

WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY
FEDERATION MONDIALE DE NEUROLOGIE

Research Group on Neuroimaging

February 25, 2000

Theodore Munsat, M.D.
Chair, Research Committee
World Federation of Neurology
12 Chandos Street
London
W1M 9DE
United Kingdom

Report of the Research Group on Neuroimaging

Dear Dr. Munsat:

Since our May 12, 1999 report, the Research Group on Neuroimaging has led the following activities:

Research on Neurologists Perception of Endovascular Neurology

In February, 1999, the result of a prospective, randomized trial was made public indicating the benefit of endoarterial thrombolysis in a selected group of patients with acute stroke. The implications of this new approach to treating patients are far reaching. Among them, a much larger number of physicians may need to be available in the future to deliver this therapy. In some countries, neurologists are the single largest group of physicians caring for stroke patients. Together with neuroradiologists and neurosurgeons, they are by training best suited to perform endovascular procedures in the brain. If neurologists are reluctant to learn endovascular procedures, stroke patients may not have access to potentially helpful procedures.

In order to explore the perceptions of neurologists regarding endovascular neurology and the training of neurologists, a survey of academic and practicing neurologists members of the American Academy of Neurology was conducted in April of 1999. The questionnaire was answered by 98 neurologists and the results can be found on the Web, at the following address:
<http://neurology.nymc.edu/nirgwf/enovascular99.htm>

In summary, very few neurologists are currently trained to perform endovascular procedures. However, 60% of the ones who were not trained stated an interest in acquiring training in this area. The respondents felt that it was important that many neurologists be trained in endovascular procedures but were more skeptical that, once trained, neurologists would be credentialed to perform these procedures. The overwhelming majority was optimistic about the safety of intra-arterial thrombolysis for stroke.

Proposal of Neuroimaging Symposium for the 2001 Congress

Considering that some of the recent developments in neuroimaging of dementia and of movement disorders were not discussed at the Main Topics, in the summer of 1999 the Research Group submitted the following program to the Scientific Advisory Committee:

Functional Neuroimaging in Dementia and Parkinson's Disease
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Chairperson: J. Masdeu (Spain)

Vice Chairperson: M. Ichise (Canada)

Programme and Speakers

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1. | Preclinical AD: fMRI findings | C Smith (USA) | 30 minutes |
| 2. | Preclinical AD: PET findings | RS Frackowiak (UK) | 30 minutes |
| 3. | PET imaging of acetylcholinesterase | W. Jagust (USA) | 30 minutes |

TEA / COFFEE BREAK

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|----|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| 4. | 2 platform presentations | | 15 minutes each |
| 5. | Dopamine transporter imaging in PD and other movement disorders | M. Ichise (Canada) | 30 minutes |
| 6. | Etiology of PD: PET contribution | D Brooks (UK) | 30 minutes |

Unfortunately, room availability prevented the Committee from including this symposium in the final program for 2001.

Survey of Functional Neuroimaging Training Sites

In December 1999 and in collaboration with the Neuroimaging Section of the American Academy of Neurology, the Research Group undertook a survey of programs that train physicians and particularly, neurologists, in the performance of functional brain imaging. The survey instrument was posted at: http://neurology.nymc.edu/nirgwfn/functional_training.htm

Research using functional neuroimaging is providing important information not only on the normal function of the brain, but on the distribution and nature of several neurological disorders, including Alzheimer's. For this reason, the Research Group wants to facilitate training of qualified individuals in the techniques of functional neuroimaging.

Financial Statement

Dr. Kurt Jellinger continues to be the Treasurer of the Research Group. As indicated in the previous report, under the previous leadership of the Group there were no funds in the treasury. No funds have accrued, neither expenses paid since his report. The costs of putting up the Web site for the Group (<http://neurology.nymc.edu/nirgwfn/>) and of the different mailings have been born by my office. As the Group expands, we hope to have some funds available.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph C. Masdeu, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Director of Neurology and Neurosciences
University of Navarre

JCM:mt
Enclosure