

World Federation of Neurology
Seminars in Clinical Neurology

NEUROLOGIC BLADDER, BOWEL
AND SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION

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Neurologic Bladder, Bowel and Sexual Dysfunction

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Editor's Preface

The mission of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN, wfneurology.org) is to develop international programs for the improvement of neurologic health with an emphasis on developing countries. A major strategic aim is to develop and promote affordable and effective continuing neurologic education for neurologists and related health care providers. With this continuing education course, the WFN launches a new effort in this direction. The WFN "*Seminars in Neurology*" uses an instructional format which has proven to be successful in controlled trials of educational techniques. Modeled after the American Academy of Neurology's highly successful *Continuum*, we use proven pedagogical techniques to enhance the effectiveness of the course. These include case-oriented information, key points, multiple choice questions, annotated references and abundant use of graphic material.

In addition, the course content has a special goal and direction. We live in an economic environment in which even the wealthiest nations have to restrict health care in one form or another. Especially hard pressed are countries where, of necessity, neurologic care is often reduced to the barest essentials or less. There is general agreement that much of this problem is a result of increasing technology. With this in mind, we have asked the author of each section to present the instructional material and patient care guidelines with a minimal use of expensive technology. Technology of unproven usefulness has not been recommended. However, at the same time, advice on patient care is given without compromising a goal of achieving the very best available care for the patient with neurologic disease. On occasion, details upon certain investigative techniques are pulled out of the main text and presented separately for those interested. Our approach should be of particular benefit to health care systems that are attempting to provide the best in neurologic care, but with limited resources.

These courses are provided to participants by a distribution process unusual for continuing education material. The WFN membership consists of 86 individual national neurologic societies. Societies which have expressed an interest in the program and agree to meet certain specific reporting requirements are provided a limited number of courses without charge. Funding for the program is provided by unrestricted educational grants. Preference is given to neurologic societies with limited resources. Each society receiving material agrees to convene a discussion group of participants at a convenient location within a few months of receiving the material. This discussion group becomes an important component of the learning experience and has proved to be highly successful.

Our first course addresses the very much neglected field of neuro-urology and neurologic bowel dysfunction, a subject which neurologists have avoided despite its importance to patients with neurologic disease. The Chairperson of this course, Professor Clare J. Fowler, a recognized international authority, has selected an outstanding faculty of experts to assist her. As this represents our first production in this series, we very much welcome your comments and advice for future courses.

— Theodore L. Munsat, M.D.
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T.L. Munsat

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