



# WORLD NEUROLOGY

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

# WFN in Action Around the World

Global advocacy, the World Health Assembly, and the World Congress of Neurology take center stage.

BY PROF. WOLFGANG GRISOLD

I want to welcome the readers of *World Neurology*, the newsletter of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN). I am happy to report on activities since our last issue.

### Global Advocacy

The 10th United Nations (U.N.) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for the Sustainable Development Goals took place May 7-8, 2025, at the U.N. in New



WOLFGANG  
GRISOLD

York City. This meeting focused on advancing science and technology worldwide, implementation of artificial intelligence (AI), STI financing and capacity building, and strengthening research

infrastructures for sustainable development.

The WFN was successful in making an intervention on capacity building and brain health in the session titled "Scaling up STI Financing and Capacity Building and Strengthening Research Infrastructures for Sustainable Development." There were many academic talks on the improvement of

research and academia in Africa, with impressive projects highlighting the overall need for funding.

The plan is for the WFN to continue with the activities of the U.N. ECOSOC at their next technical meeting this summer. The preparation for the further implementation of tools to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is important.

### World Health Assembly

The WFN visited the World Health Assembly (WHA) of the World Health Organization (WHO) May 19-27 in Geneva, Switzerland, and attended many sessions. The WHA is visited by ministers and top-ranking diplomats and is the most important meeting of the WHO worldwide. The main concerns are funding for the WHO and the threats of possible new emergencies.

The WFN was represented at the meeting by Ksenia Pochigaeva, WFN neurology intern, and me. Ksenia was able to state two interventions on behalf of the WFN — one on neurological infections and the other in support of resolution WHA74.4 (2021), which is aimed at reducing the burden of NCDs by strengthening the prevention and control of diabetes. Further details can be found on the [WFN website](#) and in the WFN Service Pages in the *Journal of the Neurological Sciences* (JNS).

We also met with representatives

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The WFN, represented by Ksenia Pochigaeva (center), WFN neurology intern, participated during the World Health Assembly and made a statement in support of resolution WHA74.4 (2021).



Prof. Wolfgang Grisold presenting his intervention at the U.N. in New York City.



Meeting at the WHA in Geneva. (Left to right): Dr. Tarun Dua, Prof. Wolfgang Grisold, and Dr. Dévora Kestel, director of the WHO Department of Mental Health, Brain Health, and Substance Abuse.

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**THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL  
NEUROLOGY CONGRESS IN BERN**



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## WORLD NEUROLOGY

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## FROM THE EDITORS

BY STEVEN L. LEWIS, MD, EDITOR,  
AND WALTER STRUHAL, MD, CO-EDITOR

Welcome to the May-June 2025 issue of *World Neurology*.

In this issue, Prof. Wolfgang Grisold, president of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN), updates readers on many exciting WFN activities, including the upcoming special Council of Delegates (COD) meeting and our ongoing advocacy and educational initiatives. These include World Brain Day 2025 in July and preparations for the XXVII World Congress of Neurology (WCN), which will be held Oct. 12-15, 2025, in Seoul, South Korea.

Drs. Aida Suárez-Gonzalez, Morris Freedman, Thomas Bak, Adesola Ogunniyi, Gladys E. Maestre, and Raj Kaloria provide their detailed report on the Dementia and Brain Aging in Low- and Middle-Income Countries symposium that was held Dec. 3-6, 2024, in Nairobi, Kenya. This issue also includes reports from three young neurologists who



STEVEN L. LEWIS, MD



WALTER STRUHAL, MD

were recipients of WFN Junior Traveling Fellowships. Each attended important international conferences and presented their research.

In the History column, Drs. Peter J. Koehler and Nadeem Toodayan provide a well-illustrated report on the First International Neurology Congress that was held in 1931 in Bern, Switzerland. It was the forerunner to the World Congresses of Neurology (WCN), and their report is nicely timed in anticipation of the upcoming WCN in Seoul.

Dr. Chandrashekhar Meshram reports

on the Orange City Aarogya Film Festival for Health Awareness that occurred in March 2025, in Nagpur, India. The article features many nice examples of the media coverage of this successful and unique two-day event.

This issue also features a heartfelt In Memoriam for Prof. Dr. Jan van Gijn, a neurological legend, written by Prof. Peter J. Koehler and Prof. Marianne de Visser.

We again thank all neurologists and neurologic trainee readers in all regions of the world for their interest in the WFN and *World Neurology*. We also look forward to your celebrations of World Brain Day (WBD) 2025, Brain Health for All Ages, on July 22, 2025. We hope to receive illustrated reports from around the globe about the many and varied WBD activities for future issues of *World Neurology*.

Finally, we look forward to seeing many of you at WCN 2025 in October in Seoul, South Korea. As a reminder, **late-breaking abstracts** remain open until July 21, 2025. •

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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of the WHO Brain Health Unit and confirmed our determination to support the further implementation of the **Intersectoral Global Action Plan** (IGAP) on epilepsy and other disorders.

### World Brain Day 2025

The preparations for World Brain Day (WBD) 2025 are proceeding, and we are happy with the selection of Brain Health for All Ages as the main topic. We were able to publish **a letter** in the *JNS* that contains a valuable table listing neurological disorders grouped by age and region.

This year's WBD will culminate on July 22 with a webinar. This webinar will include experts on those age groups and representatives from those regions. Please look for information from your region, and be sure to check out the **WFN website toolkit**.

### The 2025 World Congress of Neurology

We are looking forward to the 2025 World Congress of Neurology (WCN) Oct. 12-15, in Seoul, South Korea. The preparation for the meeting is coming along well. We currently have 2,100 abstracts and are still hoping for more to come. The travel opportunities and visas seem to be much easier for Korea, and we hope to see you there in person.

We will have an interesting scientific program with plenary sessions, scientific sessions, and a number of brain health talks on global topics, with speakers from the WHO. We will continue our series of informal coffee talks, and we are planning several interactive sessions.

We will feature three major events devoted to patient issues:

1. A Korean patient day, which will be co-organized by the Korean Neurological Association (KNA) and WFN.
2. During the WCN Opening Ceremony,

we will hear the experience of a patient who lost all four limbs to meningitis and sepsis and yet is able to walk and use his hands following transplants and rehabilitation.

3. The plenary lecture, delivered by Prof. Fumihiko Sakai, will report on the Fujitsu Project on Migraine, changing the fate of migraine patients in a large organization.

We thank the KNA for its cooperation and for the development of the program with our scientific community.

During the meeting, there will be a WFN Council of Delegates (COD) meeting, which is the most important gathering of WFN members. Three positions will be elected: president, vice president, and one elected trustee. Voting for these elections will take place electronically prior to the meeting. The results will be announced to all the delegates at the COD meeting.

At the same time, delegates will

see **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN** page 12



## IN MEMORIAM

# Prof. Jan van Gijn (1942-2025)

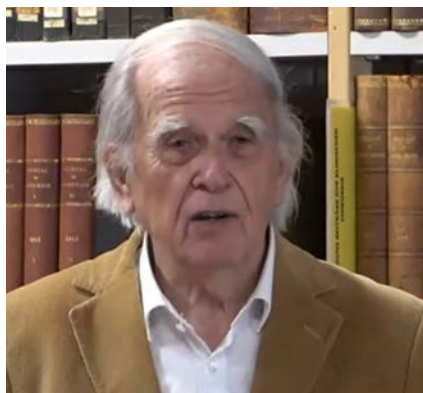
Author, researcher, teacher, and scholar leaves a vast legacy in neurology.

BY PETER J. KOEHLER  
AND MARIANNE DE VISSER

Prof. Jan van Gijn, a legend in the field of neurology, died on April 3, 2025, in Utrecht, the Netherlands. He was born on July 22, 1942, during World War II, in Geldermalsen. He went to medical school at the University of Leyden. After completing his studies there, he went to the Dijkzigt Hospital (now Erasmus University Medical Center) in Rotterdam to start his residency in neurology.

In 1977, he defended his thesis, “The Plantar Reflex: A Historical, Clinical, and Electromyographic Study,” with honors under the supervision of Prof. Hans van Crevel (1931-2002). He then focused his research on the manifestations, treatment, and complications of subarachnoid hemorrhage, transient ischemic attacks, and cerebral infarcts. He contributed an impressive number of publications on these topics to respected journals.

After his training, he spent one year as a clinical clerk at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, in London, United Kingdom. The



Jan van Gijn.

hospital chair at that time was Prof. Roger W. Gilliatt (1922-1991).

In 1983, van Gijn was appointed professor of neurology in the department of neurology at the University Medical Center Utrecht, in the Netherlands. He not only had a keen eye for the patients but was also an excellent teacher and a cherished mentor. He was able to capture the zeitgeist during his leadership. He trained male and female residents alike and was proud to show a picture of himself surrounded by visibly pregnant residents on many occasions. He acknowledged the

importance of training residents in clinical neurology and encouraged them to do research to stimulate scientific thinking during clinical practice.

He also developed a special interest in patients with functional neurological disorders, a group that received little attention from neurologists at the time. He advocated a holistic approach to treating these patients.

In 1991, he became visiting professor in the department of clinical neurosciences at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

From 1987 to 1999, he was active on the executive committee of the European Neurological Society (now the European Academy of Neurology), first as a board member and later as president.

From 1996 until his retirement in 2007, Prof. van Gijn was editor-in-chief of *The Dutch Journal of Medicine (Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Geneeskunde)*, one of the five oldest medical journals in the world, which was first published in 1857.

His other editorial positions included co-editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Neurology* and associate editor of *Brain*.

After retirement, he studied Latin

(earning a bachelor's degree in 2016) followed by history and philosophy of science (earning a master's degree in 2019) to be able to read and interpret ancient medical literature. In 2023, he published the book “Stroke: A History of Ideas.”

He received many accolades, including knighthood in the Order of the Netherlands Lion (Orde van de Nederlandse Leeuw), honorary membership in the Netherlands Society of Neurology, and membership in the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

He is survived by his wife, two children, and grandchildren. He will be sadly missed, but his legacy in international and Dutch neurology will live on through all the neurologists who have been inspired by him. •

**Peter J. Koehler** is a member of the faculty of health, medicine, and life sciences at Maastricht University in the Netherlands, and co-editor of the *Journal of the History of the Neurosciences*. **Marianne de Visser** is emeritus professor of neuromuscular diseases at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, chair of the Membership Committee of the WFN, and previous elected trustee of the WFN.

## WFN TRAINING CENTER REPORT

## Report on Clinical Neurophysiology Fellowship in Rabat, Morocco

BY DR. KHALIFA ABABACAR MBAYE

I am pleased to report on my training experience at the WFN Training Center in the Clinical Neurophysiology Department at the Hôpital des Spécialités, in Rabat, Morocco. The training was sponsored by the World Federation of Neurology (WFN).

I started my internship in a well-organized department with a regular schedule in which I alternated electroneuromyography (ENMG) and electroencephalogram (EEG) practice from Monday to Friday. I did ENMG four times a week, with a minimum of four patients per day. This was under the supervision of professors and assistant professors who defined the protocols and validated the techniques and results.

I've had the good fortune to excel in a number of neuromuscular pathologies, following patients from the diagnostic phase through to treatment and clinical evolution. I was regularly scheduled to do neuromuscular consultations with Prof. Nazha Birouk. These consultations were sometimes coupled with ENMG.

This internship has enabled me to learn ENMG techniques and the different protocols involved. It has also allowed me to learn scientific reasoning, the clinical

and electrophysiological differences between neuromuscular pathologies, and the tools needed for diagnostic confirmation and management.

Once a week, I was scheduled to do standard, extended, or video EEG under the supervision of assistant professors and with staff the following day. Every Wednesday, we had video EEG staff training. This training enabled me to master epileptic semiology, epileptic syndromes, International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) classifications, and various therapeutic modalities. These included anti-epileptic drugs, ketogenic diet, vagal stimulation, and epilepsy surgery.

Being in a university hospital with other trainees, we attended neurophysiology and general neurology staffing every 15 days. We also attended courses on neuromuscular pathologies and clinical case presentations organized by the Moroccan ENMG Club with seminars and workshops. I was fortunate to take part in numerous scientific meetings on neuromuscular pathologies and neuroscience in general. These included:

- Myology Day in Rabat, Morocco.
- Spring Neurology Days, May 9-11, 2024, in Fez, Morocco. The main

theme was “At the Frontiers of Neurology and Psychiatry.” This included workshops related to topics in neurophysiology, such as traumatic neuropathies, ENMG reasoning, and the burden of epilepsy.

- ENMG workshops, Oct. 26, 2024, with topics including the brachial plexus, the drooping hand, the neuromuscular junction, and ENMG detection techniques.
- Autumn Neurology Days, Nov. 28-30, 2024, in Rabat, focused on ambulatory neurology. I took part in workshops related to clinical neurophysiology, polyneuropathies, carpal tunnel syndrome, and recognizing physiological sleep patterns in EEG.

During the Autumn Neurology Days, I gave two poster presentations. The topics were:

- The benefits of coupling electroretinograms to visual evoked potentials.
- Psychiatric disorders on levetiracetam: a real dilemma in a girl being evaluated for epilepsy surgery.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Mustapha El Alaoui Faris for his welcome, his guidance, and his advice. Thank you for integrating me



Dr. Khalifa Ababacar Mbaye.

into all of the neurological societies in Morocco right from the start. Through Prof. Faris, I received my full training grant on time.

To Prof. Birouk and her team, thank you for helping me to achieve my scientific goals. Thank you for accompanying me, boosting me, and making me feel like a neurophysiologist. •

Dr. Khalifa Ababacar Mbaye is a young neurologist from Dakar, Senegal.





WORLD FEDERATION  
OF NEUROLOGY



**KNA**  
KOREAN NEUROLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

# XXVII WORLD CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGY (WCN 2025)

12-15 OCTOBER 2025  
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA



Seoul

Early Birds Save | 23 July 2025



wcn-neurology.com



# Film Festival Raises Awareness of Health-Related Issues

Inaugural event shines a light on numerous issues, including alcoholism, drug addiction, snake bites, and more.

BY DR. CHANDRASHEKHAR MESHRAM

The Orange City Cultural Foundation (OCCF), in collaboration with the P.M. Shah Foundation, Nagpur Municipal Corporation, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, CineMontage, and Saptak Napur, organized the Orange City Aarogya Film Festival on March 29-30, 2025, in Nagpur, India.

This initiative, a brainchild of Dr. Chandrashekhar Meshram, president of the OCCF and trustee of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN), was the first health-focused film festival in central India. The idea was to create health awareness in the general public and inspire people to do good work on health-related issues.

The festival was formally inaugurated by Padma Shri awardee Dr. Prakash Amte, trustee of Maharogi Sewa Samiti (a nonprofit leprosy service committee) who has been providing health care in remote, tribal areas for over 50 years.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Amte said film is a powerful medium for creating health awareness and making a lasting impact in building a healthier society. Chetan Gandhi, director of the P.M. Shah Foundation, which provided many films for the festival, said he was happy to be associated with this public awareness campaign.

Over two days, the festival showcased a curated selection of 41 award-winning short films, each highlighting various crucial aspects of health and personal well-being. The films addressed a wide range of topics, including alcoholism, Alzheimer's disease, autism spectrum disorders, blindness, cancer, child abuse, disability, drug addiction, environmental issues, mental health, obesity, organ donation, sanitation, sex education, snake bites, specially abled children, women's health, and other related social concerns.

The documentary, "Mission Impossible: Zero Snakebite Death," highlights how a doctor couple established a hospital to treat nearly 200 snake bite patients each year. They also educated local people and health care providers to achieve zero snake bite deaths since 2010 in the region.

"Faith Beyond Fear" is a film about hundreds of wandering chronic psychotic patients picked from the city streets and treated by a psychiatrist couple. The patients are finally sent home and reunited with their families.

The movie "2 Wheels 235 Days" is the story of a 21-year-old girl who traveled 17,000 km on a bicycle over 235 days to create awareness about the environment. During this journey, she spoke to people about the hazards of air and water pollution



(Left to right): Festival director Chetan Gandhi, Dr. Mandakini Amte, Dr. Prakash Amte, and Dr. Chandrashekar Meshram at the opening ceremony for the film festival.

and motivated them to plant trees. "Antarnaad" and "What Is That?" are films about Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Each film emphasizes the issues people with dementia face and the importance of family members and caregivers.

Two films about autism spectrum disorders, "Beyond Words" and "Yoddha," were also screened at the festival. The films focus on how the group therapy and multidisciplinary approach helps children with autism overcome their challenges

and develop an expertise in one special hidden talent. The feedback from many who attended the event was excellent, and they suggested making the film festival an annual activity. •

Dr. Chandrashekhar Meshram is an elected trustee of the WFN.



## ऑरेंज सिटी कल्चरल फाउंडेशन की पहल भ्रातियों को दूर करती हैं फिल्में



हैं और समाज में सकारात्मक बदलाव ला सकते हैं। यह विचार डॉ. प्रकाश आमटे ने व्यक्त किए। वह ऑरेंज सिटी कल्चरल फाउंडेशन की पहल के तहत आयोजित 'ऑरेंज सिटी आरोग्य फिल्म फेस्टिवल' के उद्घाटन समारोह में बोल रहे थे। इस दौरान पद्मश्री डॉ. चंद्रशेखर मेश्राम, डॉ. मंदकिनी आमटे सहित कई गणमान्य उपस्थित थे। पूरे दिन स्नान कैसर, ठोस आरुशिर प्रबंधन, अंगुष्ठांग, स्क्वैच्छा अभियान, ट्रांसजेन्ड, नशाखोरी, अंगुष्ठांग आदि विषयों पर लघु फिल्मों का प्रदर्शन किया गया।

**वाओं को संदेश देने की कोशिश :** फेस्ट की शुरूआत मानसिक स्वास्थ्य पर बनी फिल्म 'फेथ बिगॉड फियर' से हुई। इस फिल्म ने मानसिक स्वास्थ्य के जुड़ी भावित्यों और चुनौतियों पर गहरा प्रभाव डाला। डॉ. चंद्रशेखर मेश्राम ने कहा कि यह फिल्म हमारे को लत पर एक संदेश देती है। फिल्म की कहानी उन युवाओं के इर्द-गिर्द घूमती है, जो लोहे की छेदों में अटक रहे हैं और जीवन को बर्बाद कर रहे हैं। यह फिल्म एक मजबूत सामाजिक संदेश देने के उद्देश्य से बनाई गई है।

**राइट टू हेल्थ हो प्राथमिकता :** डॉ. चेतन गंधी कहते हैं कि स्कूल सैनिकेशन और एडिशन काटने पर ही बच्चे का फ्यूचर बन सकता है। इस दिशा में हमें 50 स्कूलों का सर्वे करके पर पता चला कि किसी भी स्कूल में यह प्राथमिकता का कितना नहीं है। बच्चों को ध्यान में रखकर सभी चीजों को ठीक से जानने चाहिए, खासकर पर स्वास्थ्य को प्राथमिकता दी जानी चाहिए। 'शर्ट फिल्म' 'बैरिड' के जरिये स्कूल में बच्चों को राइट टू हेल्थ के साथ राइट टू हेल्थ की भी जानकारी होनी चाहिए, बिना किसी कोशिश की।

**आज फेस्ट का आखिरी दिन :** दो दिवसीय फेस्टिवल का आयोजन कवि कुलसुख काकादस स्मारक में किया गया है। आज रविवार को फेस्ट का आखिरी दिन है। दोपहर 1 से शाम 7.30 बजे तक अल्हा-अल्हा फिल्मों पर फिल्में दिखाई जा रही हैं। इनमें सौंपे का साम्राज्य, अंधविश्वास, केतन, ऑटिज्म, पर्यटन, रोजन शिक्षा, अरुआइमर, मोटापा, प्रकृति और वृद्धावस्था जैसे महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों पर फिल्में शामिल हैं।

**हर कोई ला सकता है बदलाव**  
स्वास्थ्य से संबंधित शर्ट फिल्म और डॉक्यूमेंट्री बनाई गई हैं। इसमें आम लोगों की कहानियों को दिखाया गया है। यह दर्शाते हैं कि हर कोई अपने स्तर पर बदलाव ला सकता है। इस पहल को और आगे बढ़ाने के लिए जल्द ही ऐसी शर्ट फिल्मों की प्रतियोगिता आयोजित की जा रही है, जिससे अधिक से अधिक लोग स्वास्थ्य जागरूकता के संदेश को फैला सकें।  
- पद्मश्री डॉ. चंद्रशेखर मेश्राम



# From Nairobi With Commitment

Symposium highlighted brain health and aging findings for low- and middle-income countries.

BY DR. AIDA SUÁREZ-GONZÁLEZ, PROF. MORRIS FREEDMAN, DR. THOMAS BAK, PROF. ADESOLA OGUNNIYI, PROF. GLADYS E. MAESTRE AND PROF. RAJ KALARIA

**D**ementia and Brain Aging in Low- and Middle-Income Countries, a symposium held Dec. 3-6, 2024, in Nairobi, Kenya, marked another milestone in global efforts to advance equitable brain health. Hosted at the Safari Park Hotel, the event brought together more than 200 delegates from Africa and the world, representing a wide spectrum of researchers, clinicians, and policymakers. The setting underscored the meeting's purpose: to center the voices, knowledge, and experiences of those working within low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where the burden of dementia is growing rapidly.

The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) Aphasia, Dementia, and Cognitive Disorders (ADCD) Specialty Group was honored to participate with a dedicated session and a presence throughout the meeting. In her opening remarks, WFN ADCD Chair Dr. Aida Suárez-González reaffirmed the WFN's longstanding support of this symposium and its commitment to continue investing in regional partnerships, scientific exchange, and capacity building.

## Scientific Highlights

The program, co-led by Profs. Gladys Maestre and Raj Kalaria, featured sessions on the global burden of dementia, vascular and cardiometabolic risk factors, and genetic studies of Alzheimer's disease in African populations. The African Dementia Consortium (AfDC) held its general assembly during the meeting, further solidifying a Pan-African agenda for brain health research and policy.

The Recruitment and Retention for Alzheimer's Disease Diversity Cohorts in the Alzheimer's Disease Sequencing Project (READD-ADSP) consortium presented new findings from African cohorts, showcasing the

continent's essential role in shaping global neuroscience.

The WFN ADCD session, "Aphasia and Cognitive Assessment," brought together experts addressing key challenges in global cognitive assessment and treatments. Speakers included Dr. Thomas Bak, Dr. Aida Suarez-Gonzalez, Prof. Morris Freedman, Dr. Elena Tsoy, Dr. Stella-Maria Paddick, and Prof. Panagiotis Alexopoulos. They explored topics including cognitive rehabilitation, digital diagnostics, hearing impairment in dementia, multilingual aphasia assessment, and telemedicine.

One of the week's major highlights was the official launch and celebration of Africa-FINGERS, co-chaired by Dr. Chinedu Udeh-Momoh and Prof. Zul Merali. This ambitious initiative adapts the successful Finnish prevention model from the FINGERS Brain Health Institute, representing a critical step toward scalable, lifestyle-based dementia risk reduction in Africa.

Early career researchers played a prominent role in the symposium, presenting across all sessions and participating in mentoring breakfasts, skills workshops, and dedicated networking events. Their involvement reflected a generational shift in leadership and capacity development.

The meeting also fostered strong interpersonal and cross-regional connections. Side events on health system integration, HIV and brain health, and publishing in global journals enriched the formal program. Discussions emphasized the need for context-specific solutions informed by local knowledge and practice.

The WFN ADCD was honored to contribute to the Nairobi program and to stand alongside colleagues advancing the future of brain health in LMICs. Our next engagements will be the World Congress of Neurology in October in Seoul, South Korea, and our biennial meeting in Noosa Heads, Australia, in 2026. We look forward to returning to Africa for the next Dementia and Brain Aging in Low- and

Middle-Income Countries conference in late 2026. •

**Dr. Aida Suárez-González** is principal research fellow and consultant clinical neuropsychologist at University College London's Queen Square Institute of Neurology. **Prof. Morris Freedman** is WFN treasurer, a professor in the department of medicine (neurology) at the University of Toronto, head of the division of neurology, medical director of the Pamela and Paul Austin Centre for Neurology and Behavioural Support, and a researcher at the Rotman Research Institute at Baycrest Health Sciences in Toronto,

Canada. **Dr. Thomas Bak** is a reader at the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences at the University of Edinburgh. **Prof. Adesola Ogunniyi** is a professor of neurology at University of Ibadan College of Medicine, Nigeria. **Prof. Gladys E. Maestre** is professor of neurosciences and human genetics and the director of the Rio Grande Valley Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center for Minority Aging Research at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine. **Prof. Raj Kalaria** is a professor of neuropathology at Newcastle University and founder and past president of the International Society of Vascular Behavioural and Cognitive Disorders.



Opening remarks. (Left to right): Omar Oropeza (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley), Prof. Raj Kalaria (Newcastle University), Prof. Gladys Maestre (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley), Prof. Adesola Ogunniyi (AfDC), Prof. Julius Ogeng'o (University of Nairobi), Mercy Njuguna (Kenya Ministry of Health), Dr. Claire Sexton (Alzheimer's Association), Prof. Zul Merali (Brain and Mind Institute, Aga Khan University, Kenya), Dr. Aida Suarez-Gonzalez (WFN ADCD), Elizabeth Mutunga (Alzheimer's Dementia Organization Kenya), and Prof. David Ndeti (African Institute of Mental and Brain Health).



Chairs and delegates at the Dementia and Brain Aging in Low- and Middle-Income Countries 2024 conference.



WFN ADCD executive committee members with conference convenors. (Left to right): Prof. Raj Kalaria, Dr. Aida Suárez-González, Dr. Thomas Bak, Prof. Gladys Maestre and Prof. Morris Freedman.



Aphasia and Cognitive Assessment (WFN ADCD Session). (Left to right): Dr. Elena Tsoy (Global Brain Health Institute, University of California San Francisco), Prof. Panagiotis Alexopoulos (University of Patras, Greece), Dr. Stella-Maria Paddick (Newcastle University), Dr. Aida Suarez-Gonzalez (University College London), Dr. Kamada Lwere (Uganda), Prof. Morris Freedman (University of Toronto), and (front) Dr. Thomas Bak, (University of Edinburgh).



## WFN JUNIOR TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP 2025

# Poster Presentations, Neurology and Art, and More

## WFN Junior Traveling Fellowship recipient reports on her time at the AAN Annual Meeting.

BY DR. DULARI GUPTA

I was fortunate to have my abstract selected for a poster presentation at the 77th **American Academy of Neurology (AAN) Annual Meeting**, held April 5-9, 2025, in San Diego. In addition to myself, five other students from our college presented their work (two neurology senior residents, one intern, and two medical students).

This was my first AAN meeting. It was the largest meeting I have attended, with 14,500 participants and 24 halls where sessions were being held. Initially, the scale of the meeting was overwhelming, but I was advised to attend sessions I was particularly interested in and view any sessions I missed online. Since I am doing my PhD on artificial intelligence (AI) in stroke prediction, I attended all the sessions related to AI.

Many participants viewed my posters, and each one had something new to suggest. It was useful to interact with other researchers in the same field and learn about their work. I gained many insights that I will incorporate into my studies going forward. The other posters were informative. Many systematic reviews and original studies were presented together with a few unusual case reports.

I attended two interesting sessions that combined art and neurology. In the first, there were neurologists who had crocheted woolen hats to represent the different sulci and gyri of the brain.

They also made woolen hats based on classic neurological patients like Phineas Gage. Another neurologist did exquisite embroidery of neurons, as well as the cerebral cortex and its connections.

The pieces were artistically beautiful and neurologically accurate. We were encouraged to embroider a neuron pattern on a green cape provided in the workshop. In a different session, an intensive care neurologist shared his oil paintings depicting various neurological syndromes affecting his patients.

I was invited to a dinner hosted by the Association of Indian Neurologists in America, where I met many neurologists of Indian origin who are practicing in the U.S. I also met visiting neurologists from India like myself. It was a great opportunity to connect with people from around the globe. We had the privilege of listening to the esteemed neurologist Dr. V.S. Ramachandran speak about his phenomenal work on phantom limb syndrome and Capgras syndrome.

Attending my first AAN meeting was a wonderful learning experience. It also gave me an opportunity to meet neurologists from around the world and connect with people working in similar spheres of interest. I am grateful to the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) for selecting me for this year's Junior Traveling Fellowship Award. •

Dr. Dulari Gupta is a young neurologist from Pune, India. She is an associate professor at Bharati



Six representatives of Bharati Vidyapeeth Medical College in Pune, India, attended the AAN Annual Meeting in San Diego. (Left to right): Dr. Sreehari Dinesh, Dr. Pranav Mehta, Dr. Dulari Gupta, medical student Ananya Talukdar, medical student Siddhartha Kakani, and Dr. Advait Teli.



(Left to right): Dr. Advait Teli, medical student Siddhartha Kakani, medical student Ananya Talukdar, Dr. Dulari Gupta, Dr. Pranav Mehta, and Dr. Sreehari Dinesh.



Dr. Dulari Gupta shares a poster presentation at the AAN Annual Meeting.



An attendee shows off a knit cap in the shape of a brain during a creative session.



## WFN JUNIOR TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP 2025

# Learning New Skills for Movement Disorders

WFN Junior Traveling Fellowship recipients detail learnings from a conference in Tokyo.

BY DR. PURUSHOTTAM SINGH AND DR. CHESHTA ARORA

As recipients of the 2025 Junior Traveling Fellowship Award from the World Federation of Neurology (WFN), we were privileged to attend the **Asia-Oceanian Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Congress (AOPMC)**, held March 21-23, 2025, in Tokyo, Japan. It was an enriching experience that offered valuable academic and professional insights. It not only provided exposure to cutting-edge research, but also enabled meaningful networking with peers and experts.

The conference was a three-day educational journey where we learned new skills related to movement disorders, our primary area of interest. The program included a wide range of sessions, such as keynote addresses, oral presentations, poster sessions, and panel discussions. We also had the opportunity to interact with international faculty and gain useful insights on our work.

## Key Learnings

We took multiple lessons away from this conference. They included:

- In the session, “**An Approach to Genetic Testing and Counseling in Movement Disorders**,” we learned how to approach the different movement disorders and what genes to suspect based on the phenotype.

We also learned which test to send for which disorder.

- The different formulations of botulinum toxin available and the techniques of administering them for various neurological disorders, including writer's cramp and limb dystonia.
- New updates in the medical and surgical management of Parkinson's disease.
- Key points on movement disorders including functional movement disorders, neurodegeneration with brain iron accumulation (NBIA), normal pressure hydrocephalus, and pediatric movement disorders.

There was also an interesting session on the ophthalmological examination in movement disorders.

We returned to our institutions with updated clinical knowledge, renewed motivation to pursue research in movement disorders, and practical tools to improve patient care. Participation in this conference has significantly contributed to our academic and professional growth.

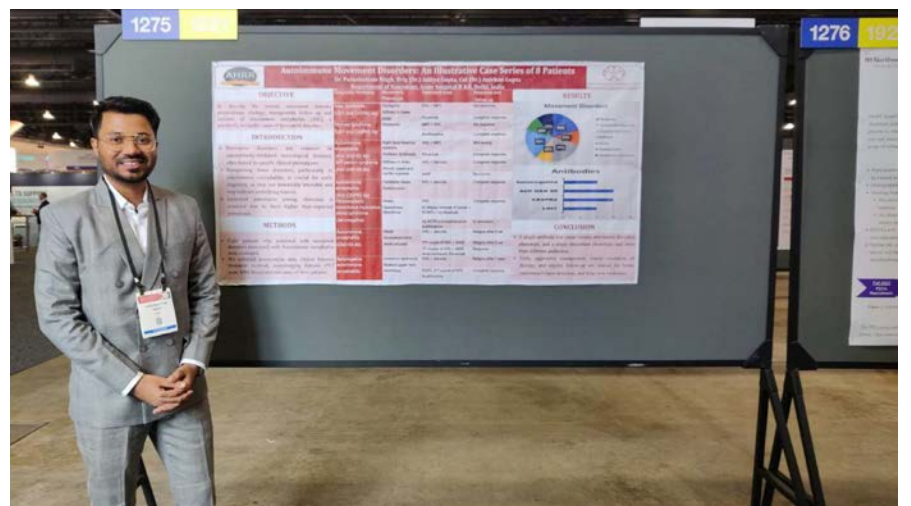
We are truly honored and deeply grateful to have received this Junior Traveling Fellowship from the WFN. •

**Dr. Purushottam Singh** is a neurologist at Army Hospital Research and Referral Hospital in New Delhi, India.

**Dr. Cheshta Arora** is a researcher at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences in Bengaluru, India.



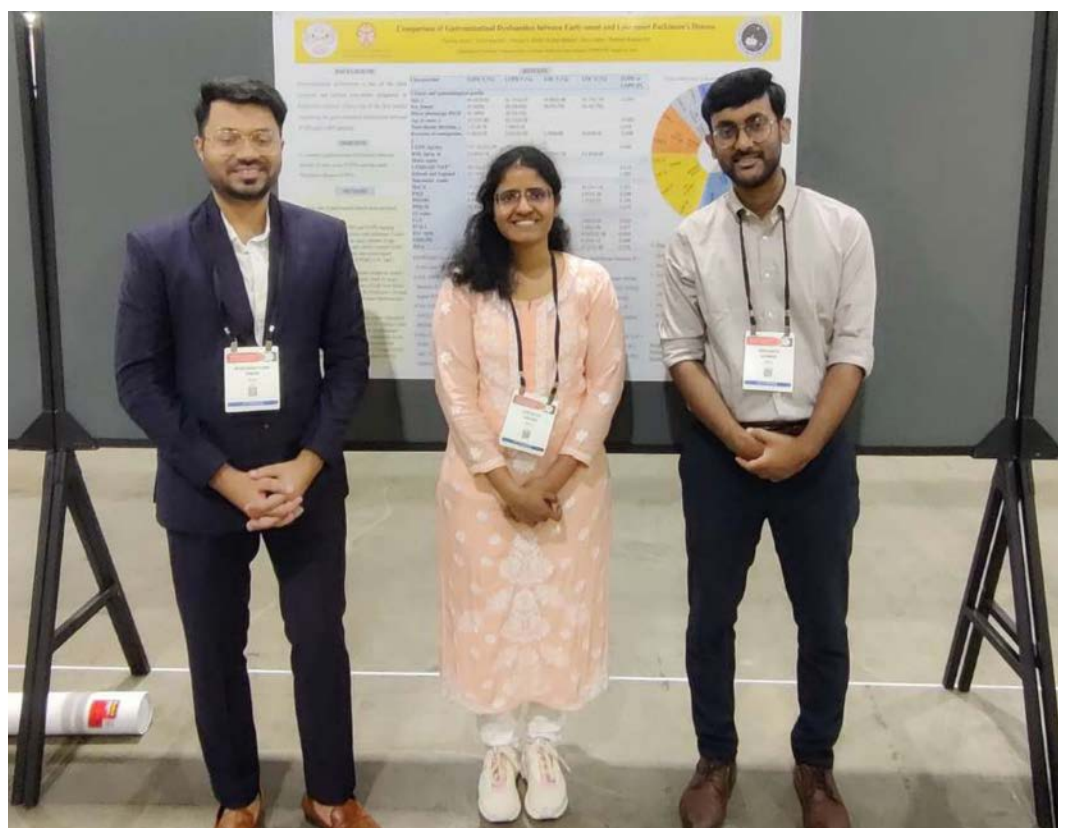
Dr. Cheshta Arora (second from left), Dr. Purushottam Singh (fourth from left) and other attendees at the AOPMC in Tokyo, Japan.



Dr. Purushottam Singh displays a poster at the congress.



Dr. Purushottam Singh visits the exhibit hall in the convention center at the Keio Plaza Hotel in Tokyo.



(Left to right): Dr. Purushottam Singh, Dr. Cheshta Arora, and a fellow poster presenter at the AOPMC.



HISTORY

# The First International Neurology Congress in Bern

Examining the origins of neurology’s annual meeting and its role in the emergence of cinematography.

BY PETER J. KOEHLER AND NADEEM TODAYAN

The 27th World Congress of Neurology will be held in October in Seoul, South Korea. You may wonder when, where, and how the congress came about and the history of the meeting. The first International Neurology Congress took place in 1931, but bringing it to life was not an easy task.

## Postponed Due to World War I

Following the successful International Congress for Psychiatry, Neurology, Psychology, and Care for the Insane that was organized in 1907 in Amsterdam,<sup>1</sup> an international neurological and psychiatric congress was scheduled for September 1914 in the Swiss city of Bern. (See Figure 1.) However, it was canceled when World War I broke out on Aug. 1 of that year.

One of the organizers, Constantin von Monakow (1853-1930), wrote to his Dutch colleague Cornelis Winkler (1855-1941) that his colleagues in Europe were engaged in “obvious national and economic tasks and have other thoughts than discussing scientific questions; and that will probably mean — although we have not yet decided definitely — that the Bern congress that has been prepared so well, will probably not take place.”<sup>2</sup>

The International Brain Commission (IBC), founded in 1903, played an important role in organizing these **early congresses**, which also involved psychiatry and psychology. However, international cooperation collapsed with the outbreak of World War I.

After the war, several members of the previous IBC tried to revive the commission, or to create one like it. Swedish neurologist Salomon Henschen (1847-1930), for instance, tried to found the Academia Neurologica Internationalis

(1929).<sup>3</sup> In the 1920s, Winkler tried to convince previous IBC members to resurrect the IBC and suggested that it could even coexist with an international neurological society.<sup>4</sup>

Vladimir Bekhterev (1857-1927) presided over — and tragically died at — the inaugural All-Russian Congress of Neurology and Psychiatry in December 1927 in Moscow, after making an incautious remark about Stalin, whom he had physically examined.<sup>5</sup> In the same year, American Bernard Sachs (1858-1944) and Austrian Otto Marburg (1874-1948) collaborated to lay the groundwork for the International Neurological Congress in Bern. Altogether, it had taken 17 years (1914-1931) for another congress to be organized.<sup>6</sup>

## Honorary Degrees for Cushing and Sherrington

As mentioned in a **previous article**, it is a pleasure to leaf through the Proceedings of the congress.<sup>7</sup> This was put together by a team of neurologists, including Bernard Sachs (1858-1944) and Henry Alsop Riley (1887-1966) of New York, along with Charles Dubois (1887-1944), R.F. Fischer, and Pierre Schnyder of Bern. It was chaired by Bernard Brouwer (1881-1949) of Amsterdam. The introduction was written in four different languages (English, French, German, and Italian).

The officers of the congress included President Bernard Sachs and the following vice presidents:

- Otto Marburg (1874-1948; Austria)
- Georges Guillain (1876-1961; France)
- Max Nonne (1861-1959; Germany)
- Sir Charles S. Sherrington (1857-1952; Great Britain)
- Cornelis U. Ariëns Kappers (1877-1946; Holland)
- Ottorino Rossi (1877-1936; Italy)
- Henry Marcus (1866-1944; Sweden)
- Robert Bing (1878-1956; Switzerland)

It is interesting to observe that not all of them were clinical neurologists. Sherrington, for instance, was a neurophysiologist and Ariëns Kappers a neuroanatomist. The term neurology was broader in those days than it is today.

The congress was held at the Casino of Bern, and the opening ceremonies took place on Monday, Aug. 31, 1931. In the opening address, “the senior of this congress, Prof. Iwan Petrowitsch Pawlow” (1849-1936) was welcomed. He was 82

years old at the time. Two honorary doctor of medicine degrees were awarded: one to Sir Charles S. Sherrington and the other to leading American neurosurgeon Harvey Cushing (1869-1939).<sup>7</sup>

## Relation of Neurology to General Medicine and Psychiatry

Even in 1931, neurology was not yet considered an independent medical specialty in many countries. A special

see HISTORY page 10

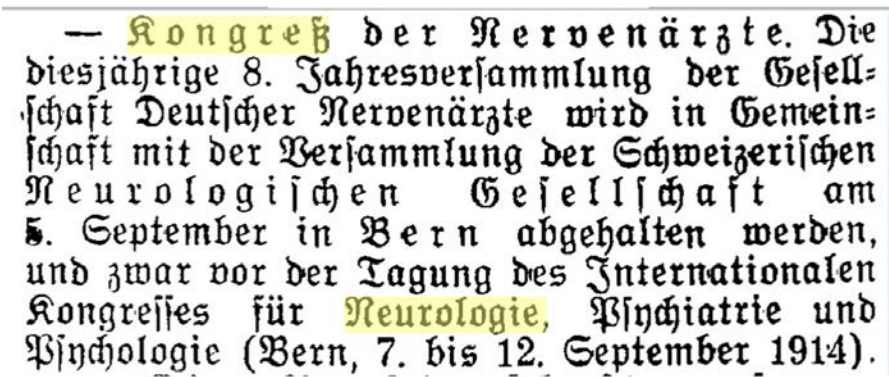
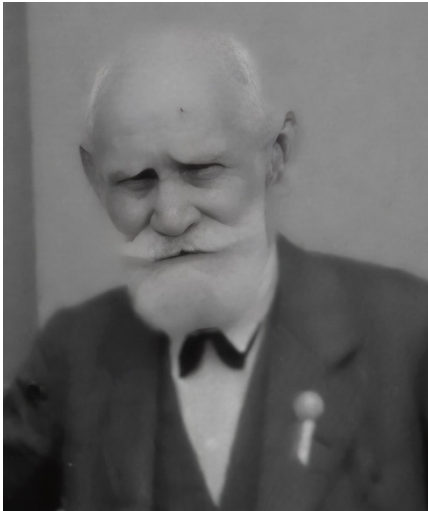


Figure 1. Newspaper announcement of the congress in the May 16, 1914, issue of *Der Bund Morgenblatt* (no. 226): “Congress of Neuropsychiatrists. The eighth annual meeting this year of the German Society of Neuropsychiatrist will be organized in cooperation with the Swiss Society of Neurology on Sept. 5 in Bern, before the meeting of the International Congress of Neurology, Psychiatry, and Psychology (Bern, Sept. 7-12, 1914).”



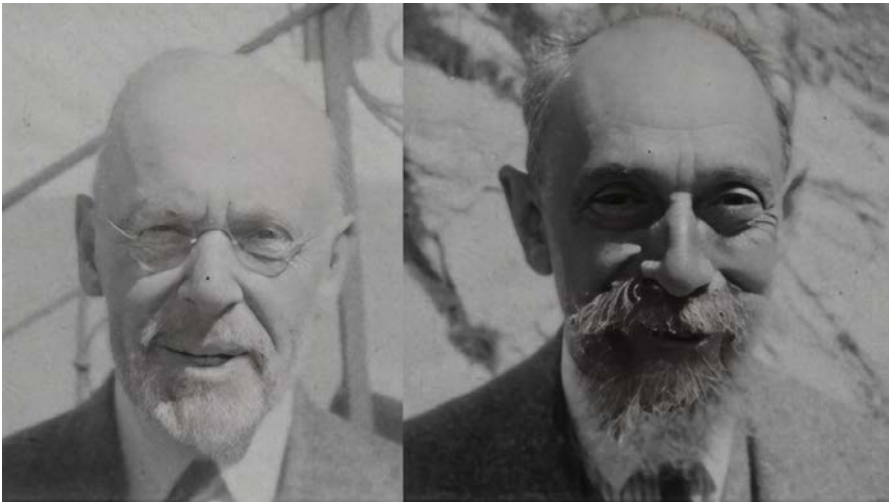
Salomon Henschen (public domain).



Ivan Pavlov at the Bern Congress (1931). Stills from the Ranson film.

Table 1. The World Congress of Neurology has been held in these cities since 1931.

1. 1931 Bern	15. 1993 Vancouver
2. 1935 London	16. 1997 Buenos Aires
3. 1939 Copenhagen	17. 2001 London
4. 1949 Paris	18. 2005 Sydney
5. 1953 Lisbon	19. 2009 Bangkok
6. 1957 Brussels (Neurosciences)	20. 2011 Marrakesh
7. 1961 Rome	21. 2013 Vienna
8. 1965 Vienna	22. 2015 Santiago
9. 1969 New York	23. 2017 Kyoto
10. 1973 Barcelona	24. 2019 Dubai
11. 1977 Amsterdam	25. 2021 Rome (virtual)
12. 1981 Kyoto	26. 2023 Montreal
13. 1985 Hamburg	27. 2025 Seoul
14. 1989 New Delhi	



Bernard Sachs and Otto Marburg at the Bern Congress (1931). Stills from the Ranson film.



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symposium was therefore organized on Friday, Sept. 4, at the Bellevue-Palace Hotel. The topic was the “Relation of Neurology to General Medicine and Psychiatry in Universities and Hospitals of the Various Countries.”

After a discussion of the situation in various participating countries, the assembly voted on the following resolution, proposed by German neurologist and neurosurgeon Otfried Foerster (1873-1941):

“Neurology represents an entirely independent specialty in medicine. Unfortunately, this fact has not been sufficiently recognized in various countries. The First International Neurological Congress hopes that the universities and hospital authorities of the various states will take active steps to further the progress of neurology.”

The resolution was carried unanimously.<sup>7</sup>

Female Participants

At the end of the Proceedings, we find a list of the 890 “Active Members of the Congress,” who were mainly men (only 30 were women). There is also a list of 220 “Affiliated Members,” who were mainly women.

Only six of the 30 female Active Members were among the 247 speakers. (See Table 2.) One of them was Yvonne

Sorrel-Dejerine (1891-1986), the famous French neurologist and scion of the Dejerine neurological family. Another speaker, Frenchwoman Gabrielle Lévy (1886-1934) was the subject of an earlier *World Neurology* article. Nathalie Zand (1883-1942) became a Nazi victim in 1942.

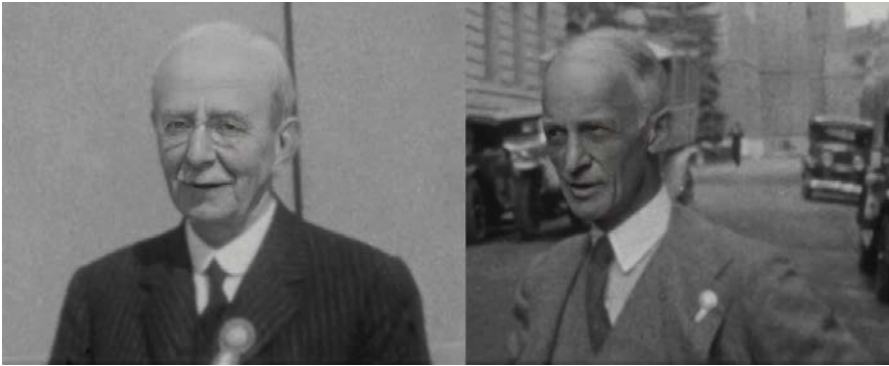
More information on the female participants will follow in a future *World Neurology* history column.

Neurological Cinematography

In a review titled “Neurological Illustration: From Photography to Cinematography,” author Genevieve Aubert details how cinematography developed from photography in the late 19th century:

“The background setting for what would become modern moving pictures was definitely scientific: the Collège de France and the University of Pennsylvania. It was certainly not by chance that two of the most important neurological centers of the epoch were immediately associated.”<sup>8</sup>

Two contributors were particularly important in this respect: the physiologist Étienne-Jules Marey (Paris; 1830-1904) and the photographer Eadweard Muybridge (Philadelphia; 1830-1904). Both were interested in the science of animal locomotion and pioneered “chronophotography.” The invention of nitrocellulose roll film in 1885 was also a significant breakthrough, as large numbers



Sir Charles S. Sherrington (left) and Harvey Cushing at the Bern Congress (1931). Stills from the Ranson film.



Otfried Foerster at the Bern Congress (1931). Stills from the Ranson film.



Polish neurologist Nathalie Zand (public domain).

of instantaneous photographs could now be compactly stored and later projected.

Although projecting reconstructed images and screening films for the public was not Marey’s goal, his findings appealed to several inventors, including the Lumière brothers, who in March 1895 showed the first film for a paying audience. And so modern cinematography was born, opening “a new era for the study of movement and gait in neurology.”<sup>8</sup>

The method was soon applied in neurological clinics by neurologists in several countries. These included:

- Paul Schuster (1867-1940) in Berlin
- Gheorghe Marinescu (1863-1938) in Romania
- Walter Greenough Chase (1859-1919) and Theodore H. Weisenburg (1876-1934) in the United States
- Camillo Negro (1861-1927) in Italy
- Arthur van Gehuchten (1861-1914) in Belgium
- Rudolf Magnus (1873-1927) and Gijsbert Rademaker (1887-1957) in the Netherlands.

Owing to the practical impediments of early filmmaking technologies, there was not much filming done outside of universities and other early academic centers of neurology. The first handheld movie camera (the aeroscope) was invented in 1909, but it wasn’t until after the Eastman Kodak company brought out its 16mm Ciné-Kodak model (the world’s first successful home movie camera) in July 1923 that there was a notable rise in the production of early amateur neuroscience films.<sup>9</sup>

These early films include Kinnier-Wilson’s 1924-25 films of movement disorder patients at Queen Square, films of Bekhterev examining hypnosis patients in Russia, historical footage of Harvey Cushing’s 2,000th brain tumor operation

in April 1931, and rare motion pictures of Ivan Pavlov and Santiago Ramón y Cajal (1852-1934) late in life.

The Australian neurologist and photographer Edward Graeme Robertson (1903-1975), who served two terms as regional vice president of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN), was also interested in cinematography. He recorded important neurological personalities throughout his life, starting with a historical 1933 film of National Hospital staff at Queen Square.<sup>10</sup> The broader intersection between neurology and the art of narrative film, including “the fictionalization of neurologic disease,” is extensively covered by Eelco Wijdicks in his recent book, *Neurocinema...A History of Neurology on Screen* (2022).<sup>11</sup>

Both “lantern slides” and cine-film clips were used to illustrate presentations at the Bern Congress. Walter Freeman (1895-1972), for example, used lantern slides to show the effects of “fungus infections of the central nervous system.” (This was some years before his infamous work on lobotomy.) Eber Landau (1878-1959; Kaunas, Lithuania) gave a microscopical demonstration.

Several speakers used cinematography to illustrate their investigations. These included: László Benedek (1887-1945; Debrecen, Hungary), Paul Jossmann (1891-1978; Berlin), Gonzalo Rodríguez Lafora (1886-1971; in cooperation with J. Sanz; Madrid), Th. B. Wernöe (Copenhagen), Otto Marburg (Vienna), and F. de Quervain (1868-1940; Bern).

Participants Filmed by Ranson

One of the participants and speakers at the congress was Stephen Walter Ranson (1880-1942) from Chicago. Following his longstanding interests in hypothalamic research, Ranson presented the “Results

Table 2. Female participants and speakers of the congress.

Country	City	Role	Name
Austria	Vienna	Speaker	Edith Klemperer
	Vienna	Speaker	Mona Spiegel-Adolf
Belgium	Brussels		M. Reumont
Canada	Montreal		Marthe Pellaud
Finland	Albo		Karin SpooF
France	Strasbourg		Marthe Halff
	Paris		Marthe Henry
	Paris		Gabrielle Levy
	Paris		Marie Long-Landry
	Paris	Speaker	Yvonne Sorrel-Dejerine
	Lyon	Speaker	Andree Feyeux
Great Britain	Sheffield		Elizabeth Cowper Eaves
	London		DS Russell
	London		Ruby Stern
	London		Hilda Weber
	London		Helen Rogers
Holland	Amsterdam		Brouwer-Frommann
	Utrecht		Mia Dentz
Italy	Pavia		Lea Rossi-Del Bo
Poland	Warsaw		Helene Flatau
	Warsaw	Speaker	Nathalie Zand
	Krakow		Aurelja Sikorska
	Lwow	Speaker	Stanislawa Adam-Falkiewiczowa
Russia	Moscow		Rega Bagotzky
Switzerland	Zurich		Vera Strasser
United States	Washington		Lucile Dooley
	Palmer, Mass.		Lucie Forrer
	San Diego		Anita Muhl
	Chicago		Jeannette Brown Obenchain
	Baltimore		Esther Loring Richards





Stephen W. Ranson at the Bern Congress (1931). Stills from the Ranson film.

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of Stimulation of the Mesencephalic Tegmentum With the Horsley-Clarke Stereotopic Apparatus.” Although he was an amateur filmmaker, he did not use cinematography for his presentation. He did, however, film delegates at the 1931 congress, and a rare recording made by him has recently resurfaced.

Born in Dodge Center, Minnesota, Ranson graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1902. He went to Chicago University, where he earned his MD (1903) and PhD (1905) under Henry Herbert Donaldson (1857-1938). He was a Fellow in neurology at Chicago from 1904 to 1906 and received his medical degree at Rush Medical College in 1907. He became associate in anatomy at the Northwestern University Medical School. After spending about a year in Freiburg, Germany (1910-1911), he became professor of anatomy at Northwestern University in 1912.

Following some years in other institutions, he returned to Northwestern University to direct the Institute of Neurology in 1928.<sup>12</sup> He was author of many publications, including *The Anatomy of the Nervous System* (1922).<sup>13</sup> He was also a world-renowned expert on hypothalamic physiology, having led much research into its functional mechanisms.<sup>14</sup> Among his pupils was Horace W. Magoun (1907-1991), who, in cooperation with the Italian neurophysiologist Guiseppe Moruzzi (1910-1986), discovered the Ascending Reticular Activating System (ARAS) in 1949.

Two reels of film were recorded by Ranson and are cataloged by the Archival and Manuscript Collections of Northwestern University.<sup>15</sup> The films have been deposited on the *Internet Archives* website for research purposes.<sup>16</sup> Although not all of those in attendance appear in the recordings, the films do provide unique images of several well-known and less well-known neurologists, neurosurgeons, physiologists, psychiatrists, and their partners at the historic congress.

Ranson started filming on the steamship *Lafayette* sailing from New York to the French port of Le Havre. He likely filmed participants during breaks at the congress. It is also likely that he filmed during an excursion to Interlaken, about 55 km southeast of Bern, and the

Schynige Platte, which can be reached by train. All recorded participants can be seen in [these remarkable films](#);<sup>17</sup> Some of the better-known personalities are shown here in rarely seen film-stills from the congress. (See Figures 2a-c and Table 3.)

Conclusion

Several specialists, including anatomists and physiologists, contributed to the success of the first International Neurology Congress in Bern, Switzerland, which presented a major milestone in the emancipation of neurology from internal medicine and especially psychiatry.

Moreover, the congress helped platform the emerging importance of cinematography as a valuable tool in neurology — not only in the study and presentation of clinical material, but in the preservation of historical images of significant physicians who were present at the congress. •

**Peter J. Koehler** is a member of the faculty of health, medicine, and life sciences at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. **Nadeem Toodayan** is a physician trainee in the neurology department at Monash Medical Centre in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

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2. Koehler PJ, Jagella C. The correspondence between Winkler and Monakow during World War I. *Eur Neurol.* 2015;73(1-2):66-70.

3. Holdorff B. Salomon Henschen’s short-lived project of an “Academia Neurologica Internationalis” (1929) for the revival of the

see HISTORY page 13

Table 3. Names of the participants depicted in Figures 2a-c.

Fig. 2a		Fig. 2b		Fig. 2c	
Theodore H. Weisenberg	New York	Lewis J. Pollock	Chicago	Bernard Sachs	New York
Henry Alsop Riley	New York	Theodore H. Weisenberg	New York	Otfrid Foerster	Breslau
Stanley Cobb	Boston	James B. Ayer	Boston	Ernest A. Spiegel	Vienna/Philadelphia
Gordon Holmes	London	James Collier	London	Otto Marburg	Vienna
Mdm Borrell-Dejerine	Paris	W.J. Adie	London	Kurt Mendel	Berlin
Etienne Borrell	Paris	Paul Delmas-Marsalet	Bordeaux	Louis Muskens	Amsterdam
J. Godwin Greenfield	London	S.A. Kinnier Wilson	London	H. Baruk	Paris
Ottorino Rossi	Pavia	Robert Bing	Basel	L. Minor	Moscow
James Purdon Martin	London	Maurice Marcus	London	Robert Bárány	Upsala
August Wimmer	Copenhagen	L. Bouman	Utrecht	Jean Nicolescu	Bucharest
Bernard Brouwer	Amsterdam	Wilder G. Penfield	Montreal	O. Crouzon	Paris
Walter Freeman	Washington	Frédérique Bremer	Brussels	Moses Keschner	New York
Robert Wartenberg	Freiburg	S.W. Ranson	Chicago	Friedrich Hiller	Munich
Charles S. Sherrington	Oxford	Arthul Weil	Chicago	Ralph Noble	Sydney
Gheorge Marinesco	Bucharest	Ivan P. Pavlov	Leningrad	Arturo Donaggio	Modena
Wilhelm Mayer-Gross	Heidelberg	Harvey Cushing	Boston	Pierre Schnyder	Bern
Yasuhiko Wada	Tokyo	Macdonald Critchley	London	Stefan Borowiecki	Posen
Ken Kuré	Tokyo	Alfred W. Adson	Rochester	Teofil Simchowicz	Warsaw
Victor von Weizsäcker	Heidelberg	James Purves-Stewart	London	Eufemiusz Hermann	Warsaw
Leon Asher	Bern	Ernest Sachs	St. Louis	G.H. Monrad Krohn	Oslo
Richard M Brickner	New York	Viktor Kafka	Hamburg	I.S. Wechsler	New York
F.H. Lewy	Berlin	Knud H. Krabbe	Copenhagen	J.M. Wolfsohn	San Francisco
		Herbert Olivecrona	Stockholm	F.R. Ferguson	Manchester
				Joseph Globus	New York





## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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receive the results of the poll for the 2028 WCN, which will take place in Europe following the 2027 WCN in Cape Town, South Africa. All applying cities (Budapest, Copenhagen, and Istanbul) are undergoing formal site visits to explore the congress centers, transportation, and hotel venues. The results of these site visits will be available before the election. We appreciate the efforts of all societies for their willingness to host the WCN 2028.

The Cape Town meeting in 2027 will be the last of the biennial WCN. Beginning in 2028, we will have annual congresses. In addition, we will also change from four to three regions: Europe and Africa, the Americas, and Asia. This will require changes in the organization and duration of the meetings. It will also increase the presence of the WCN in the regions from every eight years to every three years, boosting the impact of the WFN.

The World Federation of Neurology Update (WNU) is planned for 2026 and will again provide updates on developments in neurology. It will be virtual, low-cost, and contributions will be published in *eNeurologicalSci*, our open-access electronic journal.

## WFN Extraordinary General Meeting

On July 1, 2025, there will be an **Extraordinary General Meeting** (EGM) of WFN delegates regarding changes to the WFN bylaws. An identical motion was made by the trustees at the COD meeting in September 2024. Under U.K. company law, it now requires a formal vote allowing all participating delegates to respond yes, no, or abstain. This process was explored carefully with legal help, and I want to thank the London office for its extraordinary input in this important legal procedure.

As a reminder, these changes implement a president-elect one year before the termination of the acting president's term, and establish the past

president as an advisor on the board. In addition, eligibility requirements for future presidents will be updated. Please participate in this vote as a quorum of 15 members is needed.

## WFN Projects and Funding

It is important for the WFN to be able to continue its work on its large number of existing projects. These include education, WHO and United Nations ECOSOC, and Brain Health. Continuation and innovation in these areas are important.

The WFN is financially independent, which is a great asset. We have a constant income from membership fees and publishing royalties from Elsevier Science, which publishes the *Journal of the Neurological Sciences*. However, the income from congresses is decreasing, and funding from large international organizations is needed for some educational projects. The trustees have decided to explore these funding options, and a project with an external advisor has been initiated.

## Education

The Global Advocacy Leadership Program (GALP), in conjunction with the American Academy of Neurology (AAN), will help to increase advocates and leaders in neurology for low-middle and low-income countries. This is a motivated group of participants who, after a thorough selection process, have participated in the first face-to-face meeting in San Diego and are now following monthly eLearning courses on important topics such as the WHO, U.N. ECOSOC, patient issues, and neuroethical aspects.

The final face-to-face course will be at the WCN in Seoul, South Korea, and all participants will present their projects and will graduate during the Congress's Opening Ceremony. We look forward to these important events.

The future effects of advocacy work for the WFN needs time to evolve. However, the AAN's **Palatucci Advocacy Leadership** events have been visited by more than 600 people



Screenshot from the virtual GALP meeting featuring Dr. Neerja Chowdhary (right) speaking on the IGAP implementation.



Prof. Wolfgang Grisold (second from left) at the WFN booth at the meeting of the Pan Arab Union of Neurological Societies (PAUNS), along with a delegation from Yemen.

over two years, and many key people worldwide have attended and immensely profited.

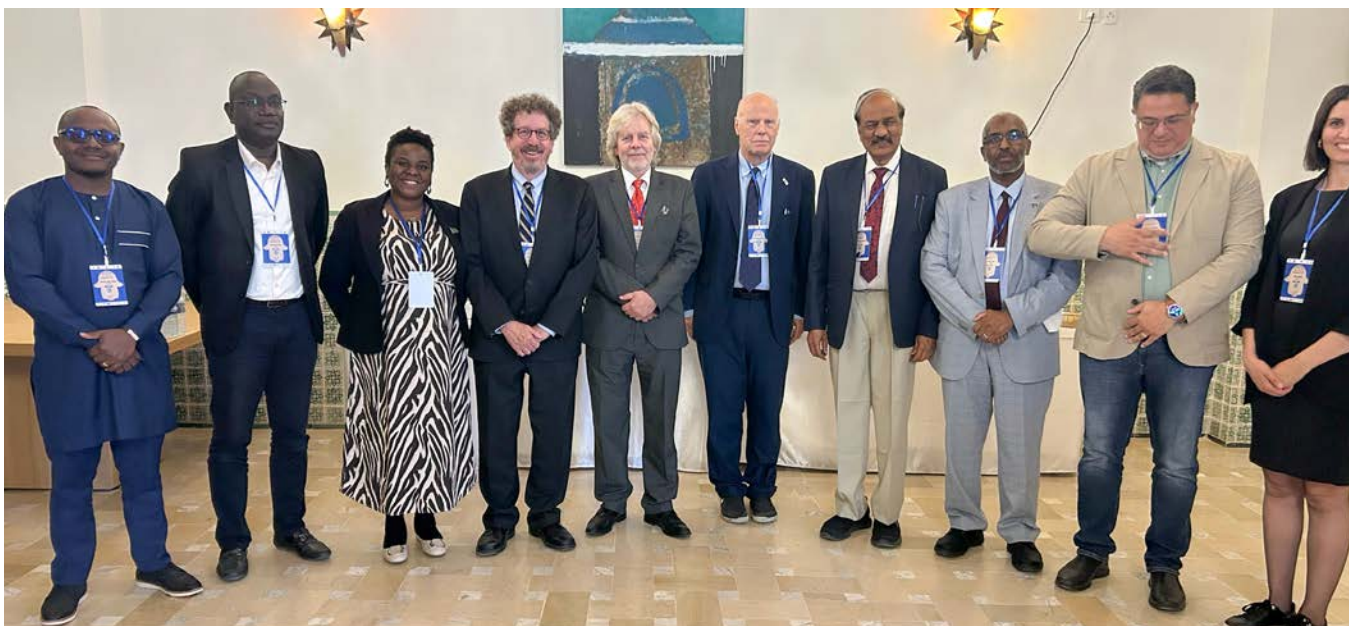
The WFN Training Centers can presently educate three people with a four-year training program and six people with a one-year fellowship in one Mexican and four African centers. To maintain and finance these Training Centers is a great effort of the WFN.

A meeting of the African Training Centers took place in May 2025 in Tunis,

Tunisia. We discussed the present state of the Training Centers. Although we are aware that our contribution cannot solve the neurology manpower problem by itself, it seems that an increasing number of universities in Africa are taking up neurology. This may be a kind of crystallizing effect of the WFN centers. The African Academy of Neurology (AFAN) committee members proposed to study possible partnerships and courses that could be attended by residents.

Looking critically at education, the WFN — as a society of neurologists — focuses on neurologists and neurology units. Because of the vastness of Africa and its needs, we will also need to concentrate on implementing neurology into primary care. Although this will require changes of paradigms, it will be important for the future. Approaching patients, people with lived experience, and laypersons first will be a successful concept for future neurology and brain health.

We hope your delegate will be able to participate in the **WFN Extraordinary General Meeting** on July 1. We have a number of projects worldwide and would be happy to expand if new resources can be recruited. •



Meeting of the chairs of the WFN Training Centers in May 2025 in Tunis, Tunisia.



## HISTORY

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