7 January in Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kolkata. The international faculty consisted of T Bak, J Snowden, B Chakrabarti (UK), F Manes (Argentina) and A Ludolph (Germany), the president of the WFN RG ALS. The national faculty included A Dutt, A Pauranik, A Biswas, J Rajeswaran, E Ratnavalli, M Tripathi, P Mukhopadhyay, S Pal, S Khanna, SK Chengappa, S Alladi, PS Mathuranath and A Ghosh. The programme combined practical sessions on how to conduct and interpret cognitive tests with updates on the latest developments in the field of aphasias, dementias and stroke. Moreover, emphasis was put on topics of particular relevance in Indian context, such as linguistic and cultural factors and bilingualism (<http://www.wfn teachcogn.in>).

The course was attended by 221 delegates: 75 neurologists, 78 psychologists, 46 psychiatrists, 14 neuroscientists and 8 Speech and Language therapists. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive; some participants wished three-day courses in future. The meeting was preceded by a press conference on 5 January 2012 and was reported in national newspapers. It was followed by a meeting of the international faculty and LNE in Shantiniketan to discuss future courses, joint projects and test adaptations/validations.

It was decided to extend the current website informing about past and future teaching courses (<http://www.wfn teachcogn.in>) to incorporate up-to-date information about translations and validations of cognitive tests into Indian languages and cultures. Dr Ratnavalli kindly agreed to organize the next course in Bangalore in spring 2013.

