wssfn
World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery
NEWSLETTER
Summer 2018

Letter From The President


Michael Schulder

Dear Colleagues,

This letter is an invitation welcoming you to the biannual meeting of the WSSFN, to be held in New York City from June 24-27, 2019 – not very far off. We have secured excellent space at the Hilton Midtown, ideally located in Manhattan on Sixth Avenue and 54th Street, with guest rooms at rates lower than at many of our conferences. New York is an uncommon venue for a neurosurgical meeting, so I hope you will take this opportunity to enjoy the city in late June, when the weather is at its best.

Of course, there is no end to the cultural, architectural, historical, and just plain fun things to do a short distance from our meeting headquarters. Although I do want you to make the best of your time in NYC, you may want to stay in the meeting the whole time! Our Scientific Program Committee is preparing a dynamic and exciting event that will surprise you in many ways, with new content and speakers. The theme of our meeting is "Opportunities and Controversies," so we intend to focus on new concepts and applications, even those that may not be ready for full clinical application. The program is still in formation so if you have an idea, even one that seems "way out there," please contact Joseph Neimat, our Scientific Program Committee Chair, or myself.

Kenes International, our partners with whom we are working to plan the meeting, are ensuring a smooth process straight through, from abstract submission to registration and hotel reservation. They will make sure that everyone has access to the hotel of their choice, and to assist those who wish to spend extra time in New York before and/or after the meeting.

I hope you will bring your best game to WSSFN 2019. On behalf of the WSSFN planning committee and leadership, I look forward to seeing you here!

Michael Schulder
WSSFN President
United States

From The Editor


Erich Richter

Welcome to the summer 2018 edition of the WSSFN newsletter. We are happy to report successful meetings of the ASSFN in Denver (pg 5) and AASSFN at Sun Moon Lake in Taiwan (pg 4). We also look forward to the upcoming Biannual Meeting of the WSSFN in New York City, United States (pg 2), the ESSFN in Edinburgh, Scotland (pg 3), and the Canadian Neuromodulation Society in Iqualuit, Nunavut, Canada (pg 7).

This edition highlights the important role our society plays in building global capacity for stereotactic and functional neurosurgery by bringing together expertise from places with historically strong programs, such as Edinburgh or New York, with programs in places serving communities with historically fewer resources in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. Dr. Honey's comments draw our attention to the persisting circumstances that prevent access to care even in unexpected places; and specifically illustrate how remarkable barriers to care can exist at the local level. The decision to hold the Canadian Neuromodulation meeting in Iqualuit draws attention to the fact that even in Canada, three provinces still do not have access to DBS therapy. I appreciate Dr. Ghate's description of her fellowship year studying with Dr. Taira through support of the Takeda Science Foundation. We recently held our Interim meeting in Mumbai, and certainly she could have trained close to home.

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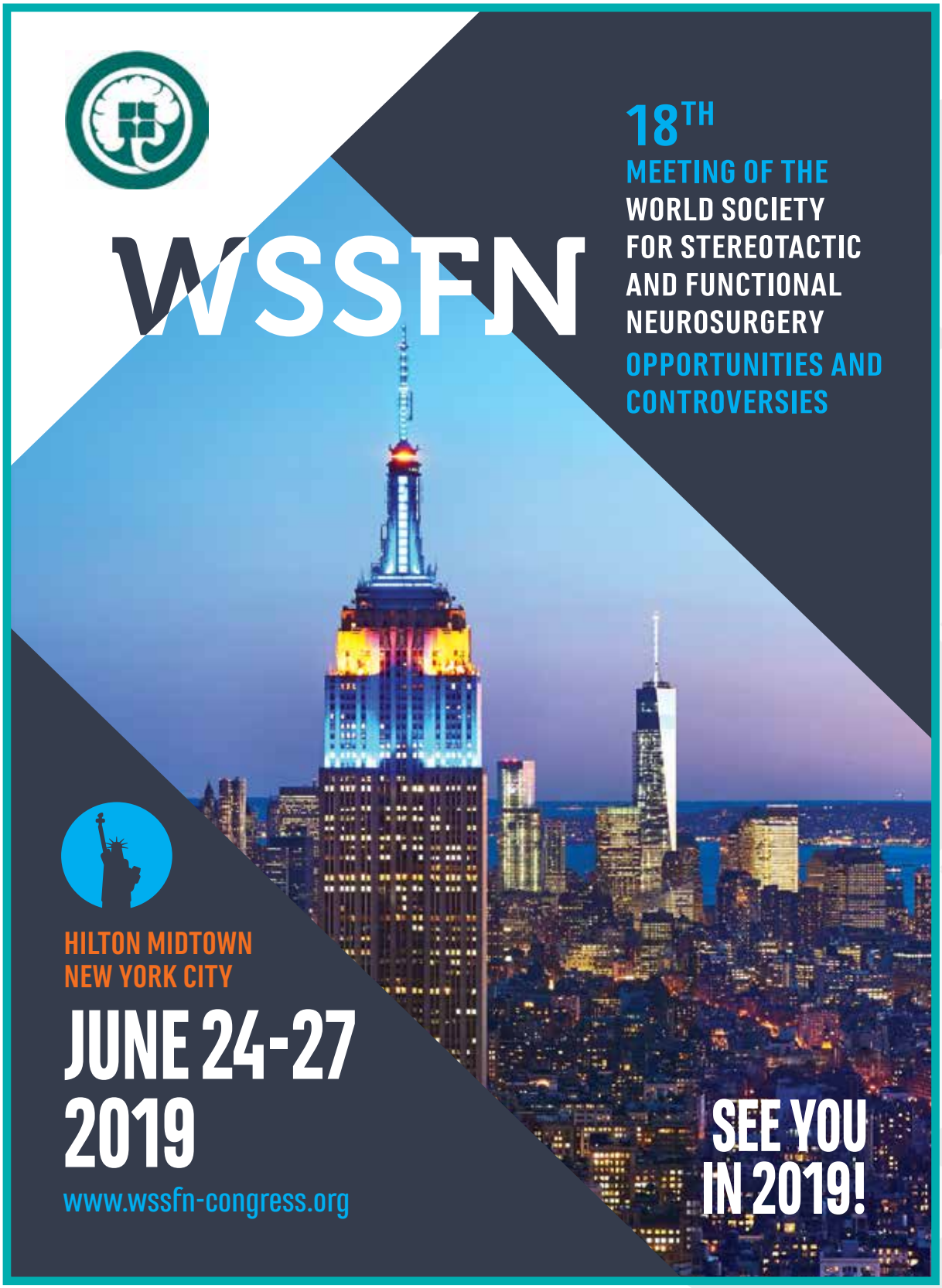
Erich O. Richter

Have feedback or news to share?
Contact us! Melody Dian mdian@centurytel.net



5 Reasons to Attend:

Workshops and courses to sharpen your skills
Plenary and parallel sessions to refresh your knowledge
Debates and breakfast seminars to voice your experience
Social programs and session breaks to meet your colleagues
Oral and poster sessions to present your latest research

Important Dates:

Abstract Submission Deadline:
January 7, 2019

Early Bird Registration Deadline:
March 26, 2019

Marwan Hariz

A Celebratory Meeting

Edinburgh, Scotland, September 2018

The XXIII Congress of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ESSFN) will take place in Edinburgh, Scotland on September 26-29, 2018.

The venue will be the home of The Royal College of Surgeons, a professional organisation founded in 1505 AD.

For the first time, a psychiatrist will be co-organiser of the ESSFN meeting, perhaps a reflection of the new reach of functional stereotactic neurosurgery and the importance of the contribution of all people working with brain diseases.

The ESSFN was founded in Freiburg, Germany, in 1970 and its first congress was held in 1972 in *Edinburgh*. It was hosted by John Gillingham (1916-2010), a co-founder of the ESSFN and a pioneer of British functional neurosurgery. The opening address was given by Lars Leksell. The proceedings of that first meeting were edited by Gillingham, Hitchcock & Turner and published in extenso in Acta Neurochirurgica Suppl 21, 1974.

Gillingham´s many achievements included a life-long entente cordiale and close collaboration with the French icon of neurosurgery Gérard Guiot (the Guiot-Gillingham stereotactic frame), and his insistence on the importance of following operated patients for as long as possible and documenting carefully the long-term results of surgery on chronic diseases such as Parkinsons. In fact, Gillingham and Pat Kelly published a paper to that effect in 1980 (Kelly PJ, Gillingham FJ: The long-term results of stereotaxic surgery and L-dopa therapy in patients with Parkinson's disease. A 10-year follow-up study. J Neurosurg 1980). In his Honorary Lecture in 1999, entitled "Forty-five years of stereotactic surgery for Parkinson´s disease," Gillingham stated: "If curing disease becomes unlikely then therapy should be directed towards the highest quality of life without side-effects." That was long before the issue of quality of life in functional neurosurgery became à la mode.

The 2018 Congress of the ESSFN will celebrate many jubilees: Indeed, 2018 marks the 110th anniversary of Victor Horsley´s and Robert Henry Clarke's seminal publication in Brain on the stereotaxic method (1908); the 25th anniversary of the birth of STN DBS (1993); the 50th anniversary of the famous Parkinson´s Disease Symposium at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, organised by John Gillingham (at that symposium, Robert Schwab presented the now famous Schwab and England ADL scale; Margaret Hoehn and Melvin Yahr described the evaluation of Parkinson's Disease patients after surgery; and the first rudimentary "DBS" procedures targeting in same patient two brain areas for tremor, the Vim and the subthalamic area, was presented.)

Other important jubilee anniversaries to recall and celebrate during 2018 include:
the first human stereotactic procedure for movement disorders ever: pallidotomy for Huntington´s disease by Spiegel and Wycis, 1948 (70 years); the first human DBS procedure ever: DBS in the caudate nucleus for depression by Lawrence Pool, Columbia, NY, 1948 (70 years); the first clinical Gammaknife procedure (Sophiahemmet , Stockholm 1968; pituitary adenoma); the founding of the Journal, Confinia Neurologica in 1938 by Ernst Spiegel (that eventually became "Applied Neurophysiology", then "Stereotactic Functional Neurosurgery")

Some other noteworthy jubilees to remember in the year 2018: the 70th anniversary of establishment of the National Health Service in the UK (1948); Karl Marx 200 year birthday anniversary (1818); 100 years since the end of WW1 (1918) ; the famous Scottish neurologist David Ferrier´s graduation in medicine in 1868 at the University of Edinburgh; Sean Connery 88th birthday anniversary; Rick´s 50th (1968) and Paul & Virginie´s 230th anniversary (1788); the birthday in 1818 of Alexander Bain the famous Scottish philosopher, founder of Mind, the very first journal of psychology; the May 1968 revolution in France (1968); etc.

For the culturally interested, Edinburgh, the historic capital of Scotland and centre of the Scottish Enlightenment, offers many delights, including its internationally renowned Festivals, its many Galleries, and its imperious Castle and its fine food and drinks, whisky in all its brands and ages.

We anticipate a very interesting celebratory XXIII Congress of the ESSFN, that will provide intellectual stimulation, historical reminiscences and –whisky drinking notwithstanding– unforgettable memories of scientific, neurosurgical, neurological, psychiatric, cultural, culinary, and social excellence.

Marwan Hariz, MD, PhD, Honorary Member of the Japan Neurosurgical Society
Future Professor Emeritus at UCL.
London-Upon-Thames, May 27, 2018.

Academic conclave on "Interventions in Neuropsychiatry"

Paresh Doshi

On 9th and 10th of June, Jaslok hospital and Research Centre and the The Neuromodulation society (TNS) of India hosted a unique conclave to deliberate on the present status and future course of various Neuropsychiatric interventions (excluding ECT, CBT). The conclave was further supported by the Indian Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ISSFN) and Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS).

The conclave was "by invitation" only. All the leaders in the field i.e. the Presidents of the above society; secretary, editor and chairperson of ethics and biological psychiatric committee of IPS, academicians, senior practitioners in the field and physicians actively involved in various interventions were invited for the meeting. The main focus was on Neurosurgical interventions, rTMS and DCS. The aim of the conclave was to review the current world literature and the practice of these interventions in relation to India and if some consensus could be reached at the end of the conclave, to formulate the guidelines for practicing this in India. All participants were provided educational material that included guidelines, ethics, meta-analysis of various treatments and review of literature, two months before the conclave. Few key people were identified to steer the discussions on guidelines. These people were provided more details and additional review material to formulate their thoughts.

There were 63 invitees, of which 58 people, from across the country, attended. Majority of them were Psychiatrists as there are only couple of Neurosurgeons in India, presently involved in Neuropsychiatric surgery. The discussion on guidelines was very constructive. Topics like rights of the patient to select the therapy v/s fulfilment of the indication criteria were debated. E.g. If the patient refuses ECT can he be offered DBS for Depression? Who decides if the CBT offered to the OCD patient was standard (one has to remember that India is huge country and clinical standards vary) and adequate before offering surgery? These are questions and points very typical to our region and philosophy and hence need to be addressed differently. At the end of the conclave there was a fair amount of consensus achieved on various issues. We now shall devote each individual group responsibilities to develop guidelines based on the discussions of the conclave and come out with a final draft. This will be endorsed by all the three important societies involved in the treatment, i.e. IPS, ISSFN and TNS.

Prof. Paresh K. Doshi,
India

11th Biennial AASSFN Meeting Report.

This year's host of the meeting was Prof Jung-Tung Liu. The AASSFN is the principal stereotactic society representing the stereotactic societies of Asia and Australia. It holds biennial meetings across the region. The 10th meeting was in Australia. One of the unique feature of our societie's meetings is the location. By tradition, the most exotic location of the country is chosen for the conference. Prof. Liu had chosen the iconic sun moon lake, one of the largest lakes of Taiwan. It was a three and half hour drive from Taipei. The meeting is conducted over two days. The scientific program was exhaustive covering all areas of functional neurosurgery. Some of the uncommon areas included interventions for state of consciousness, MRGFUS use in psychiatric surgery, and lesional surgery. Around 262 participants (including faculty) from 21 countries participated in the program. On the second day of the meeting we had a gala dinner with a cultural treat from local Taiwanese performers. Once again this is a unique feature of all AASSFN meetings. The next meeting is planned in Korea and will be in 2020.

Prof. Paresh K. Doshi,
India

Aviva Abosch

ASSFN Denver 2018

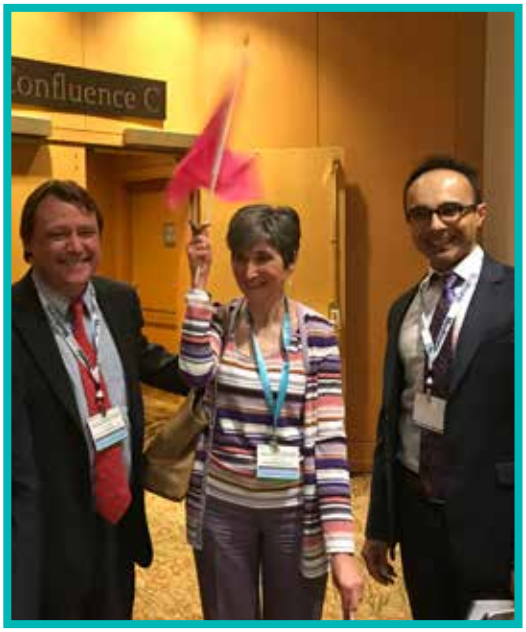
We met in Denver, with a total meeting attendance of 597 people (our largest meeting to date), including 363 medical registrants and 234 exhibitors, with 18 countries represented. Special pre-meeting courses on "Building a Functional Neurosurgery Research Lab", "Optimizing Finances, Value, and Efficiency in our Practices", and "Integrating Technology into Practice", were all well attended. Plenary Sessions featured updates on the activities of partner societies, the NIH BRAIN and SPARC Initiatives, and various neuroscience work underway at DARPA. Also featured were Plenary Sessions devoted to Neuro-Ethics, and on updates in the fields of brain imaging, epilepsy, movement disorders, pain, and psychosurgery. Our Poster Session with Wine and Cheese, Chaired by Zelma Kiss, was extremely well attended, and allowed trainees to engage with leaders in the field. Honored Guest of the Meeting was Philip Starr, and Keynote Speaker was Bryan Johnson, CEO of Kernel.

Onsite society membership applications were dramatically higher than in previous years—a testament to the level of attendee engagement in the meeting.

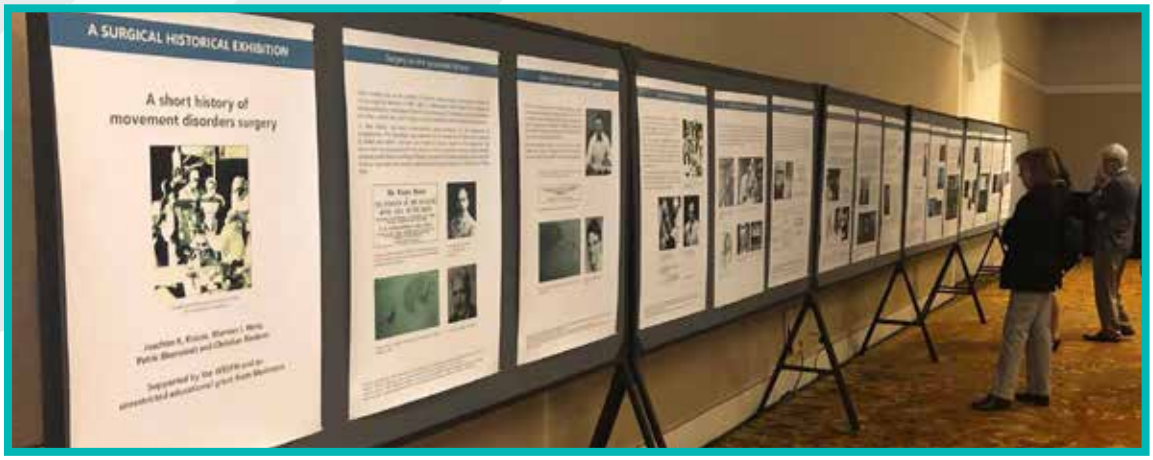
Finally, the new leadership of the ASSFN was announced: ASSFN President is Robert Gross (Emory University), Vice President is Joseph Neimat (University of Louisville), Secretary/Treasurer is Andre Machado (Cleveland Clinic), and Past-President and Meeting Chair for 2020 is Emad Eskandar (Einstein College of Medicine).

We look forward to seeing you in Boston for the 2020 Biennial ASSFN Meeting!

Aviva Abosch, M.D., Ph.D.
Vice Chair for Research, Department of Neurosurgery
Professor of Neurosurgery and Neurology
Director of Stereotactic and Epilepsy Surgery
University of Colorado



Faculty and Attendees enjoy the ASSFN meeting and exhibits



From The Editor Continued

As an example of our global exchange, we report on the Conclave meeting in India (pg 4), which focused on the use of stereotactic and functional interventions for psychiatric disease! It is precisely in these opportunities for international cross-pollination that our World Society best demonstrates it's value in building collaboration and capacity with global reach. Read about Dr. Ghate's life changing educational experience on page 8.

We mourn the passing of Khalaf Almoutariri (pg 10). We celebrate the successes of our global membership from the work of our Featured Neurosurgeon Takashi Morishita (pg 9), to the first Webinar offered by the Society on the topic of directional DBS leads organized by Rushna Ali (pg 7), to the work led by Dr. Krauss in the coalition known as the Neuromodulation of Gait Study Group. Another collaborative success, the Neuromodulation of Gait Study Group has now successfully published three papers on Deep Brain Stimulation of the Pedunculopontine Nucleus as a joint working group project of the WSSFN with the Movement Disorders Society.

We hope you enjoy this update on the activities of our great World Society and hope you are inspired to contribute to our next issue. In particular, as we prepare for the New York Biannual meeting, we want to hear about the efforts of our members in non-invasive neuromodulatory techniques such as TMS. Please keep submitting!

Erich Richter
WSSFN Editor

Neuromodulation Of Gait Study Group:

The Story Of The Movement Disorders Society PPN DBS Working Group In Collaboration With WSSFN

This working group has become the first common project of the Movement Disorders Society and the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. The group has published successfully three manuscripts recently, and more activities are in the pipeline.

The story behind this intersocietal endeavour with the long and convoluted name actually started already several years ago. In the mid2000s the pedunculopontine nucleus (PPN) became considered a most promising target to treat several features of disturbed gait and posture in parkinsonian disorders after it had been introduced in clinical practice by Mazzone and colleagues some years earlier. Yet, studies which were published were limited by small numbers of patients and inconsistent results. While it became clear that freezing could be improved markedly in some patients, there was little effect in others and the effect of PPN DBS appeared to be somehow unpredictable. In 2008 the idea was born to study this target more systematically. The central idea was to gather an international task force with the aim to develop a core assessment protocol on PPN DBS for Parkinson disease and Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, and to organize multicenter intercontinental trials. Soon thereafter, in 2010 Dr. Moro and Dr. Krauss organized a group of experts to form a core group for this endeavour which later became its Executive Committee.

In 2012 the group became established as a task force of the Movement Disorders Society in Dublin upon the occasion of the annual MDS congress. The task force was chaired by Dr. Krauss and Dr. Moro, and the Executive Committee consisted of Dr. Aziz, Dr. Bloem, Dr. Lozano and Dr. Okun. The total group was composed of 34 members with a large variety of expertise in neurology, neurosurgery, neuroimaging, neurophysiology, bioengineering and rehabilitation. Two subdivisions were created to work on "surgical" and "non-surgical" issues. The task force received an unrestricted educational grant from Medtronic to organize its activities. The group then met on several occasions to further activities. Its main set aims were to clarify several issues in particular regarding patient selection, target localization, chronic stimulation algorithms and outcome measures.

In 2014 when the structure of MDS was re-organized the group was renamed as a working group, and it was in that year that both MDS (under the guidance of Matthew Stern) and WSSFN leadership (under the guidance of Joachim K. Krauss) agreed to acknowledge the group as an intersocietal project to work together on a subject of far reaching relevance for both neurology and neurosurgery.

In 2016 the group published two manuscripts in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, one concentrating on surgical anatomy and the other on surgical technique. In 2018 a review on clinical outcome was featured in the Movement Disorders journal. The manuscripts provide recommendations both for surgical targeting ad postoperative management. While the overall interest in PPN DBS has declined in the past few years, this series of manuscripts lays the ground for the development of a core assessment protocol to pave the way for the future.

When the goup will meet in October 2018 in Hongkong it will convene for the first time under its new name the Neuromodulation of Gait Study Group which has been chosen to reflect the more wider range of interest in neuromodulation procedures aimed to alter gait and posture in movement disorders.

Joachim K. Krauss,
Hannover, Germany
Co-Chair Neuromodulation of Gait Study Group
Past and Honorary President ESSFN
Past President WSSFN

For full article, please visit:
Pedunculopontine Nucleus Deep Brain Stimulation in Parkinson's Disease: A Clinical Review. Movement Disorders, Vol. 33, No. 1, 2018

Announcing Our New Webinar Program!

Rushna Ali

The WSSFN is excited to announce the launch of a webinar series! We will be hosting webinars every quarter which will focus on relevant topics pertaining our subspecialty and will aim to engage a global audience.

The first webinar is scheduled for August 29th at 4 pm UTC +1. The topic for this webinar will be "Directional DBS leads" where our speakers will discuss the concept, physiology and potential advantages of using directional leads. Programming algorithms and associated challenges will be talked about and recent published data, as well as their center's experience with this emerging technology will be debated . This will be a moderated session with time for questions at the end of each talk. We have two featured speakers: Dr. Jens Volkmann, Director and Chairman of the Department of Neurology at the University Clinic Würzburg, Germany, and Dr. Till Dembek, Clinical Researcher, Department of Neurology and Research Group for Movement Disorders and Deep Brain Stimulation at the University of Cologne, Germany. The registration link for the webinar will be sent out to all members, along with reminders once the members have registered.

We look forward to your participation.

Rushna Ali, MD
Webinar Organizer

11th Annual Canadian Neuromodulation Meeting

Christopher Honey

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Canadian Neuromodulation Society, I would like to invite you to our 11th annual meeting which will take place June 30-July 2, 2019 in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

Iqaluit is the capital of the recently formed Territory of Nunavut and is very close to the Arctic Circle. Our meeting will take place on the weekend following the WSSFN meeting in New York (shortly after the summer solstice). We have selected Iqaluit to highlight that access to neuromodulation therapy is not yet universal across Canada. In fact, the recent CanADA study: Canadian assessment of DBS access (in press) showed that no patient in any of the three Territories received DBS over the two-year study.

Our meeting will combine invited lectures from international experts in the field of neuromodulation with presentations selected from submitted abstracts covering a range of topics including: DBS, SCS, peripheral stimulation, transcranial stimulation and emerging technologies and indications. We are also planning a series of educational lectures on the culture and medical teachings of the Inuit people. Our meeting is smaller than NANS or INS and will give you an opportunity to meet the experts personally and discuss your ideas with them in an extraordinary setting.

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Frobisher Inn which will host the meeting. Details about the transportation and accommodation will be available on our website. There will be a welcome reception Sunday evening and a gala dinner Monday evening.

We look forward to hosting you.

Warm regards,

Christopher Honey, MD, DPhil, FRCSC, FACS
neuromodulation.ca

International Fellowship: India To Japan

Prajakta Ghate

I was fortunate to have held the Neurosurgeons Fellowship in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery at the Department of Neurosurgery, Tokyo Women's Medical University (TWMU), Tokyo, Japan and complete training under the supervision of Prof. Takaomi Taira. I would like to share the wonderful experience of my one year long stay in Japan.

Japan - The Land of the Rising Sun - is full of surprises and defiant of expectations; every moment of every day filled with new discoveries and utter delights. Everyday experiences were just as memorable, such as the simple challenge to travel by public transportation. The exciting Japanese cuisine, the eclectic dressing style, extreme cleanliness, hygiene consciousness, respect and discipline, generous and warm hospitality – a few to mention of the many aspects – were both surprising and awe-inspiring. As the Japanese hospitality dissolved my anxiety and apprehension, I was able to focus on learning, research, at times sightseeing— and on engaging it in unexpected ways.

At TWMU, I received tremendous help and support in all forms which I appreciate deeply. Everyone at the Neurosurgery Department was utmost cordial and warmhearted making my fellowship very comfortable. These are the people I shared meals with and have so many wonderful memories about. Since a temporary Japanese medical license was made available early during my stay, I could actively participate in lesioning and DBS surgeries as well as DREZ, rhizotomies, spinal cord stimulation surgeries and MRgFUS treatments. Attending and presenting at scientific meetings allowed exposure to recent advances and technology. Prof. Taira took keen interest in teaching and explaining the smallest details of treatment protocol and surgical specifications. He ensured that both the academic and non-academic concerns were well taken care of, for which I shall always remain highly obliged.

Japan lives up to the reputation for everything a little out of the ordinary; techy toilets, capsule hotels, konbini shops (Japanese convenience stores), vending machines dispensing of myriad items – to name a few. Like everyone who has been to Japan, I admired the Japanese people for their earnest portrayal of quintessential traits like profound kindness, politeness, friendliness, respect, punctuality, honesty, and an extremely hardworking and diligent attitude at work. The culture of deference, respect and obedience displayed in every action encompassing daily life is quite astonishing. In Japan, bowing plays a vital role in greeting, showing respect, appreciation and gratitude, etc. I got so accustomed doing it that I still bow to people as they do in Japan!

Living and integrating into a society with a culture so vastly different from India, I was bound to be affected and influenced by the experience. I believe I have assimilated quite a few traits which have made me an enlightened person. I learned the concept of "ichigo-ichie," which literally means "one chance, one meeting" and prompts people to value their encounters with others. It implies that one may never meet that person again, and even if you do, it will inevitably be a different situation, emphasizing that each encounter should be treated as unique and so one should make the most of it towards achieving success. Apart from societal and lingual influences, various philosophical and aesthetic concepts prompted me to reconsider several aspects of my life.

Living in Tokyo, I could very often explore the absolutely spectacular neighborhood of Shinjuku, Shibuya and Harajuku— known for shopping, night life and fashion watching; though my favorite remains a walk by the Sumida River in Asakusa. I visited the mystifying snow-covered Gassho-Zukuri (Huts with roofs in the shape of praying hands) at Shirakawa-go during winter; walking through 2.5 feet thick snow cover was a thrilling experience. I'm proud to have scaled the summit of Mt. Fuji with the Indian flag on the Independence Day of India on August 15, 2017. I took the opportunity to visit cities like Osaka, Kobe, Nagoya, Kyoto, Nara, Yokohama, and Kanazawa. Each city has its own charm and beauty.

In spite of the "I have to see everything there is to possibly see" attitude I couldn't finish my bucket list. The more you see, the more you want to see. It never feels like enough, ever. Also, since most locations look different in each season one must truly visit each place multiple times to experience the breath-taking transformation. The firework festivals in summer, the autumn colors, winter illumination and snow and the sight of blossomed cherry trees in spring are beyond surreal. I met travelers who gave recommendations and urged me on while I also made many local friends I would want to visit again. With its endless avenues of exploration, I still have a long list of "to-visit places" which I couldn't complete during my one year stay in Japan. Admittedly, I am very much intrigued and will always revere the gathered countless fond memories of Japan.

All in all, Japan was one of the most incredible experiences of my life so far and I'm very grateful to have had this opportunity. With everything marvelously efficient and everyone incredibly helpful— Japan is great indeed— a place to be and discover! Lastly, I want to express appreciation and gratitude to Professor Takaomi Taira and Tokyo Women's Medical University for the immense support and assistance. I thank Takeda Science Foundation for funding my stay. I have now returned back to Mumbai, India and wish to practice dedicated Functional Neurosurgery for the benefit of innumerable patients with movement disorders, who are presently deprived of the necessary treatment in India.

Prajakta Ghate, MD
Neurosurgeon, Mumbai, India.

WSSFN Featured Neurosurgeon: Takashi Morishita

Takashi Morishita

Dr. Morishita is an Associate Professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery at Fukuoka University Faculty of Medicine, Fukuoka, Japan. He is chief of the Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery program under Dr. Tooru Inoue (Professor and Chair of the department), who is a pioneer in the fields of microneurosurgery and neurorehabilitation. Dr. Morishita also serves as an active board member for the Japan Chapter of the International Neuromodulation Society and the Fukuoka University Medical Association. He is also an author of more than 50 English papers published in peer-review journals.

Dr. Morishita was born in Tokyo, Japan. He obtained his medical degree from Nippon Medical School in 2004. He entered into the Neurosurgical residency program at Nihon University, directed by Dr. Yoichi Katayama. He also actively worked on basic research projects for his Ph.D. degree at the same time during his residency under the supervision of Dr. Takamitsu Yamamoto and Dr. Chikashi Fukaya. Additionally, he spent a year (June 2008-July 2009) as a research fellow at the University of Florida (UF) Movement Disorders Center (currently named the Center for Movement Disorders and Neurorestoration: CMDNR) in order to learn medical and surgical management of movement disorders from Drs. Michael S. Okun and Kelly D. Foote. In 2010, he completed the neurosurgical residency program and earned his Ph.D. degree. During his residency, Dr. Morishita remained focused on the path to become a specialist of Functional Neurosurgery, and he has been fortunate to have many renowned mentors.

Following his residency training, Dr. Morishita began a research fellowship at the Microneurosurgical Anatomy Laboratory at the University of Florida, directed by Dr. Albert L. Rhoton, Jr., to study basal ganglia anatomy, which lasted from August 2011 to September 2012. Afterwards, Dr. Foote invited Dr. Morishita to complete a subspecialty training & fellowship (CAST) in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery accredited by the Society of Neurological Surgeons (SNS) for two years, until June 2014. It is noteworthy that Dr. Morishita's fellowship was supported by the Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad program of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), which is the most prestigious fellowship grant in Japan. During this two-year clinical fellowship, Dr. Morishita was exposed to extensive experiences in functional neurosurgical procedures, including more than 200 cases of deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery. Dr. Morishita learned meticulous and precise stereotactic targeting techniques for DBS and other procedures for neuromodulation device implantation, as well as stereotactic radiosurgery. He also continued his research works and published several research papers with Drs. Okun and Foote. Upon the completion of his training programs, Dr. Morishita became an experienced functional neurosurgeon, as well as a surfer, through training at St. Augustine beach in Florida. Dr. Inoue welcomed Dr. Morishita as a faculty member of his neurosurgical department in October 2014, and since then Dr. Morishita has been enthusiastic to educate residents and international fellows as a member of the medical faculty.

Dr. Morishita's clinical practice covers a wide range of neurological disorders, including movement disorders, intractable pain, spasticity, epilepsy, and stroke, even though his primary interest is in DBS surgery. He launched a new DBS program in collaboration with the Neurology department at Fukuoka University Hospital. It is noteworthy that Dr. Morishita is one of a very few neurosurgeons who have experience with DBS treatment for neuropsychiatric disease such as obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and Tourette syndrome (TS) in Japan. He has already supported several cases of TS surgery at the National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry in Tokyo, and in 2017, started his own TS program, in collaboration with the departments of Psychiatry and Neurology, and with the approval of the institutional review board, at Fukuoka University Hospital. He is actively working to expand the application of DBS in Japan, to new fields of therapy. In addition, Dr. Morishita is a principal investigator of DBS research projects supported by JSPS (KAKENHI) and other foundations. In his research, he has applied functional Near Infrared Spectroscopy (fNIRS) to measure cortical activity, and has revealed how cortical activity may change following DBS surgery for Parkinson's disease. He received a young investigator award at the Japan Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery 56th annual meeting and was awarded a gold medal at the 19th Fukuoka University Medical Association annual meeting, for his DBS research.

As a member of Dr. Inoue's neurorehabilitation team, Dr. Morishita has also developed the robot-assisted rehabilitation program using the hybrid assistive limb (HAL), which is an exoskeleton-type robot used to support an impaired limb during rehabilitation, with biofeedback mechanisms. He has reported clinical outcomes of robot-assisted rehabilitation for post-stroke patients and revealed biofeedback effects of HAL on brain activity using fNIRS. The HAL robot has been used for various disorders including spinal cord injury and stroke. Currently, Dr. Morishita is a collaborator of several clinical trials of robot rehabilitation supported by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED).

Lastly, but certainly not least, Dr. Morishita is a good husband and a father of two children. He loves life in Fukuoka city, located only a one-hour drive from surfing spots. He developed a taste for Tex-Mex food and margaritas from Dr. Foote, and he is now engaged in another fellowship to learn about wine tasting, under Dr. Inoue.

It is a great pleasure to introduce Dr. Morishita and to describe his outstanding career as a functional neurosurgeon. We look forward to his continued contributions to the field of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery.

Hiroki Toda, MD, PhD
Japan

Prajakta Ghate

In Memorium: Khalaf Almoutairi

Professor Khalaf Redin Almoutairi (1948-2018).

We all received with great sadness on January 29, 2018, that General Professor Dr. Khalaf Redin Almoutairi passed away after a brave fight with his disease. Prof. Almoutairi, the man who deserve the title of the father of Neurosurgery in Saudi Arabia played a major role in the establishment and progression of modern neurosurgery in his country.

Prof. Almoutairi was born in Taif, Saudi Arabia in 1948. He did his medical school in Germany before completing his neurosurgical training in Hanover and obtained the FACHARZT degree. The 35 year old young neurosurgeon was the first qualified Saudi neurosurgeon when he came back home in 1983 to establish the neurosurgical department at Riyadh Military Hospital. The Saudi Board in Neurosurgery was established in 1994 after great personal efforts from his side.

Prof. Almoutairi was an International neurosurgical figure. He founded the Pan Arab Neurosurgical Society. He joined and served in the WFNS till he became the 1st Vice President of the organization. He put his country on the map of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery (his field of interest) and became a board member of the WSSFN. He organized many courses and meetings including the WSSFN course in Riyadh. His support was endless in establishing the middle eastern society for stereotactic and functional neurosurgery MSSFN. He is an honorary president of the society.

At a personal level, Khalaf was a godfather. He is the one who supported me to go for neurosurgery training in Toronto, Canada. He left a small family and a large family of all neurosurgeons in Saudi Arabia with great enthusiasm to keep on the mission he started.

On behalf of all members of The MSSFN, I would like express my profound condolences to the family of Prof. Almoutairi, his students, his colleagues and his friends all over the world.

Ahmed Alkhani, MD, FRCSC, IFAANS.
President, MSSFN.
Professor, Consultant and Program Director.
Division of Neurosurgery,
King Abdulaziz Medical City
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Officers

Founded in 1961 as International Society for Research in Stereoencephalotomy
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