Message from the President

9th Pan-Arab Union of Neurological Societies Conference

M. Anwar Etibri

Welcome to the challenges

Towards the end of the last century, it was clear that Neurology was changing. This was achieved through thousands of researcher’s who contributed to the decade of the brain efforts to disclose the secrets of the brain and its malfunctions. The outcome of this helped to provide new ideas and treatments for a variety of Neurological disorders like muscle disease, Alzheimer’s disease, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, movement disorders and cerebrovascular disorders. The progress in other fields like imaging and neurosurgery has also helped in improving these diseases and its surgery. Now, it is the time of assessing the value of these new strategies and rediscovery of self. The Neurologist of the future will be capable of prevention of stroke and effective thrombolyis and brain catheterization of his patient by himself if needed and if he want to do it himself. He will be capable of Vagal Nerve Stimulation (and may be other site stimulation and implantation of other devises) to change the coarse of epilepsy, Alzheimer, depression or paraplegia. He will have to learn these special skills to compete with others who will definitely try to do it. In order to do a good thrombolysis or brain catheterization, a neurologist will have to read MRI very well and have an experience in transcranial Doppler. The complexity of the situation and role of the Neurologist will gradually shift from asking others to do it to do it yourself. It is needless to say we need to revise the curriculum of teaching for the post-graduates and undergraduates in Neurology to ensure this is all based on clear grounds. Education has been revolutionised and the Neurologist will from now on, have to keep with basic knowledge of anatomy, physiology, histology, biochemistry and pathology, besides the ability to work with the many types of equipment used recently in the diagnosis of neurological disorders. The objective of teaching in neurology will from now on, have to make a balance between the golden roles of formulation based on clinical assessment and the learning of the analysis and interpretation of results of investigations and therapeutic procedures essential for the management of the neurological patients. Education modification must start at the undergraduate level and continue through the post-graduate area. The Ninth Pan Arab Union of Neurological Society Congress is an excellent chance to exchange our experience and compare our practice and change it to conform with the optimum we want. The organizing committee has tried its best to make this meeting in Cairo. I am very grateful for everyone who helped either from the local organizing committee or the Arab countries and all over the World. I look forward to see you in Cairo on 13th January 2003. We will work hard over the 3 day Congress in Cairo coupled with the usual enjoyment of receptions, cultural activities and Nile cruises made to please everyone. I also promise our special weekend in Sharm Hayat Regency 15-16 January will be nicer. …and Welcome to the challenges.