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VOICE OF YOUNG NEUROLOGISTS AROUND THE WORLD

At the 67th annual meeting of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN), there was a roundtable discussion with representatives from the International Working Group of Young Neurologists and Trainees—World Federation of Neurology (IWGYNT-WFN), Asia and Oceanian Association of Neurology, Association of South East Asian Nations Neurological Association, European Association of Young Neurologists and Trainees (EAYNT), and the AAN's Consortium of Neurology Residents and Fellows (AAN-CNRF). The purpose of the meeting was to provide updates on the developments affecting young neurologists throughout the world, as well as to discuss current initiatives focused on the improvement of neurology training on the international stage.

EAYNT. The EAYNT is an independent nonprofit, nongovernment organization unifying European neurology residents and young neurologists (aged 40 years or younger).¹ The activities of the EAYNT include maintaining a close working relationship with the European Academy of Neurology (EAN) and collaborating with other national neurology residents' organizations.

Membership on the EAN Subspecialty Scientific Panels has remained strong, helping to steer funding and scientific inquiry, based on a fresh perspective from the young neurologist community. The EAYNT voice continues to resound in everyday practice throughout the EAN's purview, most notably in their member participation in the drafting of clinical guidelines, the transition from paper posters to ePosters at the EAN conferences, organizing well-attended special sessions at the EAN conferences, and arranging hospital visits with the help of other national neurology residents' organizations.

Furthermore, the EAYNT has collected the opinions of its members to provide input into establishing

a more unified neurology training structure and knowledge evaluation.² Their latest focus was on the migration of neurologists between and to different European countries.³ Although the European Union has a common market, it is challenging to transfer academic credentials from one country to another. Through assessing trends and making more uniform standards of training and credentialing, there may be more effective care delivery throughout the European Union.

Since 2010, the EAYNT is continuing efforts to further establish its collaboration with the newly founded EAN on the basis of its past successful associations with the European Neurological Society and the European Federation of Neurological Societies.

CNRF. In a similar fashion, the AAN-CNRF is working to provide more uniform standards for training neurologists, due to variability within the United States' training programs. The CNRF regularly surveys its constituents in order to determine trends in the field of neurology, as well as to gain perspective on what issues are of greatest importance to improve residency and fellowship training.^{4,5} Currently, in response to feedback from their graduating residents in the third triannual survey, they are focusing on a "national noon conference" in collaboration with the AAN's Graduate Education Subcommittee to better prepare trainees for the business of medicine.

There are many resources that the AAN has to offer its members, and the CNRF hopes to create a better platform for disseminating resources to its members early in their career. Working closely with the AAN staff, the CNRF is planning on developing a continuum of career-specific interfaces that will adapt to the needs of their members over their career, and dynamically integrate aspects of the continually changing health care system in order to keep neurologists up to date with their field and certification requirements.

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IWGYNT. The IWGYNT's main goal is connecting young neurologists across the globe, with recent successes in Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Pacific region, and ongoing plans to develop the IWGYNT practicing neurologist database in the Americas. IWGYNT also represents young neurologists within the WFN. Its other activities are to promote initiatives of the WFN among young neurologists around the globe through social media.⁶

Asia and Oceania. The representative from Asia provided a background of the ongoing efforts to connect the various neurologic associations in Asia. Despite the hurdles posed by such large populations and language barriers, the existing body of dual-association members suggests there is support and hope for unification similar to the recently formed EAN. The first meeting of IWGYNT-Asia was organized during the Asia Oceanian Association of Neurology conference in 2014. Young neurologists from various countries, such as Australia, Thailand, China, Korea, Sri Lanka, and India, participated in the conference and discussed issues encompassing training systems in different countries, as well as training overseas. Under the leadership of Tissa Wijeratne, MD, FAAN, a young neurologist group was developed called Asia Pacific Association of Young Neurologists and Trainees⁷ whose aim was to represent residents and young neurologists from the Asia Pacific region.

During the 2013 WFN conference in Vienna, representatives from IWGYNT-Asia had an opportunity to attend hospital tours and other activities organized by EAYNT. This will provide a good model for further developing IWGYNT-Asia. Current activities of IWGYNT-Asia involve exchanging ideas on neurology training across Asia and exploring overseas training opportunities.

Africa. Young IWGYNT neurology delegates from Africa have assigned a number of representatives to establish a pan-African young neurologist network. This network will play an important part in future training initiatives. We were informed that at the end of August 2015, the African Academy of Neurology will be founded in Dakar.⁸ This could potentially enable establishment of international collaboration and development of educational activities and resources.

The WFN is actively involved in Africa via supporting high-quality fellowship positions for African fellows in the WFN training centers in Rabat, Morocco and Cairo, Egypt. Both centers were toured by a WFN delegation, which endorsed the excellent training standards of both centers. For 2016, Senegal and Cape Town have also applied to be future WFN teaching centers. Together with the Turkish Society

of Neurology and WFN, 2 young neurologists from Africa are invited for a 4-week rotation at a Turkish University hospital. Following this successful model, the Austrian Society of Neurology also offered 2 4-week rotations for African trainees to the University Hospitals of Vienna and Innsbruck, and similar plans are being developed by the Norwegian society.

At the close of the meeting, the delegates agreed that representing young neurologist organizations around the world will gather together for the regular meetings where they will present annual reports on the progress made by their respective organizations and discuss future plans for continuing to improve training experiences and curricula, in the hopes of better preparing neurologists for their careers.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Rakusa: acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation, first draft. Dr. Struhal: critical revision and intellectual contribution. Dr. Gak: critical revision and intellectual contribution. Dr. Tanprawate: critical revision and intellectual contribution. Dr. Balicza: critical revision and intellectual contribution. Dr. Khawaja: critical revision and intellectual contribution. Dr. Schneider: critical revision and intellectual contribution, study supervision.

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M. Rakusa reports no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. W. Struhal serves as a review editor of *Frontiers in Neurology Education*. S. Gak, S. Tanprawate, P. Balicza, A. Khawaja, and L. Schneider report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

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