The 4th GCC Neurology conference held from 24th–26th February in Doha, Qatar, brought together experts from different continents in the fields of neurology and neuroscience. The organizing committee chaired by Dr. Saadat Kamran expressed its desire for close cooperation and foundation of subspecialty working groups e.g. for stroke. The aim of the meeting was to provide, through lectures and workshops, an educational program focusing on new insights, developments and experiences across these different neurological subspecialties such as stroke, multiple sclerosis, movement disorders, neurophysiology, pain management and epilepsy. At the same time, the meeting served as a forum for exchanging ideas, establishing working groups or reinforcing existing research efforts amongst neurologists and neuroscientists in and outside the Gulf region. The take home message was clear: practice prevails over theory. This was reinforced by a special ‘dinner workshop’ on the first day of the meeting. Unlike in previous editions, special attention was given to stroke (acute stroke and prevention) and non-malignant pain management. Experts from the United States, Drs. Dennis Landis and Bashar Katirji (Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio) and the Gulf region delivered over these 3 days several lectures of which the abstracts are provided in this special issue of this Journal. At the meeting it was decided that the United Arab Emirates will be the next venue for the GCC Neurology conference in 2005. Until then Dr. Saadat Kamran will be chairing the GCC Neurology. The second education course about epilepsy was held by the Commission on East Mediterranean Affairs (CEMA) and was well attended by neurologist, internist and general practitioners. The speakers Basim Yaqub, Naji Riachi, Ahmad Hamad, Hassan Hosni and Hassan Al-Hail discussed the different aspects of diagnosis and management of epilepsy. Following the presentations, there was a small meeting of the CEMA group to discuss the next 2-day educational course in Lebanon, which will be conducted during the meeting of the Lebanese Neurology Association in November 2004.

The Organizing Committee wishes to thank their colleagues from the Gulf for their contribution to this 4th GCC Neurology conference and the Editors of Neurosciences, Profs. Saleh Al-Deeb and Basim Yaqub for providing the opportunity to publish the abstracts as a supplement to the journal.

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