THE WFN’S REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES FOR NEUROLOGY TRAINEES FROM LOW INCOME COUNTRIES

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Disclosures

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• Chair, World Federation of Neurology (WFN) Education Committee and Co-Opted Trustee of WFN
World Federation of Neurology

Fostering quality neurology and brain health world wide
The WFN and Neurologic Education

- Education: One of the main aims of the WFN
- Biannual World Congress of Neurology
- Publications: JNS; eNS; World Neurology
- Recognized need to develop permanent regional training centers for neurologic trainees in Africa and other regions (Wolfgang Grisold MD)
- Teaching Centers: residency and fellowship programs
- Department Visits: for short duration (4 week) specific training
WFN Teaching Centers

• Should comply with regional standards of neurological care and neurological training
• Should provide high-quality training
• Established with cooperation and assistance of WFN
• Ultimately hopefully self-sustaining
Trainee Benefits

• General or subspecialty training unavailable in home country
• Travel to and from training center
• Room and board
• Small stipend
• Health and malpractice insurance
Benefits to the Training Center

- Prestige/recognition of program
- Additional trainee
- Altruism
Current/Proposed WFN Teaching Centers

Currently:
- Rabat, Morocco
- Cairo, Egypt

Proposed (applications in progress):
- Dakar, Senegal
- Capetown, South Africa
WFN Department Visits

- Short rotations (4-6 weeks)
- Applicants from lower-income countries
- For additional subspecialty/technical experience
- 1-2 awardees/department/year
- Current countries with WFN-sponsored departmental visit programs: Austria and Turkey
- Others in development: Norway, Germany
Teaching Center Institutional Requirements

• Affiliation with a local university
• Devoted to public health care
• Affiliated departments (internal medicine, neurosurgery, neuroradiology, neuropathology, rehab, etc)
• Demonstrated commitment to education
Departmental Requirements

• Recognized commitment and track record in neurology residency and subspecialty training
• Experienced teaching faculty
• Commitment to both inpatient and outpatient neurology
• Inpatient: wards, stroke unit, ICU, rehab unit
• Outpatient: general neurologic care and specific subspecialty clinics (per local needs)
• Clinical neurophysiology, imaging, CSF studies
Process to Become WFN Teaching Center

- Application from the program
- Site visit organized from the WFN
- Completion of pre-site visit questionnaire from program faculty and current trainees
- Analysis of cost for each trainee
- Detailed training curriculum
- Inpatient/outpatient facilities, patient numbers
- Details of scholarly investigation
Site Visit

- Three representatives from the WFN
- Presentation by faculty
- Structured interviews with Dean, departmental administration, faculty, current trainees
- Tour of inpatient and outpatient facilities
- Trainee housing
- Concluding meeting with departmental administration
- Final report for WFN trustees, decision/approval
Stroke and Cerebrovascular Research Unit

Multiple Sclerosis Research Unit

Epilepsy Research Unit

Movement Disorders Spasticity Unit
Choosing the Trainees

- Call for applications (WFN website, World Neurology, social media)
- Applicants from lower-income countries
- Specific selection criteria (region, language, individual accomplishments)
- Review of applications
  - Trustees/Education Committee representatives
  - Local faculty member
  - Review of qualifications, applicant letter, recommendation letter
- Awarding of training opportunity to the trainee
Current/Proposed WFN Teaching Centers

Currently:
• Rabat, Morocco (French)
• Cairo, Egypt (English)

Proposed:
• Dakar, Senegal (French)
• Capetown, South Africa (English)

• 2 English and 2 French training programs
Outcome (thus far)

- Work in progress
- Completion of Clinical Neurophysiology fellowship training in Rabat (9/2014 to 8/ 2015) by neurologist from Mali
- Anecdotally successful (trainer and trainee)

  “This training on Neurophysiology was for me a great opportunity that allowed me to fill my shortcomings in this discipline.”

  Scholarly activity (one paper, one retrospective study in progress)
Summary

- WFN Teaching Centers (and Department Visits) have been developed to increase access to training opportunities to individuals from regions with currently limited opportunities.
- Hopefully a model for similar regional training programs with provision of high-quality neurologic training.
- Goal: to increase access to high-quality neurologic care from regional providers, improve standardization of training.
- Plan:
  - Additional programs, more regions, more trainees
  - Development of a global neurologic (WFN-sponsored) training curriculum—recognizing need for local variation.
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