



## ISN sub-Committee on Neuropathology Training & Development

### **Report on the International Society of Neuropathology Outreach Teaching Workshop Hyderabad, India, 18-20 December 2015**

*Organised by the International Society of Neuropathology (ISN), Sub-Committee on Neuropathology Training & Development in cooperation with the NPSICON 2015 meeting of the Neuropathology Society of India (NPSI).*

In 2015, the SC sponsored and contributed to the inaugural meeting of the Neuropathology Society of India (NPSI), held 18-20 December in Hyderabad. The ISN does not normally support national conferences but as this was a maiden meeting signifying the birth of NPSI, the SC derived profound pleasure in supporting NPSICON 2015. This first conference, organised by Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences Hyderabad, was a huge milestone in the history of neuropathology in India and a proud moment for neuropathologists and all professionals interested in disorders of the brain and nervous system in the Indian sub-continent. The NPSI Secretariat and local organisers worked hard to craft an intense but rewarding programme over two days to include didactic lectures, specific seminars and case report sessions on various topics in neuropathology, with a particular emphasis on tumours. The occasion also provided opportunities for networking and establishing collaborations. This inaugural conference was held at the Park Hyderabad, 22 Rajbhavan Road, Somajiguda, Hyderabad-500082. The meeting was heralded as a resounding success by all who attended and was immensely gratifying for those who organised it. The conference was attended by about 200 delegates from all over the country including postgraduates of pathology as well as faculty and researchers in pathology/neuropathology. Several National neuropathologists/pathologists contributed to the academic programme (see photographs).

The ISN SC contributed to the teaching and played a large part in the construction of the programme. The ISN faculty included President Prof Hitoshi Takahashi (Japan), Prof Herbert Budka (Switzerland), Prof David Ellison (USA) and Prof Raj Kalaria (UK). The two-day inaugural event began with the traditional Indian opening led by Prof Radhakrishnan and a warm welcome by Prof Sundaram (Chairperson of the Organising committee of NPSICON 2015) and several of her colleagues including Profs S Das and C Sarkar (President and Secretary of NPSI). The intensive programme specifically incorporated topics within neurooncology, neuroinfections, cerebrovascular disorders and neuromuscular disorders. Prof Ellison delivered the 23<sup>rd</sup> Dr Devaraju Krishnamurthy Memorial Oration on Integrating molecular analyses and histopathology for the diagnosis of paediatric brain tumours. Other highlights included the neuropathology of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, new prion diseases and cerebrovascular disorders. There was a timely update session the WHO Blue Book with emphasis on molecular neuropathology in the context of neuro-oncology. Brain banking in context of neuropathology research in India was also highlighted. Among the national chairs and key speakers were Profs G Chacko (Vellore), N Husain (Lucknow), SK Shankar

(Bangalore), BD Radotra (Chandigarh), V Santosh (Bangalore) and MC Sharma (New Delhi). The programme also featured interactive discussions cases of neoplastic and non-neoplastic conditions with diagnostic dilemmas. This was an important part of the exercise for members of the audience and ISN speakers. Young postgraduates and pathology trainees presented some 50 posters on ongoing research work in fields of neurooncology, infections, epilepsy and neuromuscular disorders. One other highlight of the meeting was the presentation on the evolution of Neuropathology with an account of research activities at various Institutes in India by the Secretary of NPSI, Prof Chitra Sarkar. Prof Budka in characteristic style conveyed his views on the roles of neuropathology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the ISN. A professionally printed useful abstract book containing all the poster abstracts was also available to the participants. The three winners of the poster prizes each received pathology textbooks donated by the ISN.

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December, some of the faculty visited the Department of Pathology at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital, where the local organisers (Dr Megha Uppin and Prof C Sundaram) are based. Similar to previous meetings, the SC emphasized the essential goal of training local neuropathologists or general pathologists in CNS pathology and encouraged the development of related activities including clinico-pathological demonstrations.

Thanks to the support of the ISN and the local organisation, several young doctors and trainees within Hyderabad and India were trained. A warm message of *dhanyavaad* was conveyed to all those who made the inaugural event possible and in particular to the local organisers who generously gave their time. The ISN is especially grateful to both Drs M Uppin, Dr A Mahadevan and Prof C Sundaram and all her staff including the energetic trainees. The core organisation of the logistics of the accommodation and travel for the ISN instructors was overseen by the ISN sub-committee chair Raj Kalaria together with the excellent assistance of Prof Chitra Sarkar, responsible for the overall invitation and local liaison in Hyderabad. The ISN representatives were also appreciative of the relaxed Indian hospitality with traditional Hyderabadi luncheons and delicious dinners! The full programme and all the lectures are available from NPSI.

In addition to the generous support provided by NPSI, this inaugural event in India was financially sponsored by the ISN and British Neuropathological Society (BNS). The BNS Executive committee is particularly thanked for their generous NPSI is now busy planning the second conference to be held in February 2017 at NIMHANS, Bangalore.

12<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Reported by Professor Dr Raj Kalaria *on behalf of the T&D sub-Committee and NPSICON 2015*  
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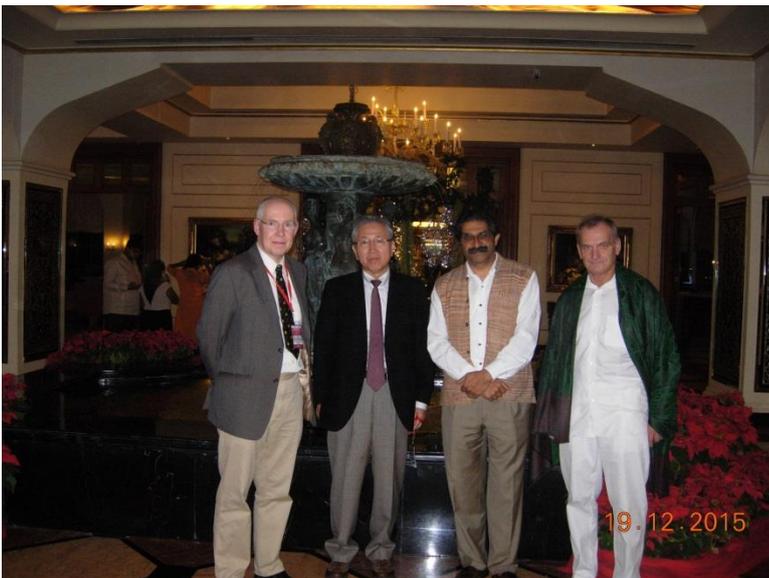
Encls: event pictures and legends below (pages 3-5).



1) NPSICON 2105 Faculty, Prof VV Radhakrishnan (far right, opening chair) and Profs Ellison (keynote address), Radotra (Chandigarh) and Kalaria (Newcastle) in Hyderabad



2) ISN Faculty with the members of NPSICON 2015 organising committee



3) ISN SC representatives (Profs Ellison, Takahashi, Kalaria and Budka) at ISN Teaching Workshop and NPSICON 2015 in Hyderabad, December 2015



**4) NPSICON 2015 Hyderabad Organisers, National NPSI Faculty, ISN Faculty and Pathology Trainees and Residents**



**5) NPSICON 2015 Audience in Hyderabad, India, December 2015**



**6) NPSI Founding members, Prof VV Radhakrishnan and C Sarkar at NPPSICON 2015 in Hyderabad, India, December 2015**



**7) Prof VV Radhakrishnan awarding one of the poster prizes at NPPSICON 2015 in Hyderabad, India, December 2015**