

## **The World Federation of Neurology Research Group on Aphasia and Cognitive Disorders (WFN RGACD)**

The World Federation of Neurology Research Group on Aphasia and Cognitive Disorders (WFN RGACD) is a unique group of more than 150 professionals, bringing together experts in cognitive disorders from around the world. The main goal of the WFN RGACD is to promote knowledge, awareness, and understanding of cognitive neurology and to facilitate exchange of ideas among cognitive neurologists worldwide.

The 2008 meeting took place in Edinburgh and was by all accounts a success. The attendees represented many countries from around the world, as well as different disciplines, including, besides neurology, neuropsychiatry, neuropsychology, psycholinguistics, and furthermore, language and speech pathology, hence contributing to the dynamic and interdisciplinary character of contemporary aphasiology and cognitive neurology. The success of the meeting reflected the hard work on behalf of the former president of the WFN RGACD Argye Hillis and the local organizer Thomas Bak. We had very stimulating talks, followed by plenty of thought-provoking discussion. At this meeting, I was elected chair of the WFN RGACD and my colleague and friend Tom Bak was elected co-chair. We consider it a great honour to be in charge of such a distinguished group and will do our best to continue the tradition established by our predecessors. The next meeting will be in Istanbul on May 15/18, 2010. Oguz Tanridag will be directing the local arrangements. We will aim to have half of the presentations dedicated to aphasia and language research and half to other cognitive disorders, including different forms of dementia. We look forward to an excellent meeting, with the high level of congenial discussion that became the hallmark of WFN RGACD meetings.

In the next four years, we aim to promote the profile of cognitive neurology and extend our activities throughout the world, targeting, in particular, the young generation of neurologists and the developing world. An important goal will be to promote the dissemination of information on detection, treatment and management of diverse cognitive disorders in a way such that it can be useful to professionals of all regions of the world, including those who are not fluent in English. This goal will be pursued by the formulation of a series of consensus guidelines on issues of great practical relevance that will then be translated into different languages. We will also review and update the website and will continue to develop the WFN RGACD biennial meeting as a truly international congress. Our aim is to bring together the experience of the past and the energy and enthusiasm of the future. Accordingly, we are developing a Forum of Young Researchers (FYRE) and have, at the same time, invited all former presidents to form the advisory board of the WFN RGACD.

Another way for the WFN RGACD to consolidate itself and expand as an international organization is to establish a series of teaching courses in the developing world. This year our group will endorse the Cognitive Neurology meeting in Marmaris, Turkey (April 14-18, 2009), the Brazilian Symposium on Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration to be held in São Paulo, Brazil, from the 18th and 19th September, 2009 and a Cognitive Neuroscience meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Next year we are planning to organize a teaching course in Eastern Europe, immediately preceding the WFN RGACD meeting in Istanbul. In the following years we hope to extend our activities to other regions such as the Indian Subcontinent and East Asia. Readers who are interested to be informed or wish to contribute to the above initiatives are welcome to contact the WFN RGACD President, Dr Facundo Manes ([fmanes@neurologiacognitiva.org](mailto:fmanes@neurologiacognitiva.org)).

### **Chair**

**Facundo Manes M.D.**  
[fmanes@neurologiacognitiva.org](mailto:fmanes@neurologiacognitiva.org)

### **Co-Chair**

**Thomas H Bak M.D.**  
[thomas.bak@ed.ac.uk](mailto:thomas.bak@ed.ac.uk)