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

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Disclosures

- I have received compensation from the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) as Editor-in-Chief of Continuum: Lifelong Learning in Neurology and as Section Editor for the journal Neurology
- I have received royalties from Wiley Blackwell as Editor of the book *Neurological Disorders due to Systemic Disease*, and from Lippincott Williams & Wilkins for the book *Field Guide to the Neurologic Examination*
- 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





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

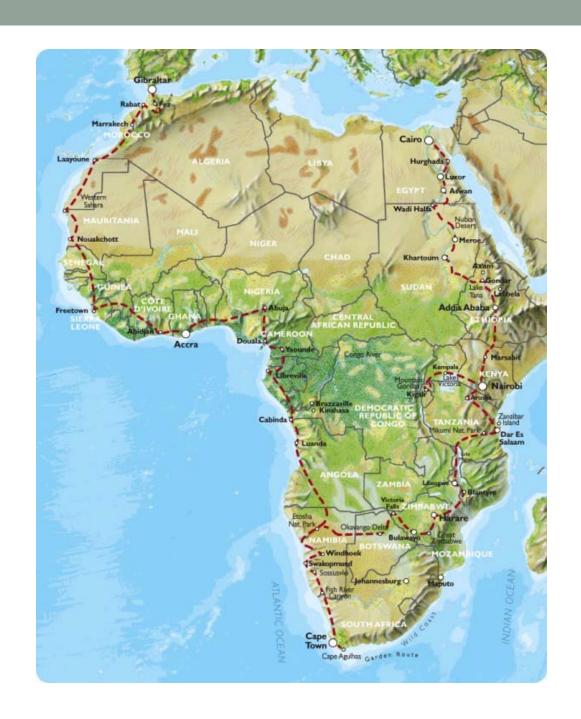
Current/Proposed WFN Teaching Centers

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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