

The Importance of INJ for North Africa

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There is no doubt that neuroscience is a fascinating field of research, because it allows us to learn about the brain and nervous system, the most complex organ in the human body. The scope of neurosciences has widely broadened to include many basic and clinical specialties. As a result, an increasing number of neuroscientists, neuroscience organizations and neuroscience journals have been created.

The aim of the INJ is to facilitate the translation of basic research discoveries to clinical applications, which remains the major challenge in medical science and the key to progress in clinical neurosciences, including neurosurgery. To reach this goal, Prof. M. Samii has set up three requirements for the journal.

He included in the Editorial Board either neurosurgeons or neuroscientists from all over the world, and opened the journal to all of them. Therefore, the INJ will be a platform for the debate and interaction between clinicians and basic neuroscientists, which is essential for generating new information and knowledge to understand and treat neurological diseases with the best benefit for patients.

He selected to publish the journal according to the new standard of medical publishing, which is the electronic format, with free access providing a rapid dissemination, and allowing for free sharing of knowledge. Today, and over the coming years, most medical journals are and will be available online, with unrestricted access. Consequently, the INJ can reach all neurosurgeons and neuroscientists worldwide, mainly in developing countries where neurosurgeons are in great need for valuable neuroscience literature.

He nominated regional editors-in-chief from all parts of the world, with committee members including the countries of the region. This will facilitate the promotion of the journal and its support by all neurosurgeons and neuroscientists of the area. In my region, North Africa, today there are almost one thousand neurosurgeons and

twice the number of neuroscientists spread over various countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt), and gathered up in more than fifteen societies of neurosurgery, neurology and neurosciences. In addition, neuroscience development, central nervous system diseases and health care differ from one region to another. Therefore, with published papers written by members of all these regional editor committees, the INJ will provide the best information about the development of neurosurgery and neurosciences worldwide. It will also have a major impact in neurosurgical practices, stimulating national and regional multidisciplinary teams and creating competition between them through the number and quality of papers published in the journal.

As regional editor-in-chief for North Africa, I am proud and very happy to see African neuroscientists included in the Journal with three regional committees. I would like to express my deep thanks to Professor M. Samii who has dedicated himself throughout his career to the education of young neurosurgeons worldwide, and has kept highlighting African neurosurgery for the last two decades through the creation of the WFNS Foundation for training of young neurosurgeons from developing countries in 1999, his full support of the WFNS Rabat Reference Center for training African neurosurgeons created in 2002, and the Africa 100 program he launched in 2013. He consented lots of efforts to help African neurosurgeons unify into one continental association, the CAANS (Continental African Association of Neurological Surgeons), created in 2012.

By giving a voice in the INJ to all African neurosurgeons trained in these programs and unified in the CAANS, to express themselves and promote neurosurgery in their continent, Prof. Samii has achieved the last step towards allowing African neurosurgery to take off.

My congratulations to Prof. M. Samii and the members of the Editorial Board of the INJ, and my best wishes for its success.