

NEWS

## World Federation for NeuroRehabilitation, a new organization and a promising field in neurology

A new organization was formed at the recent 3rd World Congress in Neurological Rehabilitation in Venice. Since the 1st World Congress that was held in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, in 1996, there has been an informal grouping of individuals with an interest in neurological rehabilitation, which was known as the World Forum for Neurological Rehabilitation. Interest in this group has grown steadily. There were nearly 1400 attendees for the Venice meeting from 55 different countries. It was time to formalize a global organization for clinicians with an interest in the subject of NeuroRehabilitation. Thus, the World Federation for NeuroRehabilitation (WFNR) was born. The aim of the organization is to promote the cause of neurological rehabilitation on a world-wide basis, mainly through organizing a congress every 3 years and continuing to produce a 6-monthly newsletter (*WFNR Update*). Other opportunities for education, interchange, courses, meetings and research collaboration as the organization matures and develops are a future aim.

Professor Michael Barnes from Newcastle upon Tyne was elected as the first President of the WFNR. Suzanne Phillips from Bath, UK, was elected as Secretary and Editor of the newsletter and Klaus von Wild from Germany agreed to be treasurer. These three officers are supported by a Management Committee that consists of the Editor of the *Journal of Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair*, Presidents of existing national societies for neurological rehabilitation, the chairperson of the Venice congress and the chairperson of the next

world congress. The Vice-Presidents to represent the different continents were elected – Anwar Etribi (Africa), Pradit Prateheparanich (Asia), Ben Marosszeky (Australia), Jorge Hernandez (Central America and Caribbean), Karl-Heinz Mauritz (Europe), David Good (North America) and Lucia Willadino Braga (South America). Six General Members of the WFNR also join the Management Committee – Franz Gerstenbrand (Austria), Maya Thomas (India), Nils Erik Gilhus (Norway), Amanda McLeod (UK), Derick Wade (UK) and Bruce Dobkin (USA). This Management Committee is supported by a further 25 members on the WFNR Council that will meet at every congress and determine the future direction and strategy of the organization.

Membership is free and to join the organization and receive the *WFNR Update* simply requires an e-mail or note to the President at the address below. Anyone with an interest in neurological rehabilitation who wishes to participate and be involved in the new organization would be welcome to contact Professor Barnes in Newcastle. The address is: Professor M. P. Barnes, Hunters Moor Regional Neurorehabilitation Centre, Hunters Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4NR, UK. Tel/fax: +44 191 219 5690; e-mail: m.p.barnes@btinternet.com.

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European Journal of Neurology | Volume 9, Issue 5

First published: 06 September 2002