

The ASN – moving forward

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The formation of the Association of SriLankan Neurologists in 2007 was a land mark event in the professional and academic calendar of medical professionals in the country. Over the last seven years it has made a remarkable progress and today stands very strong in comparison to other neurology associations world over. Though still young and with a small membership, it has made friends with other neurological associations, is affiliated to the World Federation of Neurology and plays a significant role in the activities of the WFN. Members regularly attend and present their work in these international meetings. World Stroke Congress, International League against Epilepsy and the Movement Disorders Society are other major organizations where our members play an important role. It is expected that the contributions we make to these organizations will improve further with the young and energetic increasing membership of the ASN. The ASN journal is published annually and this is the third issue. We need to increase the number of issues per year and I am confident that we can achieve this with the help of the young members and also attracting papers from the region.

There are neurologists now working in the north and east of the country, parts of Sri Lanka affected by the now defunct war. The epidemiology of neurological disorders may be different in those regions and they are likely to see hitherto unseen problems and unusual excesses of some disorders and may face unexpected difficulties in managing their patients. The ASN had been regularly conducting monthly meetings, the ASN Forum where clinical cases are presented and an update lecture is given. These are at present held in Colombo but we have been able to transmit these sessions live via skype to centers in Jaffna and Galle and are very well received by the post graduates in these faraway places. The ASN council meets bimonthly in the evenings on a Sunday for its council meeting and this ends up with another CME meeting based on the Continuum series of the AAN which we receive courtesy WFN.

Our annual academic meetings have gained a high reputation for its contents, faculty and fellowship. They are attended by delegates from the region and the faculty include world authorities and have included higher officials of the WFN and the ABN. We also have cohosted the Asia Pacific Stroke Conference in 2011 with great success and this year we cohost the annual congress of the Asian Society against Dementia with the participation of many overseas delegates and a large faculty from Australia, India, UK, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, USA, Hong Kong, Philippines and Indonesia. The association has its own office in Colombo with a full time administrator and is open on all week days. And this year we are proud to announce that we now have our own academic gown and ASN tie designed. At the Annual Academic meeting in November the council will be wearing their new gowns and ties and the ASN is thankful to the current president Dr. Arjuna Fernando and the committee who took the initiative to accomplish this exciting task. So a look at the past makes us proud of our achievements and we look forward to a future of the ASN with more international recognition and representation.

Saman B Gunatilake

Editor in Chief