

April-June 2015

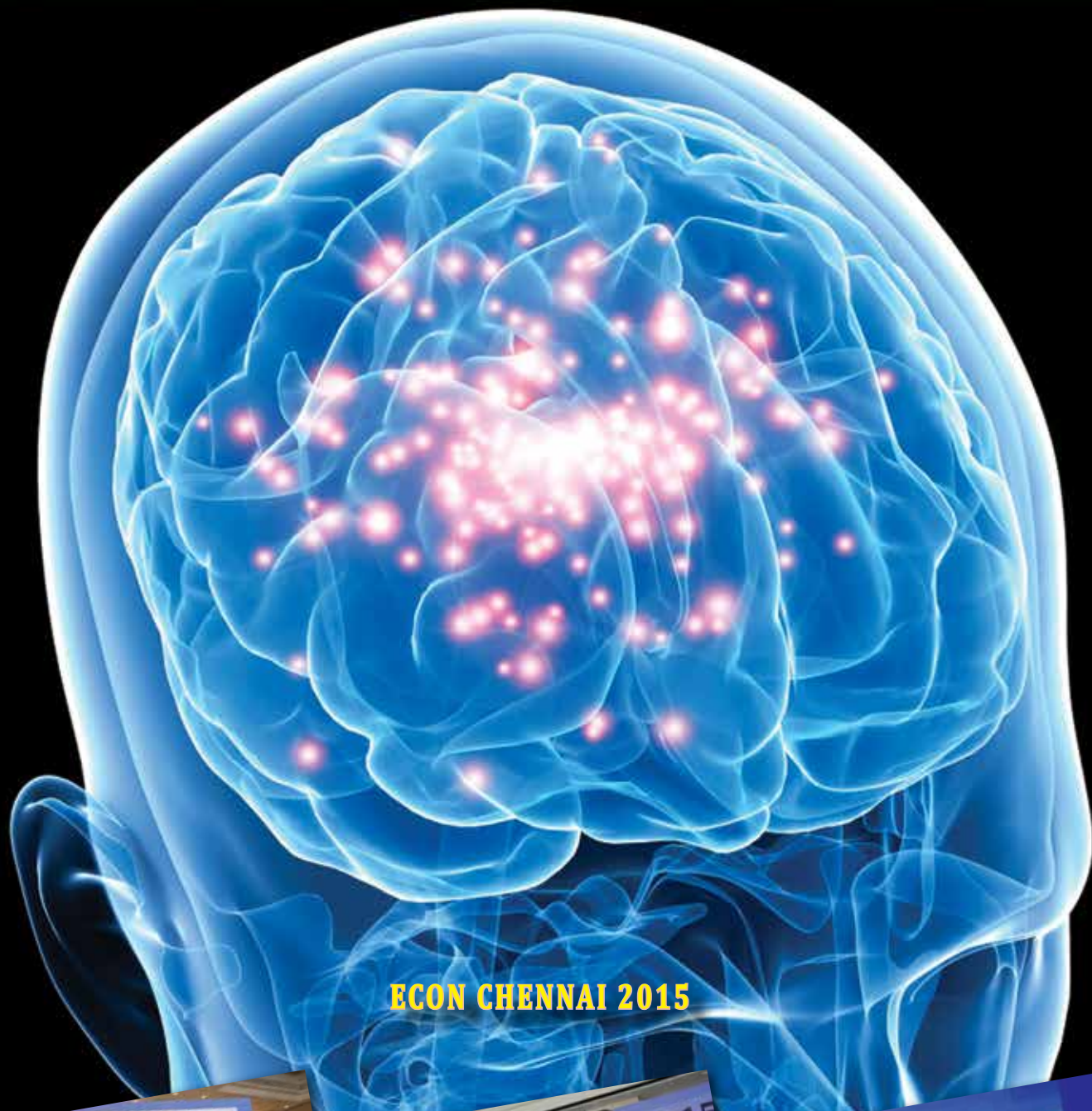
Issue 2, 2015



Epilepsy India



Newsletter of the Indian Epilepsy Association & Indian Epilepsy Society



ECON CHENNAI 2015



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ECON 2015 at Chennai dished out a fascinating fare fit for the doctors and the non-doctor members of IEA. The galaxy of international and national faculty treated the delegates to various developments in the field of epilepsy. Emilio Perucca, Raman Shankar, Soheyl Noachtar, K. Radhakrishnan, Manjari Tripathi, M M Mehndiratta, Sita Jayalakshmi, JMK Murthy and Vinayan, all of them under one umbrella!

The Presidential Oration entitled “Translational Research in epilepsy-Experience from NIMHANS” was outstanding in content and the erudite presentation by Dr.

P. Satishchandra was a treat.

The three other orations were equally well presented by Dr Emilio Perucca, Dr Sanjeev Thomas and Dr. Bindu Menon.

The wide ranging topics like the new operative definition of epilepsy, auto immune epilepsies, EEG interpretation pitfalls, surgical aspects and co -morbidities in epilepsy were received well by all.

The conference was a nice initiative in stressing practice parameters for Neurologists. The organizers deserve special credit for the theme selection. Once again their skills were displayed in the punctual conduct of the sessions. While all the speakers were outstanding, Dr. Soheyl Noachtar was my personal favorite.

The pre-conference workshop was again practice oriented. The KS Mani session was well attended with a lot of interesting personal experiences and active interaction.

We will be failing in our duty if we do not acknowledge the Central Office and local Organizers role in allotting a ten minute tribute to the late VR Parameswaran, GC member from Kerala, whose untimely demise left everyone shell shocked.

Kudos to Dr Natarajan , Dr Meenakshi Sundaram and their team for great conference.

This issue carries the Bajoria Oration delivered by Dr.Bindu Menon entitled “Way forward to overcome barriers in epilepsy care “. Dr Bindu has analysed the obstacles and has submitted a road map for surmounting them. The subject of this oration has great relevance in the Indian context.

Bouquets to Dr. Naresh Kumar whose paper “A multimodal approach to achieve superior outcomes in the surgical management of extra temporal lobe epilepsy” and Bri. Nivedita whose paper “Efficacy, acceptability and outcome of ketogenic diet in severe refractory status epileptic us of febrile infection - related epilepsy syndrome” were adjudged as the best papers in Medical and Nonmedical category respectively. Incidentally both of them are from AIMS Cochin.

This issue has National epilepsy day reports from Jaipur, Nellore, Shivamogga and Banglaore chapters. We also have photographs and reports of the first International Epilepsy Day observed on Feb 9 this year by a few chapters, chiefly Bangalore, Chennai and Mumbai.

Dr. Rajendran

Way forward to overcome barriers in Epilepsy care

Dr. Bindu Menon



Epilepsy is one of the most common serious brain disorders affecting >60 million people worldwide. Epilepsy is a universal condition with no age, racial, national or geographical boundaries. The ancient nature of the disease has led to misunderstanding and prejudices against the disease. Stigma of epilepsy leads to increased burden of epilepsy hampering the quality of life. There are several barriers to epilepsy care. The barriers to epilepsy care are multifaceted (Fig 1).

Burden of Epilepsy

Epilepsy accounts for 1% of the global burden of disease. 80% of the burden of epilepsy is in the developing world. 80–90% of people with epilepsy receive no treatment at all. World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that 80% of the approximately 50 million people with epilepsy worldwide lived in resource poor countries (RPC) (1). Epilepsy leads to lot of disability roughly 0.5% of the entire global burden of disease (1, 2). The incidence of epilepsy is greater in (RPC). It has been estimated that it is 50.4 per 100,000 persons per year in high income countries versus 81.7 per 100,000 persons per year in low to middle income countries (3). There appears to be a possible difference in the lifetime prevalence

of epilepsy as well, reported to be 5.8 per 1000 (4.9 for active epilepsy) in high-income countries and 15.4 per 1000 (12.7 for active epilepsy) in RPC (4).

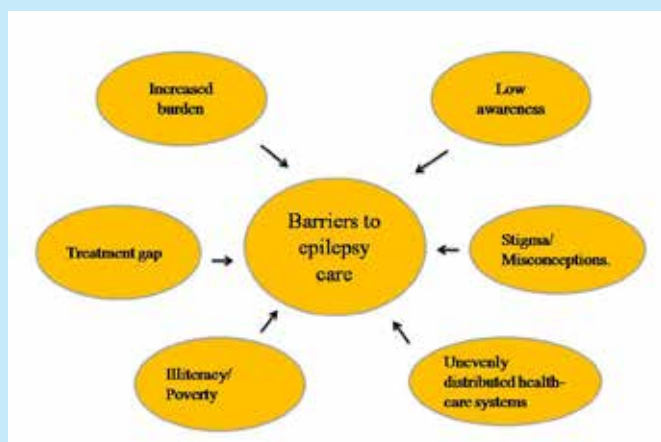
The Treatment Gap

The treatment gap in epilepsy is generally defined as the proportion of Persons with epilepsy (PWE) who requires treatment but do not receive it. This gap is almost always less than 10% in high-income countries but has been reported to be above 75% in low-income countries (5). The magnitude of epilepsy treatment gap in India ranges from 22% (urban middle income) to 90% (villages) (6). The reasons for the treatment gap are multi factorial in terms of the economic, social, political and cultural frameworks within which it exists.

- 1) Lack of knowledge about the disease.
- 2) Stigma and prejudices surrounding the illness.
- 3) Unevenly distributed health-care systems and poor access to medicines
- 4) Poverty
- 5) Illiteracy.

Awareness

Poor awareness and understanding of the disease leads to treatment gap and failure as well. Adequate knowledge of epilepsy will lead to help in bridging the treatment gap. Misinformation and misperceptions regarding epilepsy have a long history and are still prevalent throughout society. Information about epilepsy is acquired from many sources, including family and friends, entertainment and news media, the Internet, and social media. In countries like India, one should also focus on the preventable form of epilepsy to decrease the burden of epilepsy. Unique



causes for epilepsy in developing and tropical settings must be considered.

They are :

- 1) Hypoxic brain injuries.(Cerebral Palsy)
- 2) Traumatic brain injuries
- 3) Parasitic infestations
- 4) Neuro developmental problems
- 5) Genetic predispositions

Stigma

Epilepsy can be a very disabling illness. Stigma and discrimination against epilepsy leads to social isolation. This in turn leads to treatment gap. Social stigma and discrimination was reported to be more devastating for persons with epilepsy than the seizures themselves and a major contributor to the burden associated with the condition (7). Widespread attitudinal and institutional barriers and prejudices against person with epilepsy have been seen in education, employment, marriage and other socio economic activities. We need to identify determinants of stigma and their practical implications for help-seeking and health policy. The social consequences of having epilepsy differ from country to country but are huge and vary according to the cultural differences and economic circumstances. The disease severity usually is not the contributing factor; the general concept which the public has about epilepsy is the one which leads to the burden of epilepsy.

Poverty and Uneven Distribution of Health Resources

Indian public health system is inadequate and under-funded. Inequalities by socioeconomic status, geography and gender

continue to persist. This too leads to the treatment and increases the burden of epilepsy.

Our mission at Dr Bindu Menon Foundation and epilepsy association Nellore chapter has been to increase the awareness, focus on preventable diseases and decrease the treatment gap. This will help us in decreasing the burden and the stigma of the disease. Studies have found that treating 50% of PWE worldwide would reduce the current global disability burden of epilepsy by 13% to 40% and at a cost of only 0.20-1.33 international dollars per person per year (8).

Increasing awareness has to be at several fronts: self, family, school, college, employer and society. We have undertaken a tailored intervention programme. For public education programmes we concentrate on special target groups.

- **Schools and colleges** - Teachers, Students,
- **Health care providers** – Medical officers, Registered medical practitioners (RMPs), Private medical practitioners, Anganwadi workers, Accredited social health activists (ASHA), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).
- **Organizations** - Lions Club, Red Cross, Rotary, Walkers association and various organizations.



- People with epilepsy and their relatives & friends.

Our school programme goes through a structured programme. A prior permission from school official is taken. Questionnaires about epilepsy are first distributed to all to know the fund of knowledge and collected back from them. The awareness is an hour programme. The talk on Epilepsy is with videos/slides. The focus is on myths and facts of epilepsy, prevention of epilepsy and first Aid (Do's and Don'ts). Questions from the students and staff are encouraged. We have covered over 5000 students till now. The school and college programmes are very interactive and have been very successful awareness programmes. Our awareness programmes at other target areas also follow the same pattern. We have a dedicated email ID where we can be reached for queries and also for having the awareness programmes.

We have designed a comic "Na Pair Satri" in Telugu (My name is Satri). Around 5000 comics have been distributed in schools and colleges till date. The comic depicts the child having a seizure and the student's response and how the class teacher directs them properly.

We also conduct regular patient and relative's forum. Involvement of media with publishing of articles, interviews in channels are done regularly. Rallies, marathons and walkathons are conducted regularly to spread awareness. A dedicated email has been created which answers all queries regarding epilepsy. We feel that the more we talk about the disease the less stigmatized it becomes.

Prevention

We focussed on 3 aspects of prevention of epilepsy. We did targeted programmes addressing specific risk factors in our country. They are neurocysticercosis, cerebral palsy and head injury. We designed a poster for neurocysticercosis wherein the outer circle in the poster depicts the way a person gets infestation and the outer circle shows the ways to prevent it. The pictures were made by an artist. The poster has been kept in schools, colleges, hostels, various establishments, bus stop; railway station etc. 1000 posters have been distributed till now.

Prevention of the head trauma is clearly the most effective way of preventing post-traumatic epilepsy,

with use of head protection. We conduct frequent rally, our awareness programmes also incorporate this message. The programmes are also extended to the Police officials

Cerebral palsy (CP) is the most common cause of physical disability in early childhood. Epilepsy is known to have a high association with cerebral palsy. Several causes of cerebral palsy are preventable. We again designed a poster depicting the reasons of CP. With the help of DMHO the posters were installed in Community health centres, urban health centres and rural Health centres. However as previous studies have shown that mere distributions of pamphlets are not sufficient for spreading awareness, we conduct regular targeted awareness programmes. The group of health care workers who are in direct contact with women are the Anganwadi workers, Accredited social health activists (ASHA), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). The posters are distributed to them and awareness programme are conducted regularly so that they in turn will conduct the programmes in the villages. We also believe that clubbing our activities with other organisations definitely makes a difference. With this view, the foundation adopted children with epilepsy from Pragati charities (An orphanage with mentally challenged children in Nellore). There are 230 orphaned children, 26% have epilepsy. Foundation takes care of the patients for their medical aid. Good compliance of medications is ensuring good health of the children.

Empowerment:

Epilepsy has an impact on employment for various reasons. For the empowerment of people with epilepsy, Epilepsy association Nellore chapter is thankful to International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE) for the approval of the Cell phone repair project under promising strategy programme. With that help we were able to teach and empower five people for cell phone repair. They are now self employed. The foundation has written letters to business organisations for the favour of jobs for the PWE according to their calibre. We are receiving a positive response from them.

Treatment Gap

To decrease the treatment gap the foundation

Neurology On wheels



WE REACH



WE TEACH



**WE DETECT
AND TREAT**

holds monthly camps where 100 PWE who are below poverty line are given monthly free medications. With regular compliance with medicines the patients are doing well. The treatment gap in rural areas is more than the urban sector. Hence the foundation initiated a new project for the villages “NEUROLOGY ON WHEELS”. Our motto is We Reach; We teach; We detect and treat.

The team visits the villages in the vehicle and the consultation is in the vehicle itself. The format of the project is

- 1) Village is identified from the 46 mandals in Nellore by random selection.
- 2) Intimating the village sarpanch about the date of the visit well in advance.
- 3) Requesting the village sarpanch to update the ASHA/ Anganwadi workers/ANM to prime them about the visit and to screen for the epilepsy patients.

After reaching the village, an awareness programme is conducted and concepts of epilepsy are told to them. Subsequently the outpatient is held in the vehicle itself. The treatment gap is evident in these camps.

PWE experience lot of social isolation, work barriers and stigma. A lot of knowledge in epilepsy has been acquired in the previous years, however the stigma and superstition has changed only marginally. Health care professionals need to adopt districts and engage with primary health centre staff and state government health officials to identify patients with epilepsy and treat them. Targeted continuous awareness programmes need to be organised at various levels.

“Knowing is not enough; We must Apply. Willing is not enough; We must Do.” Goethe

With many hurdles and barriers to epilepsy care, a commitment from health care professionals will go a long way to overcome these barriers.

Reported by
Dr. V. Natarajan



The 16th Joint Annual Conference of the Indian Epilepsy Association and Indian Epilepsy Society – ECON 2015 was held at the TAJ COROMANDEL HOTEL, CHENNAI, from the 6th to 8th February 2015.

Around 470 delegates participated in this 3 day programme organized by the IEA, Chennai. The Preconference programme on the 6th February was an update session on Epilepsy for the Practicing Neurologists.

Dr. Emilio Perucca opened the session with his talk on the new definition of Epilepsy which was followed by 18 talks on Seizure Semiology, Evaluative Procedures – Structural, Functional, Non invasive and Invasive, medical management of drug responsive seizures and approach to resistant epilepsies. Importance of compliance and the procedure of drug withdrawal, management of epilepsy in the elderly, super refractory status epilepticus and non epileptic

attacks were the other issues addressed.

The common epilepsy syndromes and severe epileptic syndromes in children, their EEG abnormalities and the genetic epilepsies were also discussed. The video case presentation sessions provided good interaction between the delegates and the faculty.

Prof. Emilio Perucca, Prof. Raman Sankar, Prof. Soheyl Noachtar were the international faculty for this update apart from the national faculty of 8 epileptologists as speakers for the first day programme.

The main conference took place at the same venue on the 7th and 8th February. As is the usual practice, this programme consisted of 4 orations, Guest Lectures, Symposia, Debate, Clinico Pathologic Case Discussion, Paper presentations and Case discussions Apart from the 3 eminent international





faculty, 16 members of our National faculty discussed and gave presentations in the above sessions.

The presidential oration was delivered by Dr. Satish Chandra, President of the Indian Epilepsy Society, on the “Translational Research in Epilepsy – Experience from NIMHANS”, narrating the various developments on Epilepsy at NIMHANS over 4 decades.

Prof. Emilio Perucca gave the Prof. B.M. Sharma Oration on the Clinical Interpretation of Drug trials in Epilepsy which proved to be an eye opener to many on the ways, trial results are presented. Dr. Sanjeev Thomas discussed the scientific aspects of “Epilepsy Care in India - Challenges and Opportunities” in his Dr. B.C. Bansal and Uma Bansal Oration while Dr. Bindu Menon discussed the practical aspects in her Sri. H.C. Bajoria Oration on the “Way forward to overcome barriers in epilepsy care”

The conference was inaugurated by Prof. Emilio Perucca, President of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE), who highlighted the efforts taken by the ILAE to close in on the treatment gap prevalent in the developing

nations and raised hopes of a better future with concerted efforts from the medical fraternity.

A notable and pleasant feature of the inauguration ceremony was the honoring of 5 senior most and distinguished neurologists of Tamilnadu on the stage, by Prof. Emilio Perucca on behalf of the IEA Chennai.

The fabulous five were Prof. G. Arjundas, Prof. Krishnamoorthy Srinivas, Prof. K. Srinivasan, Prof. C. U. Velmurugendran and Prof. Zaheer Ahmed Sayeed who were the teachers to almost all the Neurologists of Tamilnadu.

The Cultural programme was provided by the differently enabled school children of the Alpha to Omega School, Chennai.

The K.S. Mani Memorial Patient Forum was well attended and stimulating talks were provided by persons and parents who had conquered the affliction. The patient forum also consisted of a video presentation of clips from movies where an incorrect and inappropriate depiction of patients with epilepsy was portrayed.

The parallel session for the non medical members on the 8th Feb morning consisted of useful aspects for the patients and their carers on the applications of mobile phones for persons with epilepsy, psychosocial aspects discussed by a psychologist, how a person with epilepsy learnt and excelled in calligraphy and a presentation from Rajasthan on the facilities made available to PWE by a private service organization which runs the hospital exclusively for PWE.



National Epilepsy Day 2014

Bangalore Chapter

Reported By

Dr. Rajendra P. Joshi

Sri Damodar Rao and Dr R P Joshi of IEA Bangalore Chapter were invited to deliver talk on social aspects of epilepsy to the Post Graduate students, interns and final year MBBS students at SDM College of Medical Sciences and Hospital at Hubli on 18th August 2014. The talk was well received and was followed by a question and answer session.

On the same day, Damodar Rao and Dr Joshi also addressed high school students of Lamington

School run by the Hubli Municipal Corporation on the scientific aspects of epilepsy and awareness about myths and false beliefs in Kannada language.

In the evening of 18th August, another epilepsy awareness talk was delivered at the divisional commissioner's office of NWKRTC at Hubli which was attended by the officers and staff who listened attentively and showed lot of interest.



National Epilepsy day celebrations



Prof. Jerome Engel, International epileptologist
At IEA epilepsy awareness program in school



Medical exhibition organised by IEA Bangalore



IEA activities at schools / colleges across Karnataka



IEA - Out Reach Activity



Street play by IEA team

IEA Bangalore chapter's Epilepsy Awareness programs through National Epilepsy Day celebrations, Medical Exhibition, street plays, Epilepsy awareness programs in schools & colleges across Karnataka, counselling sessions at different locations, have been widely appreciated and commended by Epileptologists at National and International level.

Reported by
Dr. R.K. Sureka



Flagging Off Epilepsy Awareness Vans by Hon'ble Health Minister, Rajasthan

On 17th November, 2014 on the occasion of National Epilepsy Day, Hon'ble Health Minister of Rajasthan Shri. Rajendra Singh Rathore flagged off vans for creating Epilepsy awareness in the city and rural areas. On this occasion Minister said, epilepsy is not a curse but completely curable. There are many myths prevailing in the people, they make the patients smell shoes and get them treated for being possessed by spirits instead of taking them to doctors, he said.

Epilepsy Awareness Programme at Jaipur for Nursing, Homeopathy and Physiotherapy Students and Their Faculty

On the eve of National epilepsy Day public awareness programme was organized by Epilepsy Care & Research Foundation at Swasthya Kalyan Bhawan, Sitapura, Jaipur which was attended by 500 nursing students, homeopathy students, physiotherapy students and teachers and other students.

Dr R K Sureka, Former Professor, Neurology Department, SMS Hospital, Jaipur & Chairman of the Foundation the main speaker gave an awareness talk on understanding "Epilepsy". He threw light on various aspects of epilepsy like various misconceptions regarding epilepsy, treatment of epilepsy and special situations like women with

epilepsy, children and epilepsy and elderly with epilepsy.

After the talk, question answer session was held and prizes were distributed to students who gave correct answers. Shri. Ram Charan Bohra, MP from Jaipur, was the Chief Guest. Dr S.S. Agrawal, President Elect IMA, Chairman of Swasthya kalyan Group of colleges presided over the function.

On this occasion an Exhibition on various aspects of Epilepsy was also organized which was attended by more than 500 students and faculty members. This proved to be very informative for them.

Epilepsy Awareness Programme at Ratan Nagar (Dist Churu) Rajasthan

The 240th camp of the Epilepsy Care and Research foundation was held on 11th November at Ratan nagar where National Epilepsy Day was celebrated. An Exhibition depicting the various facets of Epilepsy was organized and visited by residents of the village, patients and their relatives where people were educated about Do's and Don'ts. On this occasion 658 patients were examined and distributed free medicines for full 1 month. Similarly an audio visual film was also projected for the attendees. A painting competition was held for children with epilepsy below the age of 16 yrs and best five paintings were rewarded. A run for "Fight Against Epilepsy" was flagged off by Shri. Rahul Kotki. S.P. Churu.



Release of information brochure on Epilepsy by Shri. Rajendra Singh Rathore, Hon'ble Health Minister, Rajasthan



Flagging off Epilepsy awareness Vans by Hon'ble Health Minister, Rajasthan.



Dr. R.K. Sureka giving Epilepsy awareness talk for students at Swasthya Kalyan Bhawan.

National Epilepsy Day 2014

Shivamogga Chapter

Reported by

Dr. A. Shivaramakrishnan

The following activities were organized by IEA, Shivamogga branch to mark the National Epilepsy Day.

- * Sports and games for the patients and the winners were awarded prizes.

- * Drawing competition was conducted for patients (two groups below 12 yrs and above 12yrs age group.)

- * Essay competition for the public - Topic - 'Role of care givers in managing patients with Epilepsy'

The best three articles were given prizes.

- * A quiz competition was held for patients and relatives.

- * Public program -- Speech by 1) Dr.Amith,Asst.Prof of Neurology,KMC, Manipal- on ' Role of care givers in treatment of Epilepsy'

2) Dr. Akash, Asst.Prof of Neurology ,KMC, Manipal - on 'Do's and Dont's for patients with Epilepsy' Free checkup camp for patients with Epilepsy - about 60 patients attended and free drugs were given for them.

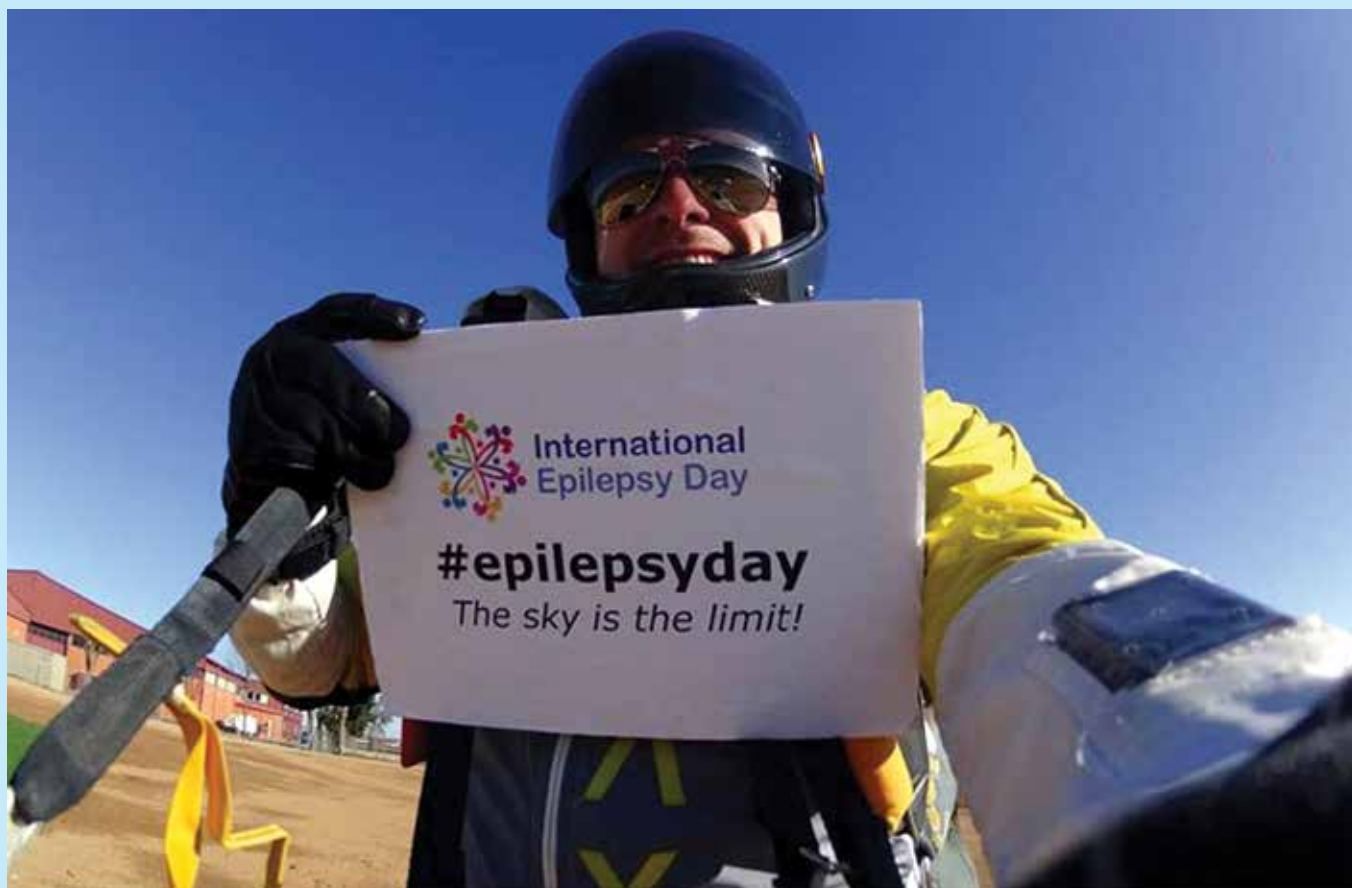
- * An article written by Dr.K.R.Sridhar was published in news paper on Epilepsy.

- * A CME was arranged for Doctors - Dr. Radhakrishnan, Prof of Neurology, KMC Manipal spoke on 'Comprehensive Management of Epilepsy'

- * A camp was organized in which Resistant Epilepsy cases were seen by Dr.Radhakrishnan and advised regarding the management.



International Epilepsy Day - 9th Feb. 2015



Mumbai Chapter



International Epilepsy Day - 9th Feb. 2015

Bangalore Chapter

Reported by

Shri Damodar Rao

Epilepsy awareness programme at National High School, Basavanagudi, Bangalore for high school students and teachers.

Inauguration of slide show on epilepsy at Central Government Health Scheme, Koramangala Wellness Centre, Bangalore

Epilepsy awareness programme at MEG centre for officers, soldiers and their families.

Epilepsy awareness programme for teachers and

college students was conducted at Surana College, South End Road, Jayanagar, Bangalore.

Epilepsy awareness programme for the students of the National Social Service (NSS) group of National College, Basavanagudi, Bangalore and their teachers.

Dr Manjunath, President, Sri H K Damodar Rao, Hon. secretary and Dr R P Joshi, Hon Jt. Secretary of IEA Bangalore chapter participated in all the activities on IED 2015.



International Epilepsy Day - 9th Feb. 2015

Reported By
Dr. V. Natarajan



The First International Epilepsy Day was kick started on the afternoon of 8th February 2015 at the Taj Coromandel Hotel, Chennai with a programme for the public. We were fortunate in having Prof. Emilio Perucca as the chief guest for the programme.

Prof. C.U.Velmurugendran welcomed the gathering after the invocation and introduced Prof. Perucca. Prof. Perucca in his address spoke about the organizations IEA, IES and ILAE and their roles and pointed out the efforts being made by these organizations towards the medical treatment and wholesome care being provided to persons with epilepsy (PWE). He stressed on the need for patients to be patient for optimum results to be seen. He mentioned that not all patients did well on medical treatment and small proportions of patients need other avenues of treatment. He also emphasized the need for PWE to be compliant in taking medicines and seeking regular medical advice. His speech in English was simultaneously translated to Tamil for the local people to understand.

Prof. G. Arjundas in his address underscored the services available to PWE at Government Hospitals in the state and urged them to make use of the same, particularly when all the first line drugs were made available free and dispersed in the Government Hospitals.

Dr. Prithika Chary and Prof. Bhanu detailed the immediate care and first aid measures to be given to a person having seizures. Prof. Leema Pauline, Pediatric neurologist explained the different types of seizures

that could occur in children and briefed the public on febrile seizures.

Prof. Balasubramanian outlined the preventable causes of epilepsy and highlighted the role of wearing helmet by people using 2 wheelers to minimize the impact of traumatic brain injury.

A question answer session ensued and the panel of Neurologists responded to the questions raised and clarifications sought by the attendees which included PWE, their cares, nursing trainees and the media persons.

The event was covered in the local press and SUN TV network telecast the interviews given by Dr. C. V. Velmurugendran, Dr. V. Natarajan and Dr. K. Bhanu apart from telecasting the Inaugural function on 7th February.

On the occasion of the International Epilepsy Day, a painting competition was held for children at the Institute of Child Health and prizes were awarded to the winner and runner up.

On the 9th February, the International Epilepsy Day 2 programmes were arranged. Prof. Raman Sankar spoke to the Paediatricians at the Institute of Childhealth on "Epilepsy being more than seizures" and Dr. Soheyl Noachter spoke to the Post Graduates in Medicine, Neurology and the respective faculty at the Government Stanley Hospital on the "Differential diagnosis of Seizures"



Tirupati Oration in Epileptology

Reported by
Dr. B. Vengamma



The Tirupati Branch of the Indian Epilepsy Association donated Rs. THREE Lakhs to Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS), Tirupati, with a request to institute in the Department of Neurology, SVIMS an annual ORATION entitled “IEA TIRUPATI ORATION IN EPILEPTOLOGY” commencing from the year 2010.

The FIFTH Oration was organized on 26th December, 2014 at Sri Padmavathi Auditorium, SVIMS at 3.00 PM Dr Pravina U. Shah, Senior Consultant Neurologist, Mumbai delivered the Fifth Oration on the Topic “Holistic Management of Epilepsy”.

She touched upon various aspects related to Epilepsy. The highlights of her Oration are as indicated below:

- Epilepsy is a common disease which can be diagnosed and treated inexpensively. It could become potentially serious if neglected
- Drug Monitoring, Newer AED's and Epilepsy Surgery are some areas where in significant advances have taken place
- History and Eyewitness account are the main basis for proper diagnosis of Epilepsy
- EEG is the initial investigative procedure but it should not be the only basis for diagnosis of this disease
- One should be careful about recognizing genuine

and pseudo seizures

- Principles of AED therapy related to dosage, monitoring and withdrawal
- Advantages of older AED's like efficacy, familiarity, lower costs, long term experience
- Treatment Gap is one area which needs immediate attention. This is around 30-80% in India, especially in rural and semi urban areas.
- Compliance of the drugs, periodic consultation and counseling is essential for proper treatment
- Ultrasound sonography of abdomen and pelvis should be advised in case of female patients to rule out polycystic ovarian disease
- Education and Empowerment are the main areas which will enable female persons with Epilepsy to overcome the stigma attached to this ailment
- Epilepsy Awareness Programmes should be regularly organized in schools and rural areas.

The erudite lecture was followed by a lively and interesting discussions.

Dr P.U.Shah was felicitated by, Dr B.Vengamma Director, Professor of Neurology, SVIMS and President, IEA, Tirupati Branch and other Senior Members of Medical fraternity. She was also presented with a Silver Memento, on behalf of the Department of Neurology, SVIMS, Tirupati



Requiem for Param

I never imagined that I would have to do this, PARAM!

I came into contact with V.R. Parameswaran, when his son Arun (Ramachandran) had his first seizure. As any parent would, he was shattered. But that event changed a lot of constants in his life's equation. He reconciled to the fact very fast, may be being an Engineer and a Management executive helped. Later, when I.E.A. Cochin was constituted he became a member. He, since then, had been a very active member of I.E.A. and been the Treasurer thereafter, always. As a Treasurer, he was phenomenally obsessive and could at any time rattle out the financial status of our Chapter even in his sleep. Parameswaran held the post of Secretary for one term. Again that obsessive trait for details was evident during his tenure. Param made friends easily and never got flustered even during heated arguments of IEA locally or at



National level. His thoughts on his efforts for IEA could be summed in his own utterance to me once "I have lot to thank you people who look after my son, and my work for IEA is what I am giving back to the Organization".

Param has worked as a Chemical Engineer, sea food exporter, Faculty to a few Management Schools and was the CEO of a Futures Trading Company at the time of his sad and untimely demise.

His son is now happily employed by a leading MNC. His daughter is a PhD Scholar and wife Vimala is a Mathematics Teacher.

Param, when you bid adieu, you left behind a host of tearful friends holding fond memories of the times you shared with one and all.

Dr. B. Rajendran

Forthcoming Events

Upcoming Regional Congresses

11-15 September, 2016

12th European Congress on Epileptology
The Prague Congress Centre
Czech Republic

Website: www.epilepsyprague2016.org



Upcoming Chapter Congresses

22-23 May, 2015, Dubai, UAE

4th Annual Emirati League
Against Epilepsy Congress

Congress website: www.congress2015.elae.ae



8-19 June, 2015

5th SEIN Course on Clinical Epileptology
Stichting Epilepsie Instellingen Nederland
(SEIN), the Netherlands
Information: cmorton@sein.nl

12-13 June, 2015

20th Korean Epilepsy Congress
(KEC 2015)

Kimdaejeung Convention Center
Gwangju, Korea



ECON 2015 Chennai at a Glance



ECON 2015 Chennai at a Glance



ECON 2015 Chennai at a Glance

