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WHO Statement- for Sept 2020

WHO Statement

World Federation of Neurology (WFN)

European Academy of Neurology (EAN)

Title: “Access to neurological care must be preserved for all patients”

Key words:

Access, ageism, barriers, Covid-19, health literacy, neurological diseases.

The Covid-19 pandemic has captured the full attention of the medical and neurological workforce, in the management of this unprecedented crisis with the middle and long-term outcomes remaining uncertain. Presently, the efforts of many research projects in neurology and neurosciences are devoted to the manifestations of Covid-19 on the nervous system.

Neurology covers a wide range of disease processes ranging from vascular, epilepsy, degenerative, inflammatory, trauma, neuromuscular etc. affecting all age groups. In several neurological diseases in particular stroke, Parkinson`s disease, and dementia mainly the elderly population is affected requiring continuous care. It is the intention of the WFN and the EAN to maintain access to care for all neurological patients while the battle to contain and defeat Covid-19 continues. In particular, it is the medical illiterate and the elderly population that must be supported to manage the barriers of access, the fear of premature death, the effects of isolation and the need to restrain themselves in seeking help. In this context an increasing number of mental health issues have been observed during Covid-19 pandemic in particular with patients with chronic diseases.

Fostering quality neurology and brain health worldwide

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It is essential, that all recorded COVID -19 events should be analysed using robust methodological approaches to verify to what extent neurological and psychiatric manifestations in patients with COVID-19 are risk factors, consequences or just chance occurrences.

The WFN and the EAN vigorously support the WHO in its efforts to combat the pandemic and to preserve all necessary measures to maintain access for patients with neurological disease for essential neurological services such as stroke units, departments and outpatient facilities to remain functioning for the acute and chronic care of neurological patients. This important call is in line with the mission of the WFN and is shared globally by its members and the EAN.

To be included in the paper (Alla).

EAN Covid task force paper about SP recommendation (just accepted on Eur J Neurology)
and citation of Gender and diversity task force
WHO internal meeting- on covid
WHO recommendation – on covid, possibly also ageism.

Refs.: (titles only)

<https://www.who.int/ageing/commit-action/en/>

Provisional annotated program

Neurological manifestations associated with COVID-19: a review
and a call for action. Leonardi

Invited Commentary: Stroke assessment in
the COVID-19 era: The observational
neurologic exam

August 04, 2020; 95 (5) **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**

Initial experiences of US neurologists in practice during the COVID-19
pandemic via survey

COVID-19: The forgotten priorities of the pandemic

COVID-19 Psychosis: A Potential New Neuropsychiatric Condition Triggered by Novel Coronavirus Infection and the Inflammatory Response?

COVID-19 mental-health responses neglect social realities A diagnosis is rarely a solution to problems caused by poverty and inequality.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis patients' and caregivers' distress and loneliness during COVID-19 lockdown

[Monica Consonni, et al.](#)