III teaching course in cognitive neurology: from epilepsy to dementia

Third teaching course in Cognitive Neurology: Epilepsy to Dementia, was organized at Hotel Chancery Pavillion, Bangalore on 5-7 April 2013. This course was sponsored by the World Federation of Neurology Research Group on Aphasia and Cognitive Disorders (WFN RGACD) and co-hosted by Department of Neurology, Manipal Hospital, Nightingales Medical Trust (NMT) and the Bangalore Neurological Society (BNS). It was organized with an aim to educate and update clinicians, neuroscientists, neurologists, psychiatrists in the discipline of cognitive neurology.

First day began with a melodious classical Saraswati archnana in carnatic style followed by inauguration. First talk was on the overview of neuropsychological assessment by Dr Aparna Dutt with discussion of when and how to take the assessment. Dr Urvashi Shah conducted group administration of different scales to the attendees which was helpful in understanding and practically experiencing the tests. Dr Narinder Kapur's lecture on theories and models of memory was illustrative as it dwelled on experimental, semantic and episodic memories.

First talk on 6th April was delivered by Dr Santosh Chaturvedi who discussed neuropsychological assessment to distinguish organic or neurological pathology and the use of taking thorough history.

He emphasized on onset, precipitating factor, course of disease, social factors, psychological factors, perinatal subtle trauma and exanthematous fever while cognitive assessments. His talk was followed by talk of Dr Amitabha Ghosh who described the approaches to analyze the observation scheme for the patients with dementia. The key note address by Dr Barbara Wilson, Medical Research Council Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, Cambridge, was about cognitive rehabilitation for patients and their caregivers to gain optimum physical, mental and social well being in order to achieve their personal SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time based) goals. Dr Elizabeth Warrington's expertise in this field was evident from her experience in differentiating impairment at the level of visual sensory processing, perceptual organization and processing. There was debate on "traditional classification of aphasia is clinically useful and relevant" followed by another talk of Dr. Thomas H Bak and Dr Apoorva Pauranik.

Third day was focused on clinical and therapeutic aspects of dementia. Dr Keshav Das from Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology described the role of Positron Emission Tomography (PET) in dementia. Third day

concluded with a debate on "Antipsychotics in dementia do more harm than good" followed by talks of Dr Soumya Hegde and Dr. Shivkumar which was summarized by Dr S Kalyanasundaram. Dr Radha Murthy, Geriatric physician and founder of Nightingale's Medical Trust, India, described his project on experience with aging and Alzheimers which was set up in 2010 to provide comprehensive care facility to patients and training to caregivers.

The main topics covered in the conference included overview of neuropsychological assessments and case studies, cognitive deficits in multiple sclerosis, differential diagnosis of dementia from MRI and PET, Neuropsychological rehabilitation and the roles of neuropsychology in epilepsy. Videos were also shown.

Outlets of neuropsychological assessment tests, hyderabad special jewelries and delicacies were special attentions which added value to the conference.

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Rahul Tyagi, M.Sc
Neuroscience Research Lab
Department of Neurology
Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER)
Chandigarh, INDIA