



WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES

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Dear Colleagues,

Many members of the WFNS have expressed concerns about our plans to hold the WFNS World Congress in Istanbul this coming August because of the unrest which has taken place in Turkey. They worry that there might be security problems during the World Congress. Some members urged that the World Congress be moved to a site in another country.

On September 5th the WFNS Administrative Council members and I met in Athens with the leaders of the Turkish Neurosurgical Society and the organizing committee of the WFNS World Congress to share these concerns. We were assured that the situation in Turkey has stabilized, and that threats to security are greatly diminished. We also were assured that security would be increased at the Congress itself and at all the hotels used by those attending the WFNS World Congress. The Turkish Neurosurgical Society also guaranteed that it would keep its commitment to give the WFNS the substantial amount of money which was promised when they submitted their application to be the host of the World Congress.

Following this meeting the AC members and I met with the Presidents of the Continental Societies and the seven WFNS Second Vice Presidents who represent the five continental societies and two special regions. It was the unanimous decision that the WFNS World Congress remain in Istanbul, and not be moved to another location.

Several factors were taken into account in making this decision. The first was the greatly improved situation in Turkey. The second was procedural. The decision to accept Turkey as the host of the 2017 WFNS World Congress was made by the Executive Committee five years ago in Recife, Brazil. Only the Executive Committee itself can overturn that decision. Reconvening the Executive Committee to overturn that vote and vote for a new site at this point would be very difficult to organize. The third factor is financial. When the Turkish Neurosurgical Society applied to host the WFNS World Congress, it pledged to give the WFNS a substantial amount of money which will play a crucial part in our organization's finances over the next four years. If we had to move the World Congress to another site at this point, we would not receive as substantial a contribution from any new host.

September 14, 2016



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I am sending this announcement to all 130 member societies individually. As a result of the discussions in Athens the AC members and those representing the Continental Societies all agree that keeping the World Congress in Istanbul is the right thing to do. We believe that the wonderful facilities where the Congress will be held, and the beauty of Istanbul, will make this one of the best congresses that we have ever held. We encourage you to make plans to attend. You will be very glad that you did.

Sincerely yours,

Yong-Kwang Tu, MD, PhD

President

WFNS XVI WORLD CONGRESS OF NEUROSURGERY

Istanbul, Turkey, 20 - 25 August 2017

Congress Website: www.wfns2017.com