

# WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY



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OF NEUROLOGY







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OF NEUROLOGY

*Fostering quality neurology  
and brain health worldwide*

WFN MISSION

# World Federation of Neurology

The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) was formed in Brussels in 1957, as an association of neurological societies worldwide.

Today WFN represents 124 professional neurological societies in all regions of the world.

The mission of the WFN, as a registered charity\*, is to foster quality neurology and brain health worldwide, a goal we seek to achieve by promoting global neurological education and training, with the emphasis placed firmly on under-resourced parts of the world.

The office of the WFN is in London and its staff manages the organisational and strategic tasks.

## Organisation

### WFN Officers

The Officers of the Federation include the President, first Vice President, Secretary-General and the Treasurer.

Officers are elected every 4 years during the Council of Delegates meeting. The meeting is attended by a quorum comprising one authorised delegate from each WFN Member Society.

### WFN Trustees

The WFN as a registered charity is managed by its trustees:

- |                        |                     |                                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◇ President            | ◇ Secretary-General | ◇ 3 elected Trustees (3-year terms) |
| ◇ First Vice President | ◇ Treasurer         | ◇ Up to 2 co-opted Trustees         |



\* Charity registered in England and Wales, No. 1068673

## Committees of the WFN

The WFN committees are dedicated to assisting the WFN with specific tasks such as education, research groups, membership, publications, finance, and congress organisation.

These committees are created from members from all parts of the world and they provide crucial help to the WFN in order to serve its needs and activities.

|                        |         |            |                  |                             |
|------------------------|---------|------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Constitution & Byelaws | Finance | Nominating | Regional Liaison | International Affairs / WHO |
|------------------------|---------|------------|------------------|-----------------------------|

|            |              |                             |                  |                                 |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Membership | Publications | Public Awareness & Advocacy | Specialty Groups | Diversity, Equity & Inclusion * |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|

Subcommittee

Patient Communication Platform

\* Governance subcommittee under the WFN President

### Education Committee

Subcommittees

|                  |                    |                               |        |                         |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| Core Curriculum  | Continuum          | e-Communications & e-Learning | Grants | Standards & Evaluations |
| Training Centres | Young Neurologists |                               |        |                         |

### WCN Congress Committee

Subcommittees

|                        |                     |                               |                          |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| WFN Permanent Congress | Congress Organising | Congress Scientific Programme | Congress Teaching Course |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|

# Global Networks

## Regional Associations

The WFN encourages the empowerment of local and regional activities through cooperation with its six affiliated regional neurological associations:

- African Academy of Neurology (AFAN)
- American Academy of Neurology (AAN)
- Asian Oceanian Association of Neurology (AOAN)
- European Academy of Neurology (EAN)
- Pan American Federation of Neurological Societies (PAFNS)
- Pan Arab Union of Neurological Societies (PAUNS)

## Specialty Groups

Specialty Groups (formerly Applied Research Groups) serve to promote their subspecialty - for example motor neuron disease, neuromuscular diseases, neurosonology.

In addition to their scientific work the Specialty Groups are invited to engage on the structure and content of WFN teaching courses at each World Congress of Neurology.

The WFN Specialty Groups include:

- Aphasia, Dementia and Cognitive Disorders
- Autonomic Disorders
- Coma and Disorders of Consciousness
- Environmental Neurology
- History of the Neurosciences
- Migrant Neurology
- Motor Neuron Diseases
- Neuroepidemiology
- Neuroethics
- Neuroimaging
- Neuromuscular Disorders
- Neuro-oncology
- Neurosonology
- Palliative Care
- Rare Neurological Diseases
- Tropical and Geographical Neurology

# Global Neurology Alliance

On 30 March 2011, the World Brain Alliance was formed in Geneva as an alliance of peak international organisations dedicated to promoting brain and mental health and reducing the global burden of brain and mental health disorders.

The World Brain Alliance was founded on three premises:

- ◇ The brain is key to health and wellness
- ◇ Brain health and health begin with the mother and child, and their education
- ◇ Our brains are our future

In Nov 2018 The World Brain Alliance was combined with the Global Neurology Network to form the Global Neurology Alliance which today includes:

- **Regional Associations**
- **Specialty Groups**
- **Global Disease Topic Organisations**
  - Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI)
  - Functional Neurological Disorder Society (FNDS)
  - International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology (IFCN)
  - International Headache Society (IHS)
  - International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)
  - International Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders Society (MDS)
  - Multiple sclerosis International Federation (MSIF)
  - Peripheral Nerve Society (PNS)
  - World Sleep Society
  - World Stroke Organisation (WSO)
- **Related World Organisations**
  - International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO)
  - International Child Neurology Association (ICNA)
  - World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS)
  - World Federation of Neurorehabilitation (WFNR)
  - World Psychiatric Association (WPA)



# WFN and WHO

WFN has a long history of engagement with the World Health Organisation (WHO) with renewed official relations status as a global non-state actor until 2026.

Neurology has achieved important steps forward through our joint work that includes the Neurology Atlas, ICD-11, initiatives for equality of access to care, confronting neurological non-communicable diseases, and promoting the *Intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders 2022–2031* (IGAP).

IGAP—a ten-year action plan to address the challenges and gaps in providing care and services for people with neurological disorders—was formally adopted by the 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva, May 2022.

## IGAP Strategic Objectives



WFN has contributed to IGAP through years of work and consultations with members of the Global Neurological Alliance, the WHO Secretariat, and the Member States. We continue to cooperate closely with the WHO and are fully committed to advancing and promoting IGAP by supporting the implementation of the toolkit and actions towards a comprehensive, coordinated response across sectors worldwide.

The WHO position paper “Optimizing brain health across the life course” was launched in August 2022 as a technical complement to the IGAP presenting a framework for understanding the importance of optimising brain health for all.

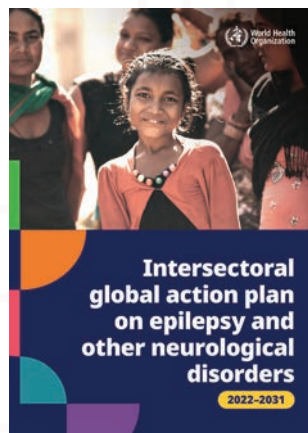
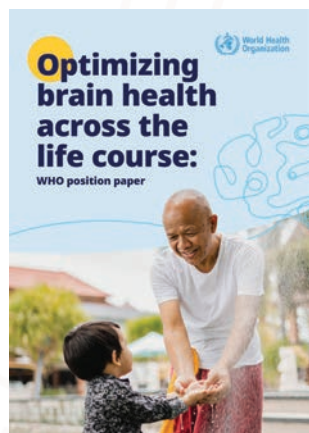
Brain health is promoted by the WHO and WFN and is a permanent pillar of WFN activity. It is key in all advocacy and awareness campaigns, and education should be a priority for all organizations.

The WFN has been invited by the WHO to participate in consultations on the Essential Medicine List (EML) in September 2023 .

At this time the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF) in collaboration with WFN had successfully submitted an application to include three disease-modifying therapies for multiple sclerosis to the EML. Also in this year the anticonvulsant levetiracetam was added to the list of medicines of diseases of the nervous system.

The WFN is supporting the awareness and implementation of the EML among its members societies. The list plays a critical role in improving access to medicines, serving as a guide and strategic roadmap to countries in selecting treatments for their priority health needs.

Medicines on the EML have greater global availability compared to those not on the list.



## WFN and ECOSOC

In 2022 the WFN received special consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The UN ECOSOC Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by all UN Member States in 2015 sets out ambitious goals that are in line with the development of IGAP specifically in addressing the global challenges to health and well-being.



Prof. Alla Guekht and Wolfgang Grisold attend the ECOSOC Meeting on January 2023 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York

# WFN Education

The Education portfolio currently includes opportunities for pre-graduate and medical students, neurology residents and young neurologists, and for CME and Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Its aims are to:

- Work with individuals, institutions and professional organisations
- Provide the World Congress of Neurology (WCN) including educational programmes and teaching courses
- WFN Training Centres
- Neurological Department Visits
- Educational grants
- Junior Travelling Fellowships
- AAN-WFN Continuum Programme
- Congress Bursaries
- Educational Days
- Research and Teaching Group participation.

The WFN continues to set its sights on promoting and supporting education initiatives such as the expansion of the WFN Training Centres, development of education on digital and online platforms, and the development of a global curriculum for training of neurology, aiming for suggestions with regard to the teaching and training methods, taking into consideration differences in local needs and resources.

Most important is the vision to increase efforts on public education and involvement of patients and patient groups. Awareness, prevention, understanding, and care for patients with neurological diseases need to be one of our major tasks.



Cairo Training Centre Visit (January 2024)



## WFN Education Committee

The WFN Education Committee attempts to meet many of these diverse needs. Its strength is a function of the breadth of ideas defining our infrastructure, and the coalitions formed, to facilitate development and spreading of our activities.

## WFN Training Centres and Neurology Department Visits Programme

WFN Training Centres and Department Visits Programmes have been developed to increase access to training opportunities to individuals from regions with currently limited opportunities.

An important aspect of neurologic education is the need not only to train individuals but to empower regions. We established training institutions in Africa for Africans, in the Americas for Central and South Americans, and in the near future in Asian countries for Asian trainees in need.

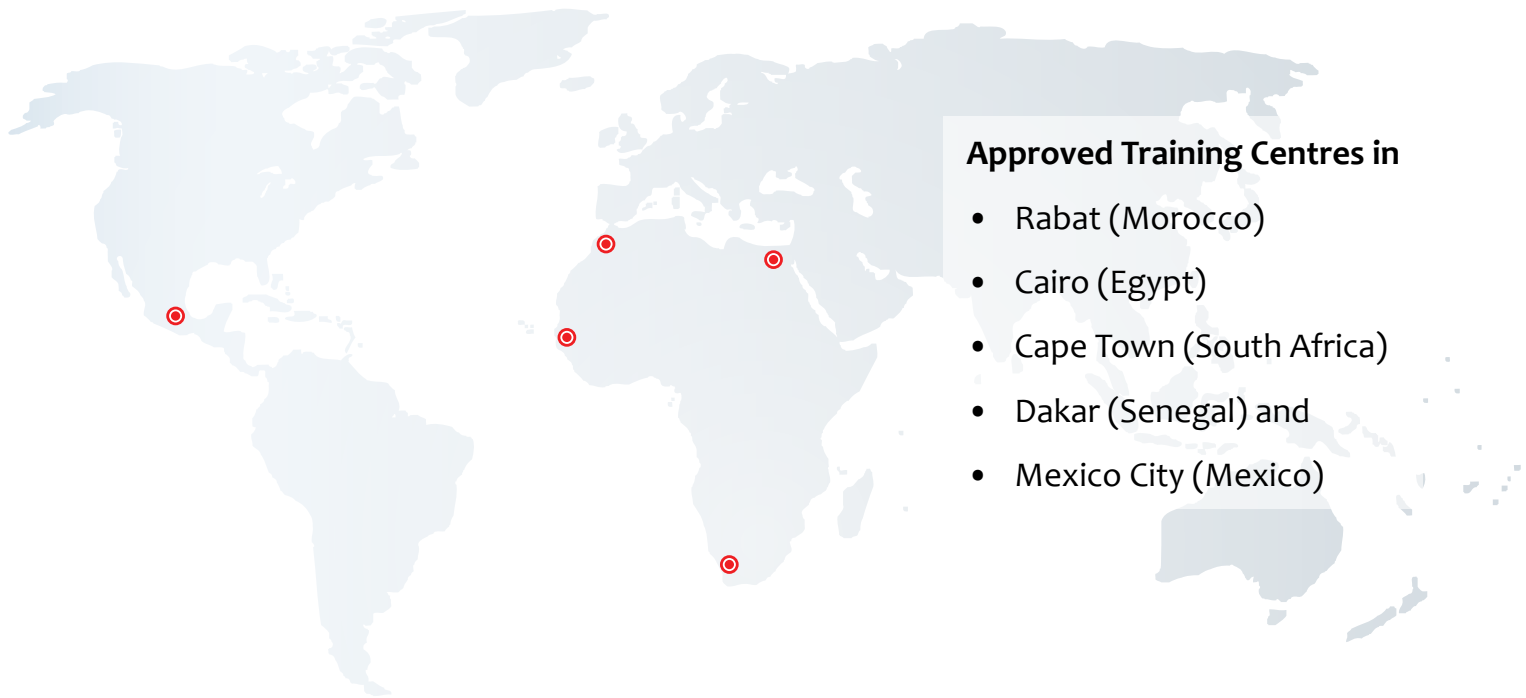


The first successful 4-year trainee: Dr Ndayisenga Arlène, a Burundian resident in Rwanda, received a 4-year WFN scholarship in 2017 to attend the WFN Training Center at Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal



Dr Daniel Ekhaeyouno Ezuduemoih (centre), a senior neurology registrar at Lagos University Teaching Hospital in Nigeria, with Prof. Marco Medina (left) and Prof. Dr Wolfgang Grisold (right), WFN President, in Vienna, following his Austrian Neurology Department Visit in Salzburg.

## WFN Training Centres



### Approved Training Centres in

- Rabat (Morocco)
- Cairo (Egypt)
- Cape Town (South Africa)
- Dakar (Senegal) and
- Mexico City (Mexico)

The first WFN training centre was introduced in Rabat, Morocco, in 2013. Today, training centres have been successfully established in Cairo, Cape Town, Dakar, Rabat, and Mexico City, offering both “full training” and fellowship opportunities, which include electrophysiology, epileptology, and stroke.

The training centres are neurology departments with inpatient and outpatient programmes, and affiliated with a local university, and devoted to the public medical sector. They must have a strong interdisciplinary spirit, as well in the teaching commitment, be closely allied with

neighbouring fields such as internal medicine and have close relationships with neurosurgery, neuroradiology, neuropathology, and neurorehabilitation medicine.

The aims of the training centres are to train neurologists locally to high educational and professional standards, and also acknowledge the quality of the training centre.

Training centres enhance and empower regional teaching and academic neurology, thereby increasing local competence and growth.

## WFN Department Visits Programme

The WFN Department Visits Programme gives the opportunity to young neurologists from Africa, Asia, Central and South America to visit the neurological departments of other institutions outside of their home country for 4 to 6 weeks.

Young neurologists gain valuable experience by studying the procedures, techniques, and observing the neurologic work at a major neurological centre, acquiring insights into the medical and social systems of the healthcare system, the hospital, and the university structure. Trainees learn to adapt, and have practical exposure to increase their neurological knowledge and acquire new skills, through practical experiences and exposure caring for patients with neurological diseases in inpatient and outpatient settings.

The department visits are made possible through co-operation between the WFN member societies, and help to cultivate young neurologists' experience of national neurological systems in an international environment.

Originally started in 2012 for African countries, with department visits in Turkey, the programme has expanded to Austria, Germany, Italy, Norway.

In 2017, a department programme was introduced in North America, through the Canadian Neurological Society, dedicated to countries in South America and Africa, and in 2023, the Indian Academy of Neurology (IAN) offered a department visit programme for low and lower middle countries in the Asian Oceanian continent.



**Dr Heena Narotam Jeena (centre), a neurology registrar at Tygerberg Hospital/University of Stellenbosch in Cape Town, South Africa, on a Department visit to Innsbruck Hospital, Austria.**



**WFN-IAN first Asian Department Visit program. Pictured: Trainee, Dr Duc Nguyen, neurology resident from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, with Dr. Vivek Lal.**



## Education Days for Africa

WFN together with African Academy of Neurology (AFAN) offer online education days for students, nurses, GPs, neurologists and residents in neurology in Africa.

**Education in Headache to Healthcare Providers in Africa (EHHPA)** is a free, virtual educational program that provides world-class headache and migraine training to providers all over the continent.

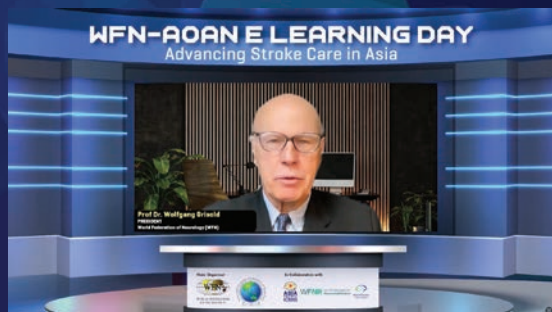
The programme is developed together with The International Headache Society (IHS) and IHS Global Patient Advocacy Coalition (IHS-GPAC).

**WFN-AFAN e-learning days** cover themes such as Stroke, Epilepsy, Movement Disorders and Neuropathies, and are supported by members of the Global Neurology Alliance including the American Academy of Neurology (AAN), European Academy of Neurology (EAN), International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE), International Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Society (MDS), Peripheral Nerve Society (PNS), and World Stroke Organisation (WSO).



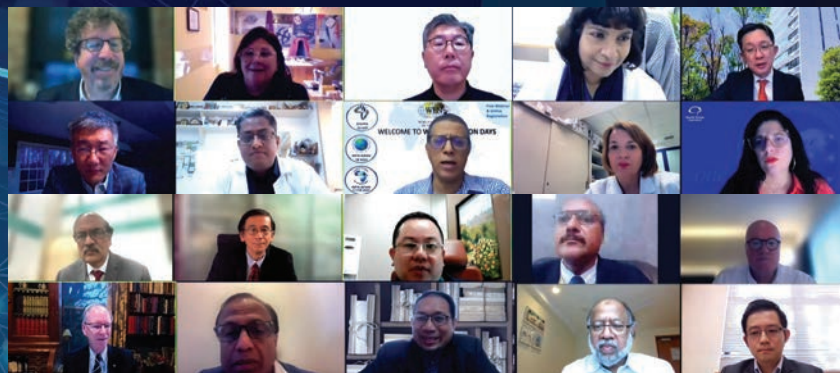


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## Education Days for Asia

In 2023, the first education day on **Advancing Stroke Care in Asia** was held jointly with the Asian and Oceanian Association of Neurology (AOAN), and in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Stroke Organisation (APSO), World Stroke Organisation (WSO), and World Federation for Neurorehabilitation (WFNR).





# World Congress of Neurology (WCN)

The WFN holds biennial world congresses, which rotate throughout the regions (Africa/Pan-Arab, Americas, Asia, Europe) of the world. The congress consists of selected plenaries and named lectures, scientific sessions, debates, young neurologists sessions, teaching courses, presentations and poster sessions, as well as structural and business meetings. A patient day will break the latest developments of neurology to the local public.

The WCN is a live and hybrid event and is accredited by the EACCME (European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education), AMA (American Medical Association) and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, being evaluated to the highest international standards.

In 2021, with Covid 19 restrictions disrupting travel and gatherings, the XXV WCN in Rome was the first entirely virtual congress for WFN. In spite of this, the meeting was a great success with many attendees applauding the quality and accessibility of online speaker sessions. The global prevalence and demand for virtual and in-person meetings means that future hybrid congresses are here to stay.

The XXVI World Congress was held in Montreal, Canada in 2023 and was WFN's first hybrid congress. XXVII WCN 2025 will return to Asia in Seoul, South Korea, and we are excited to welcome delegates from all over the world to join this prestigious event in the neurology calendar. WFN offers congress bursaries and travel grants aimed at young neurologists.





WORLD FEDERATION  
OF NEUROLOGY



**KNA**  
KOREAN NEUROLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATIONS

# XXVII WORLD CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGY (WCN 2025)

12-15 OCTOBER 2025  
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA



Seoul



# WFN Digital Neurology Updates

In addition to the World Congress of Neurology there is a need for an update meeting to fill the gap between each World Congress of Neurology which take place every 2 years.

The WFN Digital Neurology Updates is a 2-day virtual educational meeting launching on 26 September 2024. The meeting features morning plenaries on developments in the neurological diseases, followed by afternoon teaching courses. Industry symposia will be offered in addition to the scientific program.

## International Congress of Neuromuscular Diseases (ICNMD)

The biennial ICNMD International Congress on Neuromuscular Diseases is organized on behalf of the Specialty Group on Neuromuscular Diseases (NMD) of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) since 2014.

The ICNMD congress concept is to offer attendees an updated view on neuromuscular disorders and offer networking opportunities that help to promote international experience and collaborations.



# World Brain Day

A major initiative from the WFN is World Brain Day (WBD) which had its origins at the WCN 2013 in Vienna. The day commemorates the founding day of the WFN on July 22 1957.

Members are encouraged to celebrate WBD by downloading the WBD Toolkit containing promotional materials, suggestions for press mailings and social media posts, and to use this momentum for the local promotion of neurology.

World Brain Day 2024 (WBD 2024) is dedicated to Brain Health and Prevention.



WFN proudly leads this initiative in collaboration with all six WFN Regions to advocate for the paramount importance of brain health and preventive measures. The active participation of the World Health Organization (WHO) lends momentum to the 2024 campaign, shedding light on the Intersectoral Global Action Plan (IGAP) with a focus on epilepsy and other neurological disorders.

# Publications

The WFN produces enduring materials—printed, written material or media available as educational audio or video—which are journal-published Congress abstracts, the Journal of Neurological Sciences (JNS), eNeurologicalSci (eNS), and World Neurology.

## Journal of the Neurological Sciences (JNS)

The Journal of the Neurological Sciences (JNS) is the official journal of the World Federation of Neurology.

Two editor-selected CME articles appear on the website each month and can be downloaded free. The JNS is a continued success and is edited by Prof. John England.

The impact factor is 4.553 [Mar 2023]

## The WFN Service page

Grisold W, Lewis S. **The WFN Service Page**. Journal of the Neurological Sciences. 2023 Dec 6:122814.

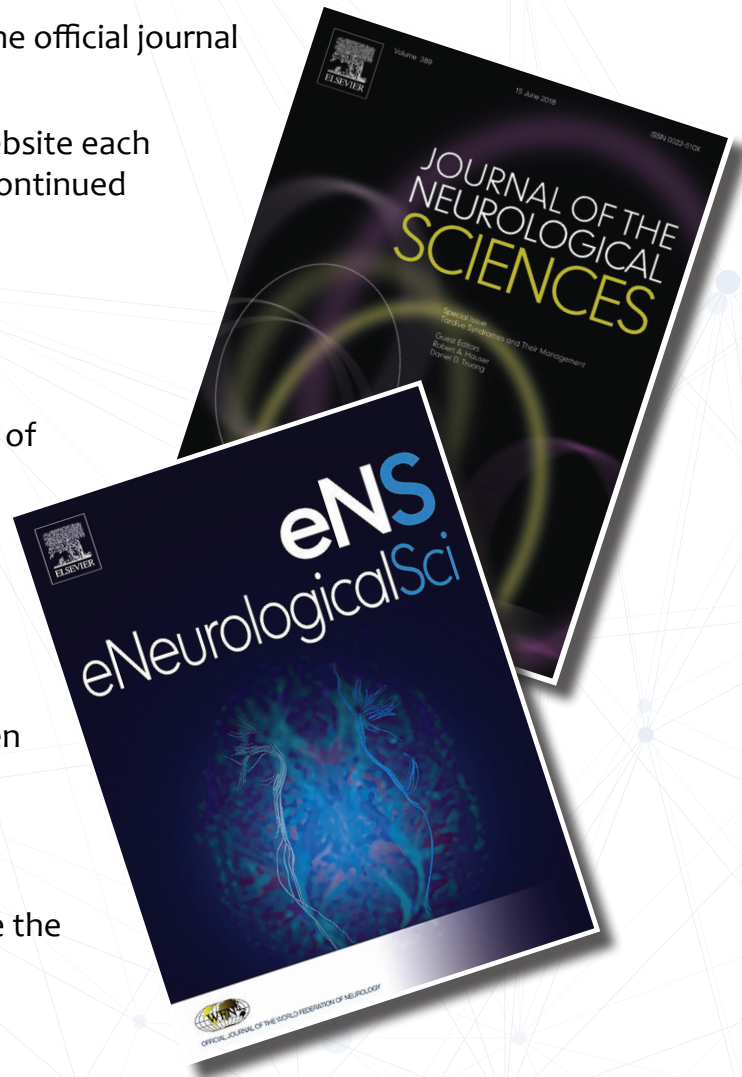
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jns.2023.122814>

## eNeurologicalSci (eNS)

Launched in 2015, eNeurologicalSci is the WFN Open Access scientific journal.

Also available through PubMed, the journal also serves as a platform for articles and cases, and has published several local features, working alongside the JNS.

The journal is edited by Prof. Walter Struhal.





# World Neurology

World Neurology features news of the WFN world-wide, and is published 5 times a year. World Neurology is free to download and is edited by Prof. Steven Lewis and Prof. Walter Struhal.

## WORLD NEUROLOGY

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

### WCN 2023 and WFN Activities

Here's a preview of the upcoming World Congress of Neurology (WCN) 2023 in Montreal as well as an update on some WFN activities.

Prof. Steven Lewis, President of the World Federation of Neurology, provides an overview of the upcoming World Congress of Neurology (WCN) 2023 in Montreal and updates on WFN activities.

### New Workplaces, New Opportunities to Mitigate Neurological Disability

on and management programs to segment, and productivity.

Addressing chronic conditions such as dementia, Parkinson's disease, and multiple sclerosis, the WFN is working to improve the lives of people with neurological disability through research, education, and advocacy.

Prof. Steven Lewis, President of the World Federation of Neurology, discusses the impact of chronic neurological conditions and the need for improved management and support programs.

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### Leave No One Behind

Working to promote brain health and disability.

The WFN is committed to ensuring that no one is left behind in the fight against neurological disease. We are working to improve the lives of people with neurological disability through research, education, and advocacy.

Prof. Steven Lewis, President of the World Federation of Neurology, discusses the importance of leaving no one behind in the fight against neurological disease.

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### Palliative Care for Stroke Patients

Report from the joint session of the WFN and the World Stroke Organization (WSO) at the WSO Congress in Toronto.

The WFN and WSO have joined forces to improve the lives of stroke patients through palliative care. This report details the findings and recommendations from the joint session of the WFN and WSO at the WSO Congress in Toronto.

Prof. Steven Lewis, President of the World Federation of Neurology, discusses the importance of palliative care for stroke patients.

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- Prof. Steven Lewis
- Prof. Walter Struhal
- Prof. ...

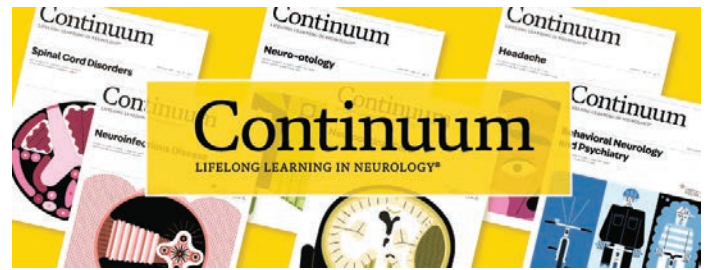
# AAN-WFN Continuum® Education Programme

*Continuum: Lifelong Learning in Neurology*® is the official CME journal of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN).

AAN, along with its publisher, Wolters Kluwer, generously donate Continuum as an enduring reference and source of education to neurology professionals in World Bank classified low- and low-middle-income countries in collaboration with the WFN as its distribution partner. The AAN-WFN programme provides global neurology teams print and online access in more than 40 countries.

As well as comprehensive clinical reviews of major neurologic topics, Continuum user groups learn about the latest treatments and techniques to enhance the management of patients with neurologic disease. Each bimonthly issue features the latest clinical information related to a single topic area in neurology with self-assessment questions, as well as access to *Continuum*® Audio interviews with the authors.

The progress of these programs is monitored by the WFN through participant evaluations. The WFN provides certification upon completion of courses.



## WFN website & social media

WFN is eager to promote neurology worldwide.

Through our website and social media platforms, we endeavour to promote and expand the reach of WFN activities to a global audience, from neurologists to allied healthcare professionals, decision makers to the general public.

The website serves as a rich repository of information, links and resources spanning WFN journals, World Neurology back issues, neurology news, spotlight on global neuroinfections, World Congress, World Brain Day, and Education Day archives, to an extensive video library in the e-Learning hub.

Our social media channels include:

- [facebook.com/wfneurology](https://www.facebook.com/wfneurology)
- [x.com/wfneurology](https://x.com/wfneurology)
- [linkedin.com/groups/4555083](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4555083)
- [instagram.com/worldfederationofneurology](https://www.instagram.com/worldfederationofneurology)

# Quick Links

**WFN Website:** [wfneurology.org](http://wfneurology.org)

**WFN Organisation:** [wfneurology.org/about-us](http://wfneurology.org/about-us)

**WFN Member Societies:** [wfneurology.org/member-societies](http://wfneurology.org/member-societies)

**Global Neurology Alliance:** [wfneurology.org/gna](http://wfneurology.org/gna)

**WFN and WHO:** [wfneurology.org/wfn-and-who](http://wfneurology.org/wfn-and-who)

**WFN and UN ECOSOC:** [wfneurology.org/wfn-and-ecosoc](http://wfneurology.org/wfn-and-ecosoc)

**WFN News & Events:** [wfneurology.org/news-events](http://wfneurology.org/news-events)

## Education

**Education:** [wfneurology.org/education](http://wfneurology.org/education)

**WFN Training Centres:** [wfneurology.org/training-centres](http://wfneurology.org/training-centres)

**Neurological Department Visits:** [wfneurology.org/department-visits](http://wfneurology.org/department-visits)

**e-Learning Hub and e-Learning Days:** [wfneurology.org/e-learning](http://wfneurology.org/e-learning)

## Programmes

**World Congress of Neurology:** [wfneurology.org/wcn](http://wfneurology.org/wcn)

**World Brain Day:** [wfneurology.org/wbd](http://wfneurology.org/wbd)

**Brain Health Initiative:** [wfneurology.org/brain-health-initiative](http://wfneurology.org/brain-health-initiative)

**WFN Grants & Awards:** [wfneurology.org/education-grants-and-awards](http://wfneurology.org/education-grants-and-awards)

**AAN-WFN Continuum Programme:** [wfneurology.org/continuum-programme](http://wfneurology.org/continuum-programme)

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