Fostering quality neurology and brain health worldwide
The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) was formed in Brussels in 1957, as an association of neurological societies worldwide.

Today WFN represents 120 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.

* Charity registered in England and Wales, No. 1068673
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
- First Vice President
- Secretary-General
- Treasurer
- 3 elected Trustees (3-year terms)
- Up to 2 co-opted trustees

Committees of the WFN

The WFN has several committees which 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.

- Applied Research
- Congress
- Constitution & Bye-laws
- e-Communications
- Education
- Finance
- Grants
- Membership
- Nominating
- Public Awareness & Advocacy
- Publications
- Regional Liaison
- Standards & Evaluations
- Zika Working Group
WFN Education

The Education portfolio currently includes opportunities for pre-graduate and medical students, neurology residents and young neurologists. Its aims are to:

- Work with individuals, institutions and professional organisations
- Provide World Congress of Neurology (WCN) and international teaching courses
- Endorsement of Teaching Centres
- Subspecialty endorsement
- Neurological Department Visits
- Education grant monitoring
- Junior Travelling Fellowships
- Coordinate the AAN-WFN Continuum Programme
- Regional programs worldwide
- JNS and eNS journal publications
- World Brain Day

The WFN continue to set its sights on promoting and supporting education initiatives such as the expansion of the WFN Teaching 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.

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.
World Congress of Neurology (WCN)

The WFN holds biennial world congresses, which rotate throughout the regions (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe) of the world. The congress consists of scientific sessions, teaching courses, presentations and poster sessions, as well as structural and business meetings.

The WCN is a live 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.

The 2017 XXIII WCN in Kyoto, was one of the most successful congress held and the largest so far, with 8,634 participants from 121 countries.

The next XXIV WCN will take place in Dubai, 26 - 31 October 2019, followed by the XXV WCN in Rome, in 2021.

From the World Congress to Enduring Materials

Increasingly, the WFN also 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) and eNS, the dissemination and organization of Continuum with the AAN for use in Continuum user groups, and the WFN website.

WFN offers congress bursaries and travel grants aimed at young neurologists.
World Brain 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

The WFN coordinates the World Brain Alliance which today includes:

- International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)
- International Child Neurology Association (ICNA)
- World Federation of NeuroRehabilitation (WFNR)
- World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- World Psychiatric Association (WPA)

Working together is crucial to achieve our intertwined goals
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)

The WFN is the current convener of the Global Neurological Network created from several specialist societies, such as the World Stroke Organization (WSO), the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society (MDS), the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE), MS International Federation (MSIF), Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI), the International Headache Society (IHS), and the Peripheral Nerve Society (PNS), among others.

The WFN is committed and delighted in cooperating with them all.
Applied Research Groups serve to promote their subspecialty - for example motor neuron disease, neuromuscular diseases, neurosonology.

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

The WFN Applied Research 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
- Tropical and Geographical Neurology
World Neurology

World Neurology is WFN’s newsletter providing information of the development of the WFN, news from the Applied Research Groups, and communication about activities in the neurosciences worldwide.
WFN Teaching Centres and Neurology Department Visits Programme

WFN Teaching Centres and Department Visits Programme 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 train individuals locally; moreover to establish training institutions in Africa for Africans, in the Americas for Central and South Americans, and hopefully in the near future in Asian countries for Asian trainees in need.

WFN Teaching Centres

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

The teaching 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, neurosurgery, and rehabilitation medicine.

The idea is to train neurologists locally with high standards, and also acknowledge the high standard of the training centre. The programmes aim to be a model for similar regional training programs with provision of high-quality neurologic training and a goal to increase access to high-quality neurologic care, enhance and empower regional teaching and academic neurology, thereby increasing local competence and growth.
The WFN Department Visits Programme give the opportunity to young neurologists from Africa or Central and South America to visit the neurological departments of another institution outside of their home country for 4 to 6 weeks.

During department visits, young neurologists study the procedures, techniques, and observe the neurologic work at a major neurological centre. The experience not only introduces the participants to recent developments and up-to-date procedures, but also introduces new insights into other medical and social systems.

The trainees not only learn, adapt, and absorb the healthcare system, the hospital, the university structure, and neurological knowledge, but have practical exposure to patients, thereby gaining practical experiences and skill acquisition.

The care for patients with neurological diseases include inpatient and outpatient care, as well as exposure to neurologic rehabilitation and palliative care. Neurologists are increasingly involved in stroke unit service and neurointensive care, and in some regions local needs such as management of neurologic infections may be a priority.

The department visits are made possible through cooperation between the WFN and national neurological societies and help to cultivate young neurologists’ experience of national neurological systems in an international environment, meeting new colleagues, and fostering future cooperation between the countries, universities, hospitals and departments.

Originally started in 2012 for African countries, with department visits in Turkey, organised with the Turkish Neurological Society (TNS), the programme has expanded to Austria, Germany, Norway, and Italy. In 2017, a department program has been introduced North America, through the Canadian Neurological Society, dedicated to countries in South America.
AAN-WFN Continuum®
Education Programme

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN), along with its publisher, Wolters Kluwer, generously donate print issues and online access to Continuum: Lifelong Learning in Neurology® for neurology education in countries with limited resources.

Through a collaboration with WFN, this is highly successful programme is made available to societies in 45 countries, for the use of Continuum user groups.

It is an enduring reference and source of education to neurology professionals in World Bank classified low- and low-middle income countries.

The AAN-WFN programme provides global neurology teams with access to comprehensive clinical reviews of major neurologic topics, and 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, and offers CME and self-assessment credits, 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 and social media

The WFN is eager to promote neurology worldwide. Through its 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.

- www.wfneurology.org
- www.facebook.com/wfneurology
- twitter.com/wfneurology
- www.linkedin.com/groups/4555083

The website serves as a rich library of information and resources from World Neurology archive to news, WCN archive, to video eLearning material.
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 and is July 22.

Members are encouraged to celebrate this World Brain Day and receive educational matter, suggestions for press mailings, and printout material.

World Brain Day Themes

2018
Clean Air for Brain Health

2017
Stroke is a brain attack – prevent it and treat it

2016
Brain Health and the Ageing Population

2015
Epilepsy

2014
Our Brain, Our Future

2015
...is more than SEIZURES!

2016
Health in an Aging Population

2017
ONE IN SIX PEOPLE

World Brain Day Themes

WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY

Brain is the most amazing and complex organ in the human body. Diseases affecting brain such as Stroke, Epilepsy, Depression, Tumors, Traumatic Injury, Alzheimer’s Disease, Infections, Headache, Sleep Disorder and Genetic Disorders.

Diseases affecting the brain are the single most important cause of disability in the world. It’s time to act. Let’s get together to promote better brain health globally.

Exercise, healthy eating, avoidance of tobacco, drugs and alcohol, reading and problem solving promotes brain health.

Our brains are at a crossroads now! One in three of us will get dementia or stroke during our life time. This can occur at any age–any time–anywhere! Both these disorders are preventable–treatable for the most part.

WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY
GET IN TOUCH

Find out more about what we do and how you can get involved, at:

www.wfneurology.org

or e-mail us:

info@wfneurology.org