

MEETING ROUND-UP

WFN Holds Movement Disorders Course in Ukraine

BY YURIY MATVIYENKO,

M.D., PH.D.

About 100 neurologists and neurology residents from across Ukraine attended a day-long course in movement disorders organized by physicians from the Lviv Regional Clinical Hospital, Lviv National Medical University, and the World Federation of Neurology's Parkinsonism and Related Disorders Research Group. The gathering marked the first time the Federation has organized a meeting in Ukraine.

The incidence of Parkinson's disease (PD) in Ukraine is high. There are 1,800 persons in the database for the Lviv region alone, which has a total population of 2.5 million people; and incidence is about 85-95 patients per 100,000 persons of the general population of the country, based on data from noncontrolled epidemiologic investigations. However, there is almost no special training in movement disorders for general neurologists, except for a certified course organized twice a year in Lviv by the regional center of extrapyramidal disorders.



COURTESY DR. YURIY MATVIYENKO

Among the faculty of experts in parkinsonism and related disorders who participated in the movement disorders course were (from left) Lyudmyla Fedoryshyn, Yanush Sanotsky, Zbigniew K. Wszolek, Tetiana Slobodin, Erik Ch. Wolters, Andrzej Friedman, and Erwin van Wegen.

For these reasons, the event was important for the attendees who had the opportunity to be updated on current diagnostic and therapeutic trends in

parkinsonology by world experts in the field – Dr. Zbigniew K. Wszolek from the United States; Prof. Dr. Erik Ch. Wolters and Dr. Erwin van Wegen

(the Netherlands); and Dr. Andrzej Friedman (Poland) – as well as four local lecturers, Dr. Yanush Sanotsky, Dr. Iryna Karaban, Dr. Tetiana Slobodin, and Dr. Sergiyev Moskovko. The topics they covered included cueing and autonomic dysfunction in PD, the etiopathophysiology of idiopathic PD, genetics of PD, and current therapies, among others.

Many of the attendees said they had found the course informative and useful for their clinical practice. They each received a copy of the textbook *Parkinsonism Disease & Related Disorders* by Erik Wolters, Teus Van Laar, and Henk Berendse (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2008).

For my part, I was honored to be a member of the organizing committee for this event and I sincerely hope that the WFN Parkinsonism and Related Disorders Research Group continues to support such courses in Ukraine. ■

Dr. MATVIYENKO is an assistant professor in the department of neurology at the Lviv National Medical University, Ukraine.