



**12TH ANNUAL SAUDI NEUROSCIENCE SYMPOSIUM  
4TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SAUDI CHAPTER OF EPILEPSY  
2ND ANNUAL JEDDAH NEUROSCIENCE UPDATE**

***Presidential Address  
World Federation of Neurology***

**I**t gives me a great pleasure to address this combined conference of the 2nd Jeddah Neuroscience Update, 4th Saudi Chapter of Epilepsy and the 12th Annual Saudi Neuroscience Symposium, under the able leadership of Professor Abdelhakim Shawki, Head of Neurology Department at Dr. Erfan Hospital. I am bringing to this congress a warm greeting from Kyoto, where I live, Iowa, where I work, and the World Federation of Neurology (WFN), which I have the privilege of serving as President. I wish you the best for an anticipated success of this gala event launched for the benefit of all the membership. The mission of the WFN centers on the improved care of patients with neurological disorders through education of neurologists globally. The quadrennial meetings of the World Congresses of Neurology (WCN) serve as an effective venue for presenting scientific achievements and interacting with delegates of varied backgrounds and perspectives, as attested by the highly successful WCN 2001 held in London, which attracted some 7000 registrants, and equally exciting WCN 2005 in Sydney for which preparation is currently underway. Unfortunately, however, not everyone can attend such an international meeting for logistic and fiscal reasons. Thus, the WFN also works closely with regional neurological organizations to improve communication between member societies and encourage their continued participation and interaction. In a local congress, like the present assembly, various neurological societies in the vicinity share the common interest in advancing neuroscience and its related fields, which may be unique to the area. To achieve these objectives, we must explore a number



**Jun Kimura**

of options for more active collaboration among neurologists, especially in promoting better patient care. It is, therefore, my personal joy and satisfaction to participate in this Congress, which adds substantially to the education of young colleagues in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and neighboring countries. The Conference exemplifies the spirit of collaboration of many individuals, who contributed to this worthwhile venture. In particular, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the members of the Organizing Committee for a job well done and wish you the best for a most successful assembly and reunion.

A special supplement will be issued at the conference, 13-15 January 2004. The Guest Editors of the supplement are Mohamed Erfan and Abdelhakim Shawki and the Assistant Editor is Claire Rivers. In this supplement the readers will find a leading article on an important topic, Mononeuritis multiplex authored by the most expert in this field, Jun Kimura - who else? It will also include 2 original articles, the first one by Khalifa et al dealing with Effectiveness of iron therapy on breath holding spells and the second deals with Dementia in Qatar by Hamad et al. The abstracts of all other presentations will be published under different headings of, Cerebrovascular disorders, Multiple sclerosis, Neuromuscular disorders, Neuroradiology, General neurology, Neurosurgery and Epilepsy. The conference represents the full cooperation between Erfan & Bagedo Hospital, and Saudi Chapter of Epilepsy and Saudi Neurosciences and many faculty members, in which their work is beyond gratitude.



## INAUGURATION

### COMMISSION OF EAST MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS ILAE



The inauguration of the East Mediterranean Affairs, ILAE (CEMA) will take place in Jeddah, January 2004. It will be hosted by the President, of Saudi Chapter of Epilepsy, Saleh Al-Deeb. This event will be attended by the President of the ILAE, Giuliano Avanzini; the Vice-President and Chairman of Task Force Regional Commissions, Martin Brodie; and the Subregional and Interregional Organizations Task Force for the ILAE, Cigdem Ozkara. The Commission will include countries with an existing epilepsy chapter in the ILAE, namely, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Tunisia.



*Saleh Al-Deeb*

The objectives of CEMA will include finalizing the structure of the Commission, increasing the number of chapters in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR), establishing a training program for epileptologists in the region, education of the community and patients on epilepsy, publishing of a newsletter or journal for the Commission, and establishing an interactive website. The General Assembly of the Commission will comprise the Chapter Presidents, or their representative, from the member countries, ex-officio, Chairman and the Secretary-General of the Commission. The Commission is constituted of 7 members (Hassan Hosny from Egypt, Abdulkarim Al-Qudah from Jordan, Youssef Comair from Lebanon, Hassan Aziz from Pakistan, Ahmed Hamad from Qatar and Amel Mrabet from Tunisia) including the Chairman, Basim Yaqub. The Commission will be responsible for executing the plan of the chapters and presentation of an annual report to the General Assembly, it will also represent the Commission in the ILAE. An Advisory Council will also be selected from distinguished faculty who have promoted epilepsy in their regions. The nominated names are Saleh Al-Deeb (KSA), Farouk Koura (Egypt), Ashraf Kurdi (Jordan) and Mohamad Mikati (Lebanon). Nominated names for the East Mediterranean Epilepsy Academy (EMEPA) Executive Board are Sarmed Al-Fahad



*Giuliano Avanzini*

(Iraq), Ahmad Khalifa (Syria) and Mohammed Fredj (Tunisia), Reda Quazzani (Morocco), Naji Riachi (Lebanon), Ahmad Khalifa and Mohammed Fredj.

The Commission will encourage and support other countries in the region to create Epilepsy Chapters, and we will invite the following countries to join the Commission: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Sudan, UAE and Yemen. Algeria will also be invited to join as they geographically belong to this region.

The establishment of education and training programs in the EMR will be the responsibility of the Commission and the EMEPA. An academy will be established to support the academic activities of the region. Well-known and respected clinicians and academicians will be invited to become faculty members. There are currently plans to hold an educational course on epilepsy in Yemen, Qatar, Egypt, Lebanon and Morocco in 2004 with more courses in Libya and Sudan in the year 2005.

The education of the community and patients on epilepsy will be the responsibility of the Commission and the Advisory Council. A detailed plan has to be established in cooperation with different chapters in the International Bureau of Epilepsy (IBE) and the Regional World Health Organization in Cairo.

The newsletter for the Commission will be published within the Neurosciences Journal until a separate newsletter or journal of the Commission can be established. The nomination of an editor will be discussed during the inaugural meeting.

To facilitate communication between members of the Commission an interactive website will be established. This will also incorporate the comprehensive program of the Commission on epilepsy services, contact details and the announcement of symposiums, courses and workshops of each of the chapters.

We are more than honored that Giuliano Avanzini, President of the ILAE and Martin Brodie, Vice-President and Chairman of the Task Force Regional Commission will give an opening address to our inaugural meeting.



*Basim Yaqub*



## 4TH GCC NEUROLOGY CONFERENCE

The 4th GCC Neurology Conference will be held in Doha, Qatar. The date and venue will be 24-26 February 2004, Al-Majilis Hall, Sheraton Hotel. The main themes of the conference will be: Stroke, discussing thrombolysis, anticoagulation, intensive care management of venous and arterial stroke and stroke prevention. Pain management, addressing neuropathic pain, headache and back pain. Neuromuscular disorders and myasthenia gravis. Epilepsy addressing seizure semiology and seizure syndromic diagnosis. Multiple sclerosis and its masquerades and management of spasticity, bowel and bladder dysfunction in MS. The conference will also address the surgical management of Parkinson's Disease.

The faculty will comprise many international speakers from North America (Robert Daroff, Henry Kaminski, Bashar Katirji, Dennis Landis, Robert Ruff and Ashfaq Shuaib), the Gulf Region (Asmahan Alshubaili, Anthony Auty, Saeed Bohlega, Pratap Chand, Waleed Khoja, Andrew Louon and Basim Yaqub), Lebanon (Paul Bejani, Naji Riachi) and Pakistan (M. Wassay). There will be 3 workshops, the first on stroke addressing CT interpretation in acute stroke, patient selection for thrombolysis and case studies. The second workshop will cover electromyography addressing basics, wave form analysis, conduction blocks, demyelination, needle examination, neuromuscular junction and plexopathy. The last workshop will be on movement disorders addressing the use of botulinum toxin.

The meeting is being arranged by Hamad Medical Corporation, Department of Neurology. Further information is available from Mrs. Zubaida Salam, Tel. +974 4392768, Fax. +974 4392273, e-mail: zsalam62@yahoo.com or the website address: [www.hmc.org.qa](http://www.hmc.org.qa)



## 10TH PAN ARAB UNION OF NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES

The 10th PAUNS conference will be held in Jeddah and hosted by Hussein Malibary who will be the President of the conference. Hussein Malibary is a Consultant Neurologist and Faculty staff member at King Abdulaziz University Hospital since 1982, and member of the Higher Committee of the University Hospital Administration. He held the post of Chairman of the Department of Medicine in the University more than once from 1992 to 1998. He is the Program Director and General Supervisor for the Saudi Board of Neurology in Western KSA. He is currently an Advisory Board member at the Neurosciences Journal.



Hussein Malibary

Hussein Malibary gave the following presidential address. *"It gives me a great pleasure to invite you to the 10th PAUNS, which will be held in the beautiful city of Jeddah. Jeddah is close to the Two Holy Mosques: Makkah (70 km) and Madinah (400 km). It is known by its long Corniche which hosts many five star hotels, restaurants and attractive places, by its beach and diving or fishing activities and by its multiple, huge and elegant shopping centers and malls. The conference will be held between February 28th, and March 3rd 2005 and major topics in Neurosciences will be discussed with special emphasis on the burden of neurological disorders in the Arab population. This opens the opportunities for knowing geographical, epidemiological and patterns of different disease entities. Invited international and national guest speakers will give the utmost update in the field of Neurosciences in plenary sessions and oral presentations. Poster sessions and workshops will be organized. The Organizing Committee would appreciate your active participation and early registration, undoubtedly every effort will be given to make the gathering a successful scientific, humane, religious, social and certainly unforgettable meeting. Looking forward to seeing you in Jeddah"*.

## YOUNG INVESTIGATORS AWARD

### 25TH INTERNATIONAL EPILEPSY CONGRESS PORTUGAL, OCTOBER 2003



The 25th International Epilepsy Congress was held in Lisbon, October 2003. The contribution from the Arab countries was evident. Youssef Comair from Lebanon chaired the symposia on surgery for children with epilepsy, Basim Yaqub co-chaired the symposia on transmissible diseases and a special course on epilepsy semiology. The Arab faculty were represented in the meeting and in addition to Youssef Comair and Basim Yaqub, Sonia Khan from Saudi Arabia and Mohamed Mikati and Naji Riachi from Lebanon were amongst the faculty members.



Salah Al Baz

The Young Investigators Bursary Award from the ILAE for the research project "Natural course and prognosis of epilepsy during and after treatment of CNS tuberculomas, published in *Epilepsia* [Vol. 44 (suppl 8): October 2003] was given to Salah Al-Baz who is currently the Chief Resident at King Faisal

Specialist Hospital and Research Center, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Salah Al-Baz graduated from King Saud University in 1997 with an MBBS. He started his Medicine residency at the King Fahad National Guard Hospital in 1998. Salah Baz went on to complete his Neurology residency at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital, where he is currently the Chief Resident. Salah Al-Baz is looking forward to completing his Saudi Boards (Neurology) in late 2003. Salah Al-Baz has published 5 indexed abstracts on Wilson's Disease, Axonal Neuropathy and CNS Tuberculomas. In addition, 12 platform and poster presentations at various conferences in the Kingdom and abroad including the American Academy of Neurology, Philadelphia, May 2001, the World Federation of Neurology, London, June 2001 and the American Academy of Neurology, Denver, April 2002.

We, in the Saudi Chapter of Epilepsy feel honored that one of our trainees has achieved such an important international award.

**8th Mediterranean Epilepsy Meeting**  
Marrakesh, Morocco, 18 - 20 November 2004  
Hosted by the Moroccan league against epilepsy

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Further information: Congress Secretariat and [www.epimed2004.ma](http://www.epimed2004.ma)

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