



# 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



قسم (4) الأمراض العصبية  
وحدة السكتة الدماغية وأبحاث شرايين المخ  
Stroke and Cerebrovascular Research Unit

قسم (4) الأمراض العصبية  
وحدة أبحاث وعلاج التصلب المتعدد  
Multiple Sclerosis Research Unit

قسم (4) الأمراض العصبية  
وحدة أبحاث وعلاج كهربية المخ  
Epilepsy Research Unit

قسم (4) الأمراض العصبية  
وحدة الحركات اللاإرادية والتيبس  
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

# Special Thanks

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