

WORLD NEUROLOGY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 1, MARCH 2004

WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY ANNUAL REPORTS— 2003

Report of the President

The end of 2003 marks the half way point for the WFN Officers who were elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in conjunction with the World Congress in London. Initially, the incumbents faced a number of challenges, which arose as a consequence of adopting the new Memorandum and Articles of Association. However, I am pleased to report that this second year went considerably smoother, and we are proud of the progress made during the past 12 months. I have asked the Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs to prepare a year-end report, detailing our accomplishments which will appear either in this or subsequent issues of *World Neurology*. As my own activities have already been described in the President Columns published in earlier issues, I will only briefly touch upon some of the major events of the year.

This year's AGM was held on July 6th in Sydney, where we also had the interim planning meeting for the 2005 World Congress of Neurology (WCN, 2005). The meeting was attended by the members of the Organizing Committee of both the Australian Association of Neurologists (AAN) and the WFN. William Carroll from Australia was re-elected as a Trustee for an additional three year term during the Council of Delegates (COD) meeting. The delegates also deliberated



on a couple of motions made by Michael Donaghy from the UK regarding the role of the Nominating Committee and the election process of the Officers and Trustees. The Mongolian Association for Neurology was accepted as the 90th member society upon the recommendation of Marianne de Visser, Chair of the Membership Committee, and the possible future enrolment of the Chinese Neurological Society was discussed. Also deliberated was the proper role of the Regional Vice Presidents as suggested by Johan Aarli, the First Vice President. And as proposed by Richard Godwin-Austen, the Secretary-Treasurer General, the concept of sponsoring regional congresses in less affluent

countries was initiated.

Preliminary interest in hosting WCN 2009 was expressed by five national societies: France, Italy, Mexico, Spain and Thailand. The delegates from some of these countries briefly addressed the COD about their intentions. Additional bids are expected from a few other countries during the next two years. We will

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Acknowledgement: *World Neurology* is published with a generous grant from the Japan Foundation for Neuroscience and Mental Health.

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- President's Column
- WFN Regional News
- WHO-ISS-WFN Project
- Book Reviews
- Calendar
- Obituaries

Visit the WFN website at <http://www.wfneurology.org>

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EDITORIAL

The March issue as usual contains the Annual Reports of the Officers, Editors and Chairmen of various WFN Committees. These reflect the ongoing activities of the WFN for all members to see the progress made in 2003. It is hoped that the new experiment of disseminating information through an e-mailed Newsletter, initiated recently by the London Office, will further strengthen communications between the parent organization, national delegates and chairpersons of the various WFN activities. A roadmap for improving the financial position of this body, by creating a Fund-raising Committee, has been drawn up and possible management of the organisation's services through the engagement of a professional company is being explored.

The grant from the Japan Foundation of Neurosciences for the publication and distribution of *World Neurology* and the expected financial support from the Netherlands Neurological Association are welcome developments that emphasize the ever-increasing profile of the Federation with regard to its international educational projects for developing countries.

The progress achieved by the Education and Research Committees continues to be remarkable. Every year brings further success and these achievements seem to be gathering momentum.

The role of the Neurological Regional Associations and of the Regional Vice Presidents is being freshly defined with a view to improving overall progress towards attaining our aims and objectives. There is scope for changing the nomenclature of Regional Vice Presidents—to Regional Directors—and this will further strengthen the position of the WFN in various parts of the world.

Membership categories and annual dues from each affiliated country have long been problematic issues. How to enroll more countries of the world in the fold of the WFN is a matter of great concern. Differential payment of dues from high-income countries and developing countries has been under serious consideration, although no final decision has been taken. Good judgment prevailed during the Council of Delegates meeting in Sydney in July 2003, that WFN should be 'inclusive' and not 'exclusive' in its zeal

for enrolment of more countries as members. Membership of the largest populated nation on earth remains elusive. Efforts continue, however, to enlist the People's Republic of China in the WFN family.

A report on the joint WFN/WHO/International Stroke Society project appears in this issue. Stroke is recognized by everyone as a major public health problem. Strong efforts are needed by these bodies for the prevention of this disorder particularly in the developing countries. Changes in lifestyle, prohibition of tobacco consumption, public education to help control hypertension and diabetes are some of the simple measures that can have universal effect in lowering the incidence of stroke. Good stroke data from all countries of the world are essential as a basis for preventative measures which, if successful, can impact significantly on government spending on the treatment and rehabilitation of stroke patients. It is hoped that the joint efforts of the WFN, WHO and the ISS will ultimately succeed in lowering the incidence of morbidity and mortality in stroke.

The recent demise of three stalwarts of the neurosciences is a great loss to the community. Richard L. Masland was a past President of the World Federation of Neurology; a great clinician, researcher and a teacher in neurology. He was WFN President when I organized the XIVth World Congress of Neurology at Delhi in 1989. His contribution culminated in the success of that congress and he became a good friend in the subsequent years. Nobody can forget the contributions made by Melvin F. Yahr, particularly in the management of patients suffering from Parkinsonism. WFN duly honoured him at the World Congress in 2001, by establishing a named lecture in his honour, and this will continue at future con-

gresses. Dr. B. Ramamurthy was a doyen in neurosciences who became very popular nationally and internationally. He was instrumental in establishing the Neurological Society of India in 1951—an organization of neurologists, neurosurgeons and allied specialists of India. He was an institution in himself apart from being an excellent neurosurgeon and neuroscientist. The World Federation of Neurology mourns the demise of these neuroscientists who have left a mark in this world.

Koreans have cloned a human embryo to produce master stem cells, a development which has revived controversy about this subject. The latest news is that the Canadian Parliament has followed in the footsteps of the US and passed a bill to ban human cloning. The Canadians, however, have not banned research on stem cells from embryos, which may be vital in discovering a future cure for neurodegenerative diseases: this will be permitted with official authorization. A governmental committee in Japan has given the go-ahead to research scientists at Kyoto University to make limited use of embryonic stem cells. The recent legislation and developments in the utility of embryonic stem cells for research are to be welcomed; however, the cloning of a human being would be a sin and should never be encouraged. Let us protect humans from sufferings but not create humans in laboratories to suffer.



Jagjit S. Chopra, FRCP, PhD
Editor-in-Chief

GLAXOSMITHKLINE JUNIOR TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIPS—2004

GlaxoSmithKline are again generously providing funding for a number of Junior Travelling Fellowships for young neurologists from developing countries to travel to a WFN approved meeting in 2004 or early in 2005. Applicants should hold a post not above that of Associate Professor and should not be over the age of 42 years. Applications should include the name and dates of the proposed meeting to be attended, a statement of purpose and need, a CV and bibliography and a letter of recommendation from the Head of the applicant's department. If a paper or poster is to be presented the applicant should include an abstract. An estimate of expenses, to a maximum of £1,000, should be made. Applications should be sent to the WFN office by 17th May 2004. Awards will be announced in mid-June.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

In my annual report I stated that the stage is firmly set to initiate some new programs of the WFN based on the success of many ongoing projects. In order to do so, we must first establish a better link between the Secretariat in London and national member societies as well as individual neurologists. Second, we must improve our fiscal basis so that we become financially capable of supporting our expanding projects. I would like to take this opportunity to describe our ongoing effort and future plans on these two fronts.

Regarding the first aspect of a closer informational link, the Publications and Website Committee chaired by Francois Boller, with the aid of Keith Newton and Susan Bilger from the London office, is currently undertaking an important step in creating an electronic database of individual neurologists in each member society. This ambitious yet critical plan will require a large amount of work not only from the WFN administration but, more importantly, also from all member societies. We will need to generate interest and excitement from all concerned, and we ask for your assistance in this regard to facilitate the timely completion of this project, which I consider to be a top priority.

While waiting for this electronic network to develop to our satisfaction, we have also initiated another measure of disseminating WFN information in the form of newsletters. These periodicals, written by Keith Newton, summarize the minutes of the Trustees' monthly telephone conference, outlining the ongoing activities of the WFN. The newsletters are sent to the Delegates of all national member societies as well as the chairpersons of all WFN committees and are also announced in *World Neurology* and on the WFN website. I hope this new venture will promote a closer interaction and more useful dialogue between national associations and the Trustees. We will initially publish the newsletter every 3 to 4 months in the hope that interested parties receive the most current news from WFN without much delay.

As for the second point of improving the fiscal basis, we are currently exploring various avenues for more active fund-raising, and we hope to attract charitable donations in support of our efforts. In this regard, the World Neurology Foundation,



A group photo from the Jeddah meeting

initiated by the immediate past President, Jim Toole, has recently elected Dr. Antonio Culebras as the new director to continue with funding efforts in the USA. In addition, the Trustees have decided to form a Fund-raising Committee under the direction of Dr. Julien Bogousslavsky with the mandate that it coordinates all WFN related activities to maintain a united front for our endeavor. This committee should function as the command center to set up the strategies and to help achieve the most efficient execution of various projects. The committee is scheduled to have its first meeting in San Francisco during the AAN convention toward the end of April, 2004.

On a related matter, I am happy to report that Marianne de Visser, an elected Trustee, has persuaded the Netherlands Neurological Association to provide the WFN with a substantial three-year grant to support our educational activities. We are truly grateful for their goodwill and generosity, and hope that other member societies will recognize the need to support our cause so that we may realize our hopes and dreams to relieve the neurological burden, especially in developing countries. Carrie A. Becker, our fundraiser for WFN educational activities, is now preparing the first Development Update column with a list of contributors for publication in *World Neurology*. We also plan to send formal letters of request to national societies in this regard as part of our fund-raising efforts.

We hope that the initiative will eventually pay dividends in increasing donation revenues to a significant level. We can then promote the care of patients with neurological disorders through effective education of clinical neurologists on a global scale.

During this interim, I represented the WFN at the 12th Annual Saudi Neuroscience Symposium, which took place in Jeddha from January 10 to 14 in conjunction with the 4th Annual Meeting of the Saudi Chapter of Epilepsy and 2nd Annual Jeddah Neuroscience update. The program consisted of an appropriate mixture of teaching sessions, workshops and platform presentations on recent developments in clinical and basic neurology. I wish to congratulate Dr. Abdelhakim Shawki and the members of the Organizing Committee for a job well done in bringing together the various fields of neurology to promote better patient care. I strongly believe that regional meetings play a vital role in keeping individual neurologists informed of current progress in neurosciences as part of their continuing medical education. This is particularly true in a national or regional congress, which attracts many physicians of varied backgrounds, as was the case in this Saudi meeting.

Jun Kimura, MD
President, WFN

(WFN Annual Reports cont. from page 1)

arrange a formal presentation from each candidate society at the time of the AGM to be held during the WCN 2005 in Sydney. The COD will then be asked to select the host society by a majority vote. The WFN Trustees have determined, as proposed by Francois Boller, the Chair of the Publications Committee, and Keith Newton, the Administrator, that in order for countries to qualify as possible contenders, they will be required to: 1) place a full-page, paid announcement in at least one issue of *World Neurology*, 2) place a paid announcement on the WFN website and 3) book a paid exhibition stand to promote their bid at the World Congress in Sydney. Emphasis should be placed on each country's proposed scientific program, organizational plan and estimated cost for registration and lodging rather than the tourism aspect of the country.

Various WFN committees worked hard to achieve improved world recognition of the role of neurologists in treating neurological disorders. As the Chair of the Public Relations Committee and liaison with WHO, First Vice President Aarli has made a concerted effort to improve our overall tactics for facilitating patient access to neurologists in less affluent countries. As part of our global campaign, the Stroke Committee, chaired by Julien Bogousslavsky, spearheaded a project to collect available population-based stroke data. The project was implemented in conjunction with the World Health Organization and the International Stroke Society, and will be renewed for 2004, again funded in part by WFN.

The Research Committee, under the direction of Roger Rosenberg, successfully launched a new initiative on the internet to review recent advances in therapeutic regimens in each discipline represented by some 30 research groups on the WFN site (www.wfneurology.org). In addition, the Trustees have agreed to his proposal to invite the Affiliate Members of the WFN to join the Committee's deliberations, not as observers, but as active members, beginning in April 2004 at the time of the American Academy of Neurology in San Francisco. The Education Committee, with Ted Munsat as Chair, continued to implement an increasing number of training programs on a global scale. These include: CME programs in 30 countries based on distribution of copies of *Continuum* generous-

ly donated by the American Academy of Neurology; an educational program in Zambia under the direction of Dr. Gretchen Birbeck; the Honduras neurology training program conducted by Dr. Marco Medina; and the more recently initiated book sharing program.

Major progress has been made through the tireless efforts of all concerned. Based on the warm reception and enthusiasm for our ongoing projects, I believe the stage is firmly set to initiate some new programs.



Jun Kimura
President, WFN

Report of the First Vice President and Chairman of the Public Relations and WHO Liaison Committee

One important task for the Public Relations and WHO Liaison Committee, of which I am the Chair, is to work toward an improved co-operation with WHO within the context of global health issues as identified by WHO i.e. to formulate, as part of clinical neurology, appropriate strategies for the prevention and control of non-communicable and communicable neurological diseases.

Our relationship with WHO is good and we have now a very active co-operation on the Atlas project. We have had some difficulties in obtaining information about neurology resources from a few member countries, but the main problem has been to have information about how neurological disorders are taken care of in countries where neurology is almost non-existent. Aleksandar Janca at WHO is now preparing a review of these data for publication. The WHO Mental Health Global Action Programme (mhGAP) is based upon the Mental Health report. It aims to provide a clear and coherent strategy for closing the gap between what is urgently needed, and what is currently available. WHO has put par-

ticular emphasis on education and training of primary care and other health workers in developing countries. WHO wants a bank of existing educational programmes in these areas including detailed specifications of already available simple teaching and training manuals, which may be included in the mhGAP in the immediate future.

The mhGAP is a 5-year initiative focusing on strategic partnerships. It will increase governments' awareness and responsiveness to mental health issues. The only neurological disorders that are specifically mentioned in the programme are dementia and epilepsy. It opens for the launching of specific collaborative projects and it was pointed out that also stroke and other cerebrovascular disorders, headache and other pain syndromes, and head injuries should be considered for inclusion in the GAP initiatives.

In WHO terms, neurology is part of mental health, and WHO has placed mental health and substance abuse as a top priority for its global strategy to improve health. The Concept Paper on the Global Council for Mental Health contains for example the following paragraph "mental problems such as mental retardation, stroke, epilepsy, suicide, and alcohol and substance abuse disorders". Stroke is a major health problem, also in the developing countries, and neurology and cardiology will have to co-operate on stroke within the WHO system. Julien Bogousslavsky is organising the WFN stroke initiative, which you will have seen in *Lancet Neurology*.

We are supporting the tobacco initiative, as well as the campaign taken by the new Director-General, Mr. Jong-Wok Lee, in vaccinating 175 million children against poliomyelitis in India, Nigeria, Pakistan and Egypt, while we at the same time point out that there are still millions of patients with sequels after polio and that polio rehabilitation is a great problem in developing countries.

The new Secretary-General, Mr. Lee, has written a brief editorial in *Lancet Neurology*, July 1. Here, he predicted that he would give clearer visibility to the neurological disorders and neurosciences component in the Department of Mental Health and Substance Dependence.

Neurological Regional Associations and Regional Vice Presidents

It is also the function of the committee to enlist the support of each professional neurological association in initiating and assisting in the identification of areas where there exists a need for campaigns aimed at the prevention of neurological disease, and to approach neurological associations at all levels to provide information on neurological disorders in their region. A closer contact between WFN and the neurological regions is clearly needed.

At the Annual Delegate Meeting in London 2001, five Regional Vice Presidents were elected, representing Africa, America, the Arab World, the Asian-Oceanian region and Europe. Their role was not defined except from being on the Editorial Advisory Board of *World Neurology* under the editorship of Jagjit Chopra. Here, they will inform the Editor on regional news, activities and matters of interest within their region.

We have discussed how the Regional Vice Presidents can be better integrated in the structure and function of the World Federation of Neurology and how this can be adapted into the current constitution. We believe that in view of the current situation and complexity, six regions - Africa, Latin America, North America, the Arab region, the Asian-Oceanian region and Europe - reflect the impact and strength of neurology on a global basis. Most regions have developed strong regional neurological associations. These organisations will have a greater influence if they nominate the candidates for the positions as Regional Directors (formerly known as Regional Vice Presidents).

The Council of Delegates should therefore appoint the Regional Directors after nomination by regional neurological associations. Only if no such organisation exists should the Trustees nominate candidates. Regional Directors are not Trustees, but serve as mediators between the regional organisations and the Trustees. In this way, we will upgrade the role of Regional Director from a ceremonial to a practical one so that they can contribute more effectively as a liaison from the respective region. The Regional Directors will be responsible for liaising with the WHO Regional Office. WHO has regional offices for Africa (Congo), the Americas (Washington), Europe

(Copenhagen), the Eastern Mediterranean (Cairo) and the Western Pacific (Manila). The Regional Directors should be responsible for contact with the corresponding WHO office in order to: collaborate with the regional levels of WHO; assist in the identification of areas where there exists a need for campaigns aimed at the prevention of neurological disease.

The Regional Directors will also have a central role in organising WFN regional congresses. Dr. Richard Godwin-Austen presented this new concept at the Council of Delegates meeting in Sydney. The regional congresses will take place in the intervening years between the World Congresses of Neurology at four-years intervals and will come in addition to the traditional regional congresses such as Pan-American, Asian Oceanic, Pan Arab, etc., which WFN already supports. The scientific program at regional congresses should reflect topics of special concern to that particular area, and WFN wishes to help, when wanted, with planning or executing the various steps necessary to organize an international, regional, or local meeting.

In 2007, the World Federation of Neurology will be 50 years old. That will also be the year for the first WFN regional congress. As one of the aims established by the founding fathers of the WFN in Brussels in 1957 was to promote standards of neurological care in developing countries, what could be more appropriate than for the first WFN regional congress to be held in a country in transition?



Johan A. Aarli
Norway

Report of the Secretary-Treasurer General

During the course of the year, we encountered a major difficulty when it emerged that the person responsible for preparing our accounts for 2002 had left the employment of our auditors but had not made the July date of our Annual

General Meeting (AGM) clear to his colleagues. As a consequence, little work had been done and there was much frenzied activity at the eleventh hour in an attempt to produce a set of figures for consideration by the Council of Delegates. Unsurprisingly then, many items seemed unsatisfactory and needed much more detailed explanation, while others did not appear to correspond with previous years. In short, referral back to the accountants for a line by line scrutiny was clearly necessary. Despite these draft accounts being neither sufficiently detailed nor sufficiently comprehensive, the Delegates did give them their provisional approval subject to certain provisos. It was agreed that all member countries, whether present at the AGM or not, would receive the final accounts as soon as they were available.

Although our auditors had served WFN well in the past, the situation in which the Federation was placed during 2003 was very serious and the Delegates gave the Trustees authority to appoint a different firm if they so decided. This has now been done.

Consideration has been given to the difficult issue of membership categories and annual dues, and in particular whether countries should be categorized in line with their ability to pay. There is broad agreement that a country should have no right to vote at the Council of Delegates unless it has paid its dues, and it is also accepted that countries in the High Income category (as defined by WHO) must pay the correct amount. For Middle and Low Income category countries, it is proposed that the WFN ask how many neurologists the national society intends paying for and, if necessary, challenge any figure quoted that seems questionable.

The WFN unfortunately remains overly reliant on the profits that are (hopefully) generated from the quadrennial World Congress, and there is a clear need to raise funds from other sources. A Fund-raising Committee has therefore been formed under the Chairmanship of Dr Julien Bogousslavsky. Part of its remit will be to co-ordinate central fund-raising activities with those that have already been initiated by the World Neurology Foundation in the USA or been started to support Education Committee projects. An example is the pilot Direct Mail Campaign, aimed at neurologists in the United States initially, that the Education

Committee Chairman has launched to raise support for WFN educational programmes in countries of the developing world.

In recognition of the excellent work that CME Coordinators are doing to organize the WFN CME Study Group Programme in their countries, they are now entitled to claim reimbursement of any expenses they have incurred.

Loans to Research Groups to finance meetings are made in exchange for a percentage share of any profits realized in proportion to the amount advanced, the loan itself being repayable within 3 months of the meeting. In contrast, we have had to date no explicit policy on grant applications or systematic procedure for handling them. Requests have simply been considered by the Trustees as received on an *ad hoc* basis. The Trustees thought that far better would be to have a set of clear cut rules, together with prioritization of applications and proper budgeting in advance. Meetings would continue to be financed through the aforementioned loan arrangements but grants would be available for other purposes. The Education Committee will be asked to define the type of grants that would be appropriate; to determine eligibility criteria; and to give initial scrutiny to most applications prior to assessment by the Trustees. A small sum is being budgeted initially on a trial basis.

I visited Madrid to meet with the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Dr Alberto Portera-Sanchez, and the Committee Secretary, Dr Mark Hallett. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a number of proposals that had been put forward by Finance Committee members for consideration by WFN Trustees. To encourage the obvious enthusiasm of the Finance Committee, which functions as an advisory body, the Trustees intend to refer any 'major' items of expenditure arising from their policy decisions to the committee for their review and, hopefully, approval. Any concerns that the Finance Committee may have will be conveyed to the Trustees who may accept them or choose not to on the understanding that responsibility for the decision is then theirs. One recommendation we considered in Madrid was that the share of profits taken by the WFN from the proceeds of a World Congress should be increased from 50% to 75%. We doubted whether this would be acceptable to prospective host coun-

tries as the organization of a WCN requires a major effort on the part of the national society concerned. Profit-sharing between the WFN and Research Groups with respect to RG meetings was another suggestion that we thought likely to be problematic to implement.

The President was personally successful in obtaining a substantial grant from the Japan Foundation for Neuroscience and Mental Health to finance the production of *World Neurology* and any related expenses. We are extremely grateful for this generous contribution. The Dutch Neurological Society (Nederlandse Vereniging voor Neurologie) has also indicated its intention to make a donation to aid one of the Federation's educational programmes. This is a most welcome development and we dare to hope that other national societies will see fit to follow suit in areas of particular interest to them.

There were 36 applications this year for the GlaxoSmithKline Junior Travelling Fellowships, a far greater number than in previous years. We are extremely happy to acknowledge GSK's generosity in supporting, through this scheme, promising young neurologists from countries with limited resources who wish to travel to international meetings to further their expertise.

The assets of the company continue to be sound as the reserves policy of investing £1,000,000 in bonds is maintained.



R B Godwin-Austen, MD, FRCP
Secretary-Treasurer General

Report of the Chairman of the Research Committee

The Research Committee, composed of 28 research groups comprising the major fields of clinical neurology, has had a productive and innovative year of development. A major initiative was the development of a new Research Committee

Web Site, "Research Advances in Neurology" which has now developed into an electronic syllabus emphasizing "New and Emerging Neuro-Therapeutics: Results of Basic and Clinical Research". Fifteen Research Groups have submitted comprehensive and detailed electronic contributions that now comprise our electronic syllabus. Neurologists everywhere can obtain from the WFN Web Site our Research Committee's "Research Advances in Neurology" and read new and important therapeutic advances in neurology. The electronic syllabus will provide educational information to neurologists in developing countries, where it can be obtained through the internet in an efficient and immediate form at no cost.

The Research Committee met in Honolulu, Hawaii, in April 2003, and reviewed the Scientific Program and plans for the World Congress of Neurology 2005 which will be held in Sydney, Australia, November 5-12, 2005. Sam Berkovic, MD, Chair, Scientific Program Committee for the WCN 2005 was present to discuss the program and to review the overall Congress. The Research Committee will again meet with Dr. Berkovic in April 2004 in San Francisco where he will be able to present the Scientific Program of the WCN 2005 in final form and provide information concerning the didactic courses and the invited speakers for the special named lectures.

The Research Group on Neuromuscular Diseases led by Professor Art Asbury of the University of Pennsylvania, sponsored and produced a highly successful 10th International Congress on Neuromuscular Diseases in July 2002 in Vancouver, BC, Canada. The Neurotoxicology Research Group has been reorganized under the leadership of Leon D. Prockop, MD, Professor of Neurology at the University of South Florida. They are developing a comprehensive educational initiative directed at providing neurologists with the latest information concerning the potential adverse effects of industrial, environmental pollutants and agents of abuse on the nervous system.

The Research Group on the History of Neurology is being reorganized by Dr. Christopher Gardner-Thorpe of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, UK and plans an active program with the WFN and the European Federation of Neurological Societies. The Clifford Rose

Lecture at the EFNS has been established in recognition of Dr. Rose's many contributions in this area. The Research Group of Space and Underwater Neurology maintains an active educational program directed by Professor Franz Gerstenbrand of Vienna, Austria. He and his colleagues continue to sponsor educational programs at neurological meetings in Europe. The Research Group on Neuroethics, chaired by Professor Franz Gerstenbrand of Vienna, Austria, is working to diversify the definition used for neuroethics to include Buddhist, Islamic and Confucian concepts. Representatives from Africa are being included in discussions of the Neuroethics Group. The Research Group on Neuroethics has been able to finish an important consensus paper "Minimal Standards for Brain Death Diagnosis". An important editorial on this subject "Diagnosing Brain Death without a Neurologist: Simple Criteria and Training for the Non-Neurologist in Many Countries" was published by Holger Baumgartner, MD and Franz Gerstenbrand, M.D. in the British Medical Journal, 2002;324:1471-1472.

The Research Group on Dementia, chaired by Professor Peter J. Whitehouse of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, USA, has been active in developing a publication initiative to bring new and emerging research achievements into publication in an expeditious manner. He and his colleagues have been active in assisting the organization of international meetings and the group was an official sponsor of the 3rd International Pharmacoeconomics Conference in Stockholm held in July 2003. Dr. Whitehouse and his research group were also co-sponsors of the International Working Group for the Harmonization of Dementia Drug Guidelines at the 2nd Regional Pacific-Asian Meeting held in Beijing, China in November 2003. The Research Group on Multiple Sclerosis, chaired by Professor Jurg Kesselring of Switzerland, has implemented the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF) which is educating neurologists through their website, www.msif.org, providing information on clinical trials, treatments, symptoms, and other medical and scientific data for neurologists concerned about multiple sclerosis. This web site includes a searchable research database consisting of all peer reviewed MS related articles published since November 2001.

The Research Group on Neuropathology Chaired by Professor Stephan Patt of the University of Jena, Germany, participated actively in the XVth International Congress on Neuropathology in Turin, Italy in September 2003. Professor A. Taratuto retired as Secretary of the Research Group and Professor M.T. Giordana was elected.

The Research Committee has had significant input into the scientific program of the WCN 2005 and we believe that Dr. Berkovic and his colleagues have developed an outstanding scientific program representing all of the important disciplines in clinical neurology and the significant emerging areas in basic neuroscience of direct interest to neurologists.



Roger N. Rosenberg, MD
Chair, Research Committee WFN

Report of the Education Committee

During 2003, the WFN Education Committee has been active in establishing and enlarging new and existing programs. The CME Program and the Zambia project continue to expand and develop, while the fifth neurologist has graduated from the Honduras Neurology Training Program. The first grants have been awarded under the Neurology Training Program, and a pilot trial is running of the WFN's new Book Program. Funding efforts also continue and have secured program support from three separate sources.

WFN CME Program: The CME Program has continued to mature and expand during 2003, and now comprises 30 countries, with Venezuela, under the coordination of Dr Simon Starosta, being the most recent member. The latest mailing of *Continuum* took place in mid-January of the titles "Ethical Issues in Neurology", "Peripheral Neuropathy", and "Neuro-ophthalmology Update". Over 800 certificates of participation were awarded in 2003, an increase of over 100 per cent compared to 2002. From the

feedback that members regularly provide, they remain very satisfied with *Continuum*, and members are becoming adept at adapting this US-focused publication to their national neurological situation.

The success of the program has created its own problems however, and expansion goes hand in hand with an increased demand for *Continuum*. The American Academy of Neurology unfortunately did not feel it could agree to the WFN's request in October 2003 for an increase in copies from 200 to 300 per title. Therefore, in December 2003, the WFN's Executive Committee agreed that a proposal be made to Dr Mark Hallett, Chairman of the AAN's Publications Committee, for the print run to be increased by 200 copies per title at the WFN's expense, subject to cost agreement. In addition, the WFN President, Dr Jun Kimura, and Dr Theodore Munsat, Chair of the WFN Education Committee, have also submitted to Dr Hallett the request that electronic distribution of *Continuum* to neurologists in developing countries, should be discussed at the forthcoming AAN conference in San Francisco in April 2004.

WFN Educational Program in Zambia:

This program, under the direction of Dr Gretchen Birbeck, continues to expand and is making excellent progress. Many clinicians have shown an interest in applying for visiting professorships, and there have been regular appointments. The next Visiting Professor will be Joseph H. Friedman, Chief, Division of Neurology, Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island and Adjunct Professor in the School of Pharmacy, University of Rhode Island, U.S.A., who will be leaving for Zambia in April 2004. In time, it is hoped to develop a neurology training program in Zambia similar to that in Honduras.

Honduras Neurology Training Program:

The 2002 Report stated that the first four neurologists had graduated under this program. Now, under the visionary leadership of Professor Marco Medina, the Honduras Neurology Training Program has just graduated its fifth neurologist. Having already been evaluated by the Board of the training program, Dr. Amilcar Zelaya was independently interviewed and assessed on 29 November 2003, by Victor M. Rivera, Professor of Neurology at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, and former examiner of the American Board of

WFN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

We would like to graciously acknowledge the following supporters who have provided financial assistance to the WFN between September 2003 and February 2004.

Dr Ansar H. Ahmed
 Dr Walter C. Allan
 Dr Randall J. Bjork,
 in memory of Norman E. Bjork
 Dr Peter Bridgman
 Dr Alan Carver
 in memory of Dr Robert Feldman
 Dr Edward J. O'Connor
 Dr Keith A. Sanders
 Dr S.H. Subramony
 Dr Frank M. Yatsu,
 in memory of Lady Walton of Detchant

Dr Edgardo G. Alicaway
 Dr Rukmaiah Bhupalam
 Dr Deborah Black

Dr Robert B. Daroff
 Dr Richard T. Johnson

Dr Nalini Prasad
 Dr Harold R. Smith
 Dr Vijay M. Thadani

The Alan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust
 The Japan Foundation for Neuroscience and Mental Health
 The Dutch Neurological Society

Individuals, organizations, and corporations interested in partnering with the WFN to promote neurological care in developing countries can learn about our current funding needs by contacting WFN Development Associate Carrie Becker at cbeckervt@yahoo.com or +1(802)483-2806

Neurology and Mexican Council. During his neurological residency training, Dr Zelaya gained wide neurological experience in neuro-imaging and neurophysiology, complex epilepsy and sophisticated EEG techniques. In addition, he has carried out a neuro-epidemiological study on the incidence and prevalence of stroke in the Tegucigalpa community, and presented the results at the IX Postgraduate Congress of the Autonomous National University of Honduras. Following graduation, Dr. Zelaya has chosen to practice in La Ceiba, the third largest city in Honduras, where there has been no established neurologist to date. The four previous graduates of the program continue their work. Dr Heike Hesse and Dr Lazaro Molina are helping with the Neurology Training Program, Dr Reyna Duron is undergoing post-doctoral training at UCLA on the genetics of the epilepsies, and Dr Humberto Su continues his fellowship under the supervision of Professor Vladimir Hachinski in Canada. There are eight further clinicians currently in training under the program.

WFN Book Sharing Program: This is a new WFN initiative that aims to assist neurologic departments and neurologists in acquiring useful medical books by linking potential donors in well resourced countries, with needy recipients in less wealthy areas of the world. Moreover, Diana Schneider, President of Demos Medical Publishing, reported that many book publishers actually destroy extra

copies of books that are not useful and these might be made available to the WFN. All donations must be recent and not outdated. A pilot program is underway. WFN members have been circulated with details of the program and a request that they participate as donors, and although response has been slow, nearly all of the 13 recipient neurological societies in the pilot program now have a donor. Publishers have also been contacted, and offers of books are forthcoming from publishers including Cambridge University Press, Elsevier, and Oxford University Press. A very generous donation has already been made by Diana Schneider herself, and these books were distributed among the 13 recipients, in January 2004.

WFN Aid For Training Programs: Following the WFN Trustees' approval in 2002 of a modest grant program for neurology training programs in poorly resourced countries, announcements were placed in *World Neurology* and on the WFN website. Following consideration by a specially appointed sub-committee of the Education Committee, the Trustees agreed that all countries that applied should receive a grant of £5,000 each for between one to three years, to initiate a training program with the goal of producing clinical neurologists of the highest calibre. Annual reports will be required.

External Funding for Educational Programs: The Education Committee

acknowledges the significant role of fundraising efforts in the continuing development of the WFN's education programs. In 2003 a total of \$65,800 were secured as program support from three separate sources, including UK-based trusts (\$15,500), international neurological activities (\$47,700) and individual neurologists (\$2,615). Identification of, and communication with, UK-based family trusts and foundations has been established. In 2004, funding efforts will include nurturing established relationships with committed funders, developing new funding partnerships with corporate donors and small foundations, and expanding the database of individual neurologists committed to program support.



Theodore Munsat, M.D.
 Chair, WFN Education Committee

Report of the Chairman, Structure & Function Committee

The Committee has been much solicited and active in 2003, in connexion with a thorough analysis of the functioning of the WFN secretariat, what improvements should be made and how they could be achieved. The Committee (J. Chopra, A. Culebras, R. Kaji, F. Yatsu, R. Sica, J. Bogousslavsky, Chairman) exchanged information and opinions via e-mail and teleconferences, with two face-to-face meetings, one in Denver, the other in Sydney. In addition, a Committee delegation (F. Yatsu, M. Donaghy, J. Bogousslavsky) spent one day in Brussels visiting the headquarters of three top-selected professional management companies. The final report of the Committee was submitted to the Trustees shortly before the end of the year for further discussion and subsequent decision.

In summary, the report concluded that optimisation of the WFN secretariat functioning is mandatory, in order to obtain improvement mainly in the following:

1. WFN visibility 2. Fund-raising 3. Membership benefits 4. Coordinated activities such as campaigns 5. Exchanges with governmental organizations and other NGO's, including WHO, World Bank, etc. Most of the identified problems relate to the limited staff and isolation of the present London secretariat, which is in contrast with its rather high costs (over £100,000 per year). The Committee unanimously recommended switching from the present secretariat to a professional management company, the proper selection of which would need a careful assessment by the Trustees with the help of the Committee.

After a detailed analysis of solicited companies' reports and proposals, and a site visit to the best ranked companies' headquarters, the Committee has selected a small group of leading professional management companies, which appears most appropriate to WFN needs. In 2004, the Committee will be helping the Trustees to discuss options, obtain supplementary information where needed, and take a decision, hopefully before the end of the year.



J. Bogousslavsky

Elected Trustee and Chairman, Structure & Function Committee

Report of the Chairman of the Publications and Website Committee

The next WFN Congress (Fall 2005) will see a new WFN Administration. In view of that, one of the tasks of the Publications and Website Committee is to make recommendations concerning the Editors of the two major WFN publications, the *Journal of the Neurological Sciences* (JNS) and *World Neurology*. As previously announced, a Subcommittee has been put together with the main task of evaluating the Journals and making recommendations concerning the Editors. The two current Editors are eligible for renewal of their mandate. The recommendations of the Subcommittee will be presented and discussed at our next meet-

ing in San Francisco.

Members are: Piero Antuono, Chair, Joseph Masdeu, Daniel Truong

A teleconference was held on Thursday February 5, 2004. In addition to the above, it was attended by Keith Newton, Jun Kimura, President of WFN and by François Boller.

Main items discussed were **1) JNS**—Highlights of the old (current) contract. This is a document signed in 1988. It mentions that ownership of the copyright belongs to Elsevier. There is no mention of the title. Royalties were set at 10% of the net receipts. Renewal of the contract is "automatic" unless there is a demonstrated breach on the part of the Publisher. The new proposed contract would put the emphasis on electronic publishing and dissemination. Elsevier proposes an increase in royalties for WFN as well as an increase in the Editorial Office budget. The current Editor of JNS was appointed in 1997. The contract mentions that the appointment is for "five years renewable for 3 years". In order to facilitate the recommendations to be made by the Subcommittee, its Chair, Dr Antuono, will visit the Detroit office in the near future. **2) World Neurology**—*World Neurology* which is produced and published in India is now financed in part through a grant from the Japan Foundation for Neuroscience and Mental Health. To our knowledge, there is no specific contract with the current Editor who was appointed in 1998. In order to facilitate the recommendations to be made by the Subcommittee, a Member, Dr Truong, will probably visit the Chandigarh office in the near future.

At the teleconference of the Trustees held on February 12, it was recommended that alternatives should be considered concerning publications by the WFN. The meeting of the full Committee will be held on April 29 at 7:30 am, place to be specified



François Boller, MD, PhD
Paris, France

Report from the Chairman of the Constitution and Byelaws Committee

Committee members:

Prof Ashraf Kurdi (Chairman), Dr. Saeed A. Bohlega, Prof. Carlos Chouza, Prof. Giancarlo Comi, Prof. Lueder Deecke, Dr. Michael Donaghy, Prof Dr. Osamah Elwan, Dr. Asma Fischer, Dr. Richard Godwin-Austen, Dr. John King, Dr. Francois Maugiere, Dr. Federico Micheli, Prof Marc Nuwer, Prof. Bhim Sen Singhal, Dr. Nobuo Yanagisawa.

Charges and guidelines of the Committee:

(1) To consider changes to the Memorandum and Articles of Association or other procedural matters at the request of any officer or member of the Federation (2) To report the committee's deliberations to the Management Committee (Trustees) for their consideration and, if necessary, referral to the Council of Delegates (3) To evaluate potential procedural changes which may come from other committees, such as the Management Committee (Trustees)

Activities: (1) During the year the Board of Trustees received proposals from Dr. Michael Donaghy, UK Delegate and a member of the Constitution & Byelaws Committee, to revise the role of the Federation's Nominating Committee which currently shortlists candidates put forward for positions such as Elected Trustees. The matter was fully discussed by the Council of Delegates and, had it been approved, would have entailed the modification of the Federation's legal constitution, its Articles of Association. Consultation with the Constitution and Byelaws Committee would then have had to take place as a vital step in effecting the change in accordance with Guideline #1 above. However, the vote of the Delegates went in favour of retaining a Nominating Committee and making no alteration to its procedures at the present time, though there was general agreement that a much greater degree of transparency in its workings needed to be introduced. With that in mind, Guidelines have been developed and are now publicly accessible on the WFN website. (2) Pertaining to the issue of Regional Vice-Presidents, this work was done in conjunction with Johan Aarli, First Vice-President of the WFN. According to the constitution of the WFN, Regional Vice-Presidents (RVP) are not mandatory. The Articles of Association

provide for the election of 'such other Vice-Presidents as the Member Societies at a meeting of the Council of Delegates' would decide. (Articles: Officers, § 7.1).

After detailed study, the following recommendations were proposed: a) Since the role of RVPs is not official and their responsibilities are unclear, there should be a change of denomination to 'Regional Director' (b) The definition of regions should be the same as that accepted by the WHO (c) The Presidents of the AAN, EFNS, PAUNS, Pan-African, Latin American and the Asian-Oceanian neurological associations should be invited to serve *ex officio* as Regional Directors, since real power in the region lies in their hands. They should formally be appointed by the Council of Delegates. Only if no such organisation exists, should the Trustees nominate a candidate. This is preferable to electing a totally different person because he or she may hold no position in the regional organization and therefore have no influence there, which could create conflict. (d) The Regional Directors should serve as links between the central administration of the WFN and the regional neurological association they are representing. They would also be responsible for liaising with the WHO Regional Office.

The Regional Directors should be responsible for maintaining contact with the corresponding WHO office in order to: (a) Collaborate with the regional levels of WHO; (b) Assist in the identification of areas where there exists a need for campaigns aimed at the prevention of neurological disease; and (c) Provide information on neurological disorders in the region. They would also serve on the

Editorial Board of *World Neurology* and inform the Editor on regional news, activities and matters of interest within their region. The Regional Directors would have a central role in organising regional WFN congresses.



Ashraf Kurdi
Jordan

Report of the Membership Committee

Under the leadership of Professor Sica, the Membership Committee has done a wonderful job in getting an overview of countries which are currently members of the Federation and those which have not yet joined the WFN (see list published in *World Neurology*, March 2003). There are two possible reasons for countries not to be affiliated to the WFN: the virtual absence of neurologists, and financial constraints. Since most of them are developing countries it was felt that it is mainly the latter reason that prevents them from becoming members. Therefore, the subject was tabled for the Meeting of the Council of Delegates in Sydney, Australia in July 2003. An interesting discussion was held on the question of whether members from developing countries should pay the usual fees. Another major diffi-

culty was the definition of a neurologist. In some countries 'neurologists' have an interest far beyond neurology, and in those cases the membership might become very substantial. Although no final conclusion was reached, the Council of Delegates expressed the view that the WFN should be 'inclusive' rather than 'exclusive'. The Membership Committee will continue to try and get in touch with the non-member countries in order to convince them of the clear benefits, in particular of the WFN's educational programs available to such countries.

One new member, Mongolia, was welcomed in 2003. Unfortunately, no progress has been made regarding the membership of China, in particular because of the sad demise of the President of the Neurological Society of the People's Republic of China, Dr. Chen. The Membership Committee will certainly attempt to reopen the discussion with mainland China.



Marianne de Visser
Chair, Membership Committee

Report of the Editor-in-Chief, the Journal of Neurological Sciences

Further changes were made to the Editorial Board in October. Welcome to new board members M. Flint Beal (USA), Gen Sobue (Japan), Eric Wasserman (USA), and Nobuhiro Yuki (Japan).

Thirteen issues, including nine double issues, featuring 221 articles, one Cumulative Author/Subject Index, and one Special issue vol. 206.2 (February) containing papers on the "Progressive Phase of Multiple Sclerosis Pathology and Treatment" from the European Charcot Foundation Symposium in Venice, Italy 18-20 October 2001, were published. A Special Section in vol. 207.1-2 (March) presented "Brain Iron in Hereditary and Sporadic Neurodegenerative Diseases" from a Symposium of the Society for

WFN ELECTION: NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Nominating Committee of the World Federation of Neurology, having invited nominations for the single Elected Trustee post falling vacant in 2004, recommends to the membership through their representatives on the Council of Delegates those listed below as candidates in accordance with the Federation's Memorandum and Articles of Association. The current holder, Dr Julien Bogousslavsky, is eligible to stand for re-election.

It is open to anyone to make additional nominations by:

- Securing the supporting signatures of five or more authorised delegates;
- Submitting the name(s) of the individual(s) in question to the Secretary-Treasurer General, c/o the London Secretariat office, at least thirty days prior to the AGM (the date of which is 5 September 2004).

Recommended candidates: Julien Bogousslavsky (Switzerland), Antonio Culebras (USA/Spain), Amos Korczyn (Israel), Ashraf Kurdi (Jordan), Marco Medina (Honduras).

Experimental Neuropathology" held under the auspices of the American Neurological Association in New York, NY on October 13, 2002. Also, in vol. 214.1-2 (October) "Abstracts of the XI Pan American Congress of Neurology" held in Santiago, Chile on October 8-12, 2003 were published.

Clinical research still dominates every issue. Only 8% of all submissions were basic (non-human) research. *Ad hoc* reviewers were acknowledged in March, vol. 207.1-2.

We continue to work on monitoring the review cycle to accelerate the process. 195 manuscripts were accepted in 2003 and 198 manuscripts were rejected.

The distribution of manuscripts accepted by country parallels that of the past five years. The top five ranked countries were Japan (25%), USA (22%), Germany (8%), Italy (8%), and UK (5.6%). These five countries alone accounted for 133 or 68% of all manuscripts accepted in 2003. Geographically, accepted manuscripts were as follows: Africa 1; Asia 15; Australia 7; Eastern Europe 6; Japan 48; Middle East 4; Scandinavia 5; South/Central America 11; USA and Canada 44; and Western Europe 54.

Submissions to *JNS* increased by 11% over 2002.



Robert P. Lisak, MD

Report of the Editor-in-Chief, World Neurology

World Neurology is the main spokesman of the World Federation of Neurology and was published as scheduled every quarter in the year 2003. It was mailed to over 23,000 neurologists of the 90 countries affiliated to the WFN. Important announcements appeared in 4 issues requesting readers to inform the WFN Office in London if they would prefer to receive *World Neurology* via electronic mail, but responses were not encouraging. WFN members are again requested that those who wish to receive the newsletter through e-mail, or access it

via the WFN website, should inform WFN Headquarters in London. This will be the quickest method of receiving the publication. Presently it is sent by surface mail, which takes much longer. The burden of mailing *World Neurology* as hard copy can be curtailed thereby saving funds to utilize in other important areas.

WFN REGIONAL NEWS

The 1st Maghreb Congress of Neurology



The 1st Maghreb Congress of Neurology was held in Tunis in December 2003, organized by the Tunisian Association of Neurology conjointly with the 9th National Congress of Neurology. Distinguished neurologists from Algeria, Belgium, France,

Financial support from the Japan Foundation for Neuroscience and Mental Health for the printing and distribution of *World Neurology* is greatly appreciated. Support from Elsevier Science is also acknowledged.

Jagjit S. Chopra, FRCP, PhD

Lebanon, Morocco, Switzerland, Tunisia and the United Kingdom took part. There were about 200 attendees in total. The main topics were multiple sclerosis, peripheral neuropathies and stroke. The 2nd Maghreb Congress will be organized in December 2004 in Algiers by the Algerian Neurological Society. The Maghreb Federation of Neurological Societies was founded at the General Assembly. It is open to the neurologists of Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania. The photograph shows the Presidents of these societies chairing the General Assembly of this first Congress.

Prof Najoua Miladi

The Stroke Surveillance Component of the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Non-communicable Diseases InfoBase: A WHO-ISS-WFN Project

No data, no problem? Only a few countries have updated and reliable data on stroke occurrence. The limited data from the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Burden of Disease study indicate that stroke is already a major public health problem in both developed and developing countries. Demographic projections suggest that even with stable rates, a steep increase in the number of stroke events can be expected in the next decades especially in Asian and South-American countries. Better prevention will be required together with an understanding of the social and economic consequences on families, communities and health systems.

Good stroke data are essential for documenting why a government should invest in stroke prevention and treatment. With the purpose of highlighting the current availability of stroke data, and the gaps,

the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) and the International Stroke Society (ISS) have initiated a collaboration with the WHO by supporting the development of a stroke component of the WHO Global NCD InfoBase. In 2003, WHO launched the WHO Global Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) InfoBase, which acts as a repository for country level survey information relevant to 8 risk factors: raised blood pressure, tobacco use, diabetes, alcohol consumption, raised cholesterol, fruit and vegetable intake, overweight, and physical inactivity (http://www.who.int/ncd_surveillance/infobase/en/). Stroke is the first disease module to be included in the Global NCD InfoBase with the objective of assembling all available stroke data together with their source and survey information. Updates are planned as more studies become available. In addition to providing an overview of the cur-

rent status of country level stroke data, the stroke InfoBase will be an important tool for promoting increased awareness about the global burden of stroke.

The Stroke Component of the WHO Global NCD InfoBase

Since the establishment of the Stroke component of the Global NCD InfoBase in June 2003, data from 200 stroke publications have been entered. Stroke data are available from many different sources such as national hospital admission data, routine death certificates, and different types of epidemiological studies of various population sub-groups. For the first phase of the project, studies published in English during the past 10 years have been included.

The stroke data entered thus far show clear regional differences in number of studies published on stroke. Few publications come from the African region, and whereas there are several studies published from North American studies, only a few stroke publications from South and Central American states have yet been identified. For many regions there is a shortage of country-specific stroke

data creating difficulties in estimating the stroke burden. With uncertainty about the size and impact of the stroke burden, preventive efforts and initiatives to improve treatment and rehabilitation of stroke patients may be difficult to defend.

Future development

The stroke component of the Global NCD InfoBase is a first step in collating and displaying current available data. This InfoBase will require expansion and further development with the inclusion of data published before 1993 in order to understand trends, more detailed data on outcome in stroke patients, and continuous update of new stroke data. The launch of the on-line stroke InfoBase is scheduled for June 2004 where it will be available on the WHO web site for surveillance of non-communicable diseases. A presentation of the stroke InfoBase will be made at the World Stroke Conference in Vancouver. Further information about the InfoBase is available at http://www.who.int/ncd_surveillance/steps/stroke/en/.

Dr. Thomas Truelsen

known epileptic syndromes as well as recently recognized familial focal epilepsies. There is a superb account of clinical features, differential diagnosis and management of each syndrome. The text is supported by tables to summarize the important points and practical tips are highlighted. The author has taken full advantage of his interest in EEG by providing fitting examples in each chapter. This book will be a concise clinical guide on epileptic seizures and syndromes for paediatricians, general physicians, neurologists, epileptologists and electroencephalographers.

IMS Sawhney
Assistant Editor.

CALENDAR 2004

13th European Stroke Conference

12-15 May, 2004

Mannheim-Heidelberg, Germany

E-mail: info@akm.ch

Website: www.eurostroke.org

Neuropathic Pain, Changing Paradigms in Diagnosis and Treatment

13-16 May, 2004

Madrid, Spain

E-mail: neuropathic@kenes.com,

Website:

www.kenes.com/neuropathic/

2nd Federation of Asian-Oceanic Neuroscience Societies (FAONS) Symposium

17-19 May, 2004

Tehran, Iran

E-Mail: nrciran@neda.net

Website:

www.nrciran.modares.ac.ir/faons

6th European Congress on Epileptology

30 May-3 June, 2004

Vienna, Austria

E-mail:

vienna@epilepsycongress.org,

Website:

www.epilepsyvienna2004.org

8th Congress of the European Federation of Neurological Societies

4-7 September, 2004

Paris, France

E-mail: efns04@kenes.com

Website: www.kenes.com/efns2004/

BOOK REVIEWS

Human Embryonic Stem Cells

Editors: Arlene Y. Chiu and Mahendra S. Rao
ISBN: 1-58829-311-4
No. of Pages: 461
Price: \$135.00
Publication Date: May 2003
Publishers: The Humana Press

Great interest is being shown all over the world in the amazing role that stem cells may play in the near future, particularly in degenerative diseases of the nervous system. The research may still be in its infancy, but the predicted future is bright. In this book, which is divided in to four main parts of 18 chapters, the authors discuss the role of embryonic stem cells in stroke and spinal cord injury, genetic manipulation, cell lines, the companies involved, the research agreements, and the ethical issues etc. They also cover the criteria used by investigators in different fields to recognize mature phenotypes of specific tissues. The publication reviews the most pressing issues involved in human embryonic stem cell research and how these cells provide an

invaluable source book for researchers. A useful work for those who wish to learn more about the embryonic stem cells and their potentials.

Editor-in-Chief

A Clinical Guide to Epileptic Syndromes and their Treatment

Editor: CP Panayiotopoulos
ISBN: 1-904218-23-72
No. of Pages: 278
Price: \$65
Date of Publication: 2002
Publishers: Bladon Medical Publishing

This is an excellent monograph on epileptic syndromes by an internationally known epileptologist. Epilepsy is not a specific disease, but a label for multiple disorders. The diagnosis of underlying syndrome is essential for its treatment, predicting the prognosis and future research. This book gives a succinct description of various epileptic syndromes in neonates, infants, children, adolescents and adults based on a new diagnostic scheme of the ILAE Task Force of 2001. It includes all the well-

OBITUARIES

Richard L. Masland, MD 1910-2003



Dr. Richard L. Masland, elected to membership in the ANA in 1949, and directorship of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) at the National

Institute of Health in 1959, died of pneumonia on December 19, 2003, at age 93. Born in Philadelphia, Dr. Masland graduated from Haverford College in 1931, and received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1935. After internship at the Pennsylvania Hospital and fellowship in neurology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, he became an associate in neurology in 1940. Thereafter, he served from 1942 to 1945 as director of the department of physiology at the US Army School of Aviation Medicine. Dr. Masland became professor of neurology and psychiatry at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 1952-57 during which time he was also research director of the National Association for Retarded Children.

In 1957, he was named assistant director and director of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness now NINDS from 1959 to 1968. His interest in cerebral palsy and mental retardation included a nationwide survey of facilities and potentials for prevention and treatment of mental retardation. As director, Dr. Masland recruited many noted researchers to develop and expand the institute's research programs including Carleton Gajdusek, Clarence Gibbs, Leonard Kurland, William F. Caveness, and J. Kiffen Penry. In 1961 he established programs for development of clinical research centers by allotting seed money-funding for teams of investigators to work on a variety of neurological disorders. Dr. Masland left NINDS to become chairman of the Department of Neurology at the Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1968. In 1981, he became president of the World Federation of Neurology—serving until 1989, during which he also served as editor of the newsletter *World Neurology*. Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Masland

received numerous awards and accolades including the 1963 Award of Merit from the National Association for Retarded Children which cited him as a "scientist, humanitarian, and pioneer for his achievements in alleviating mental retardation." This was presented by President John F. Kennedy on behalf of the Orton Society with which both he, his wife, Mary, and June Orton were deeply involved. Dr. Masland is survived by his wife, Mary Wootton Masland; two sons, Professor Richard Masland; and Tom Masland, Newsweek editor; two daughters, Frances Masland and Sarah Bender; and seven grandchildren. We mourn his loss.

*James Toole, M.D.,
Past President, WFN*

Melvin D. Yahr, M.D. 1917-2004



Dr. Melvin D. Yahr, aged 86, died of lung cancer on January 1, 2004 at his home in Scarsdale, N.Y. Born in New York, Melvin David Yahr earned his

bachelor's degree from Washington Square College and his medical degree from New York University in 1943. After three years as an Army physician, he joined the neurology department at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center where he became the trusted assistant to H. Houston Merritt, before he became Chairman of the neurology department at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City from 1973-1992. Throughout his career, Dr. Yahr wrote more than 350 scientific papers, one of which he published with Margaret Hoehn which became a standard reference. He was awarded the James Parkinson Medal in 1987 and became the first scientific director of the Parkinson's Disease Foundation. Dr. Yahr elected to membership in the American Neurological Association in 1954 and rose from Secretary-Treasurer to President in 1970.

Thereafter he became Editor of the Transactions of the ANA and active in the nascent World Federation of Neurology, founding the Research Group on Parkinson's and Related Disorders which he chaired until 2001. During the 2001 Congress of the World Federation of Neurology he was honored by the establishment of an endowment Symposium named in his honor to be given at

all of its subsequent congresses. Over and above his extraordinary distinguished career as a clinical scientist and a physician, he was a warm and supportive friend to the international community of researchers, and in particular to the countless young investigators who had trained with him. He is survived by four daughters; a sister; five grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren. We mourn his passing.

*James Toole, MD
Past President,
World Federation
of Neurology* *Donald Calne, MD*

Prof. B. Ramamurthi 1922- 2003



Every now and then, there emerges a star on the horizon, which by its sheer brilliance throws light far away from where it originated. Perpetually

regenerating, these 'super stars' never fade into oblivion. Prof. B. Ramamurthi is (not was) one such. Today if 1,100 million Indians need not go overseas for any neurosurgical management, Ramamurthi surely played a major role. Born in 1922, into an illustrious family, Ramamurthi was truly a multi-faceted personality. After getting a Master's degree in general surgery he chose neurosurgery when the specialty was unknown in India. He went to Edinburgh in 1947 and got the FRCS in 6 weeks! Under the tutelage of Rowbotham and Penfield he learnt neurosurgery. In October 1950, he started the neurosurgical service at the Government General Hospital, Madras in south India—with four beds. In 1951, he co-founded the Neurological Society of India along with Jacob Chandu, Baldev Singh and S.T. Narasimhan.

He lived to see the golden jubilee of the first department and the silver jubilee of the second department he founded. Active till the very end, he was instrumental in putting India on the world map of neurosciences. Member of the editorial board of 17 journals, he was Hon. President of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies. To those of us privileged to have been associated with this great man he will always be a hero and role model.

*K. Ganapathy,
Secretary, Asian-Australasian Society of
Neurological Surgery
Formerly Secretary, Neurological Society
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The Human Hypothalamus: Basic and Clinical Aspects

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Handbook of Clinical Neurology, **Third Series, Volume 79 and 80**

by *Dick F. Swaab*,
Netherlands Institute for Brain Research, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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