

***The 13th Interim Meeting of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies was held in Nagoya Japan in November 2007.***

The World Federation President at the Nagoya Congress was Professor Jacques Brotchi. The organizers of the Congress in Nagoya were Professors Tetsuo Kanno and Yoko Kato, with members of the Department of Neurosurgery of the Fujita Health University. The meeting was held in conjunction with the 12<sup>th</sup> Asian Australasian Neurosurgical Congress. Nearly 3,000 neurosurgeons participated in these Congresses.



***Professor Tetsuo Kanno***

A highlight of the conference was the presence of 256 young neurosurgeons, who were able to attend at no cost to themselves. They came to Japan from all over Asia and other parts of the world, and thoroughly enjoyed the 44 educational meetings that took place during the Congress.

WFNS Medals of Honor were presented to Professors Hamit Gokalp of Turkey, and Haruhiko Kikuchi from Japan.

WFNS Secretary Richard Perrin was able to report that the WFNS had 89 member societies, six affiliate member societies and 12 neurosurgical societies seeking new Membership.

They were as follows, and all were approved at the third Executive Committee Meeting:

Association of Neurosurgical Societies of Africa (ANSA)

Ecuadorian Neurosurgical Society

Emirates Neuroscience Society

Finnish Neurosurgical Society

German Academy of Neurosurgery

Gulf Neurosurgical Society

Kuwait Society of Neurological Surgeons (KSNS)

Libyan Association of Psychiatry, Neurology and Neurosurgery

Mongolian Neurosurgical Society

Norwegian Neurosurgical Society

Swedish Society of Neurosurgery

Yemeni Neurological Surgeons Society

Education Committee Chairman Atos de Sousa reported that 10 educational courses in different areas of the world were held in 2007, and six were planned for 2008.

Dr. Gail Rosseau reported on her activities as the new Web manager for the WFNS. Dr. Kato noted that a new committee for Women in Neurosurgery had been established.

There was an enthusiastic report of the WFNS Foundation which was active in providing operating microscopes and basic neurosurgical sets to support Neurosurgeons in developing countries around the world.

The Executive Committee held elections for the office of the President-elect. The vote was held between two candidates, Professor Abdsalam El Khamlichi from Morocco and Professor Peter Black from the USA. Dr. Black was elected.

A second order of business was the discussion regarding bids for the World Congress to be held in 2013. Excellent and exciting proposals were presented from Beijing China, Indonesia (Bali), Kyoto Japan, Jordan, Seoul Korea, and Singapore. The winner was Seoul Korea.

This was a successful interim meeting with an excellent scientific program, superb social events, and an ultimate feeling of collegiality among all of the attendees. There was a well attended and exciting Young Neurosurgeons Program, a Luncheon Meeting of the Wives of Neurosurgeons (WON) and a tour of the Hikone Castle.

Numerous Awards were given for Posters and Presentations, including the Prof. Raja Awards for Young Neurosurgeons.



*Young Neurosurgeons Session*

Administrative Council Members for this interim WFNS meeting were as follows:

President – Jacques Brotchi – Belgium

Past President – Edward Laws – USA

First Vice-President – Khalaf El-Moutery – Saudi Arabia

Secretary – Richard Perrin – Canada

Assistant Secretary – Hildo Azevedo-Filho – Brazil

Treasurer – Nobuo Hashimoto – Japan

Assistant Treasurer – Miguel Arraez – Spain

President, XIV World Congress – Roberto Heros- USA

Second Vice Presidents – Albino Bricolo – Italy; Leo Ditzel – Brazil; Alexander Ciurea – Romania;

Tetsuo Kanno – Japan; Christopher Loftus – USA; Jonathan Peter – South Africa; Wai Poon – Hong Kong

Historian – Armando Basso – Argentina

Parliamentarian – Russel Patterson – USA

President, WFNS Foundation – Armando Basso - Argentina

Coordinator of Committee Activities – Abdsalam El Khamlichi

Chair, Constitution & Bylaws Committee – Peter Black – USA

Chair, Education and Training Committee – Atos do Sousa – Brazil

Chair, Young Neurosurgeons Committee and Website Manager – Gail Rosseau – USA

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***The 14th World Congress of the WFNS was held in Boston USA, at the Hynes convention center, August 30-September 4, 2009.***

Officers included Dr. Jacques Brotchi as President of the WFNS, Dr. Roberto Heros as President of the Congress and Dr. Jacques Morcos as Scientific Program chairman. The overall attendance was outstanding at 3479 participants.



***Roberto C. Heros, MD, FAANS (L) 2009 WFNS Congress President with attendees at President's Reception***

An opening reception held at the Boston Symphony Orchestra was a huge success, having been organized by Professor Nick Zervas. Other social events included the Presidential Reception at the Harvard club, and a clambake at the John F. Kennedy Library. The meeting closed with a gala dinner in the ballroom of the Copley Plaza Hotel.



***Opening Welcome at the Boston Pops in Symphony Hall***



The scientific program organized by Doctors Morcos and Oyesiku included 800 speakers, videos, and poster presentations. Arrangements were made so that 749 residents from around the world could attend the meeting.

The Executive Committee meeting began with recognition of those neurosurgeons who had passed away since the prior meeting.

A number of Committee reports included that of the Education Committee by Dr. Atos de Sousa who reviewed the 35 courses in different parts of the world that had been presented in the past four years. Dr. Gail Rosseau reported on the WFNS Website, and Professor Armando Basso reported on the WFNS Foundation and its progress, not only in providing microscopes and basic neurosurgical sets to neurosurgeons in developing areas of the world, but with the establishment of reference centers for training

neurosurgeons from developing countries. Two reference centers, namely Rabat in Morocco and Recife in Brazil, have been established, and interest in other areas will lead to further progress in this initiative



***Scientific Program Chair Jacques Morcos, MD, FAANS, FACS and attendees at the clam bake held at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum***

Secretary Richard Perrin reported that there were now 104 individual member societies and five Continental societies in the WFNS.

President-elect Peter Black announced the thrust of his proposed presidency, “One World-One Vision, Building Bridges”. In his capacity as Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, a complete revision of these documents and their official registration in the Netherlands will be undertaken. He also announced that “World Neurosurgery” will be the official Journal of the WFNS, and will be edited by Dr. Michael Apuzzo.

Dr. Merwyn Bagan reported on the activities of FIENS, and how they complemented the work of the WFNS.

Dr. Gail Rosseau reported on her activities with the Young Neurosurgeons Forum and the WFNS website. Dr. Muhammad Raji Mahmud of Nigeria is slated to take over the YNS Forum. A number of Awards recognizing the work of Young Neurosurgeons were presented.



***Young Neurosurgeon Awards at the 2009 WFNS Congress Opening Ceremony***

WFNS Medals of Honour were awarded to the following:

Paulo Andrade de Mello – Brazil

Peter Jannetta – USA

Jose Humberto Mateos – Mexico

Gianfranco Rossi – Italy



*Paulo Andrade de Mello, MD, IFAANS receives the Medal of Honor at the 2009 WFNS Congress*



*Jose Humberto Mateos Gomez, MD, FAANS (L) † receives the Medal of Honor at the 2009 WFNS Congress*



*Gian Franco Rossi, MD receives the Medal of Honor at the 2009 WFNS Congress*



*Peter J. Jannetta, MD, DSc, FAANS (L) receives the Medal of Honor at the 2009 WFNS Congress*

Four societies had applied for full membership status and were approved, and a single society was approved for affiliate membership.

Nepalese Society of Neurosurgery

Kosova Neurosurgical Society

Neurosurgical Section of the Dominican Society of Neurology and Neurosurgery

Chinese Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CCNS)

African Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (AFNS)



The Elected Slate of WFNS Officers for 2009-2013 was as Follows

President – Peter Black – USA

First - Vice President – Takeshi Kawase – Japan

Secretary – Hildo Azevedo-Filho – Brazil

Treasurer – Miguel Arraez – Spain

Assistant Treasurer – Christopher Loftus – USA

Second Vice-Presidents – Kazadi Kalangu- (PAANS); Gail Rosseau – (AANS); Leonidas Quintano – (FLANC); Yong-Kwang Tu (AASNS); Johannes Schramm (EANS)

Second Vice-Presidents at Large: Alexander Potopov – (Representing former USSR Republics); Ibrahim Sbeih ( Representing the Arab Countries)

Historian – Armando Basso – Argentina

Approved proposals for Honorary Presidents included:

Jacques Brotchi, Roberto Heros, Tetsuo Kanno, Alexander Konovalov, Abdeslam El Khamlichi; Khalaf El Moutery, and Atos de Sousa.

Looking forward to the next WFNS World Congress in Seoul Korea in 2013, the President of the Congress, Dr. Jung Hee Won, introduced the plans under way for a spectacular meeting.



***Congress President Jung Hee Won, MD, PhD,  
IFAANS introduces 2013 meeting in Korea***



***Traditional Korean dance and song at 2009  
WFNS Congress Closing Ceremony***

Edward R. Laws, WFNS Historian

***The 14<sup>th</sup> Interim Meeting of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies was held in Recife (Porto de Galinhas) Brazil, September 14-17, 2011.***

The President and primary organizer of this Congress was Hildo Azevedo Filho. He and his highly effective officers and scientific program committee presented 181 lectures, 69 videos and 212 abstracts and posters. This was a joint meeting in conjunction with an Education Congress of the Brazilian Society of Neurosurgery.



***Opening ceremony***

Registration was outstanding, totaling 1102 registrants and 119 accompanying persons, representing 88 countries. 209 of the possible 258 delegates were in attendance at the EC meetings. Extraordinary social activities included a Brazilian party and a Pernambuco party.



***Officers and awardees***



During the executive committee meeting, 11 new Member Societies were proposed and accepted into the Federation. They included the Chinese Congress of Neurological Surgeons, the Nepalese Society of Neurosurgery, the African Federation of Neurosurgical Societies and the Dominican Society of Neurosurgery, with the Kosova Neurosurgical Society as an Affiliate, all approved at the Boston Meeting. Applicants for full Membership at this interim meeting were: Kazakhstan Society of Neurosurgery, East African Association of Neurological Surgeons, Korean Neurosurgical Association (North Korea), Nigerian Academy of Neurological Surgeons – these were approved for election by the AC in Nyon.

Additional membership approvals requested at this meeting were from the following: Society of University Neurosurgeons,, Cuban Society of Neurology and Neurosurgery, Korean Academy of Neurological Surgeons (South Korea), Albanian Society of Neurosurgery, Ghana Academy of Neurosurgeons (affiliate).

WFNS Medals of Honor were awarded to Dr. Andrew Kaye and Dr. Khalaf Al Moutery.

The first Madjid Samii Medal of Honor was awarded to Dr. Maurice Choux.

The following individuals were proposed for Honorary Presidents of the WFNS: Drs. Jacques Brotchi, Roberto Heros, Tetsuo Kanno, Alexander Konovalov, Abdesalam El Khamlichi, Khalaf Al-Moutery, and Atos de Sousa.



*Scientific presentation*

Major Business Items at the EC meetings were:

- Approval of the New Constitution and ByLaws registered in the Hague
- Recognition of the efforts of the Education Committee with many WFNS sponsored courses throughout the world, and the success of the Reference Centers in Rabat and Morocco.
- Results of the WFNS Foundation activities, with continued success and expansion of its activities.
- Recognition of the contributions of the Fund Raising Committee led by Scott Robertson.
- Activities of the Journal, World Neurosurgery.
- Election of the site of the 2017 World Congress. Candidates were Buenos Aires, Cartagena, Istanbul, London, Madrid, and Prague. The winner was Istanbul.
- Election of the President-Elect. The vote was between Yong-Kwan Tu (from the Nominating Committee) and Yoko Kato (from the floor). The winner was Prof. Tu.
- Presentation of the Preparations for the World Congress in Seoul, Korea.
- From a financial standpoint this meeting was a great success, achieving a balance of \$158,068.

## ***The 15<sup>TH</sup> World Congress of the WFNS was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 8-13 September 2013.***

### ***The Congress***

The Fifteenth World Congress of Neurological Surgery, held at the COEX Center in Seoul, Korea, 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> September 2013, was widely regarded as a great success. The slogan was "One World, One Neurosurgery, Let us Build the Bridges!" Dr. Hee-Won Jung served as President of the Congress, and his fellow officers and colleagues of the Korean Neurosurgical Society presented a marvelous meeting. The Congress Center located in the Gangnam Area of Seoul, Korea's beautiful capitol for 500 years, was ideally situated for convenient access by public and private transportation. Most congress hotels and shopping centers were located in the direct vicinity of the Congress Center. The headquarters hotel was the COEX Intercontinental Hotel. The total number of attendees, coming from 112 countries, was 4,153 (the largest in history), including 2,188 active members, 1,163 residents, fellows and nurses, 282 spouses and 520 exhibitors.

During 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September 2013, two WFNS Administrative Council (AC) and three Executive Committee (EC) Meetings were held at the headquarters hotel. At the first AC Meeting on Saturday, it was recognized that Dr. Peter Black, President of the Federation, was unable to attend the Seoul Congress due to personal matters. Dr. Takeshi Kawase, the first Vice President of the Federation assumed the Presidency of WFNS during the Congress and presided over the AC and EC meetings. On Saturday evening September 7, a lively reception was given in the Vivace Room of the headquarters hotel to welcome the WFNS officials and committee chairpersons.

### ***Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception***

The Opening Ceremony of the Congress took place in the Convention Center on Sunday evening. The opening fanfare from the Seoul National University Wind Ensemble was followed by welcome addresses delivered by the President of the Fifteenth World Congress, Dr. Hee-Won Jung, and the first Vice President of the WFNS, Dr. Takeshi Kawase.

Various awards of distinction were bestowed to honorees during the first part of the ceremony. Dr. Jaques Brotchi, Chairman of the Medals of Honor Committee presented the Medals to Drs. Osvaldo Betti (Argentina), Albino Bricolo (Italy) and Kil Soo Choi (Republic of Korea). Dr. Bricolo, who could not personally attend due to matters of health, was represented by Dr. F. Tomasello. Following these awards, Dr. T. Kawase presented Dr. G. Broggi (Italy) and Dr. M. Loyo-Varela (Mexico) with the William B. Scoville Award was this to each or only one of them? . Lastly, Dr. A. Kaye presented six young neurosurgeons with WFNS YNS Awards.

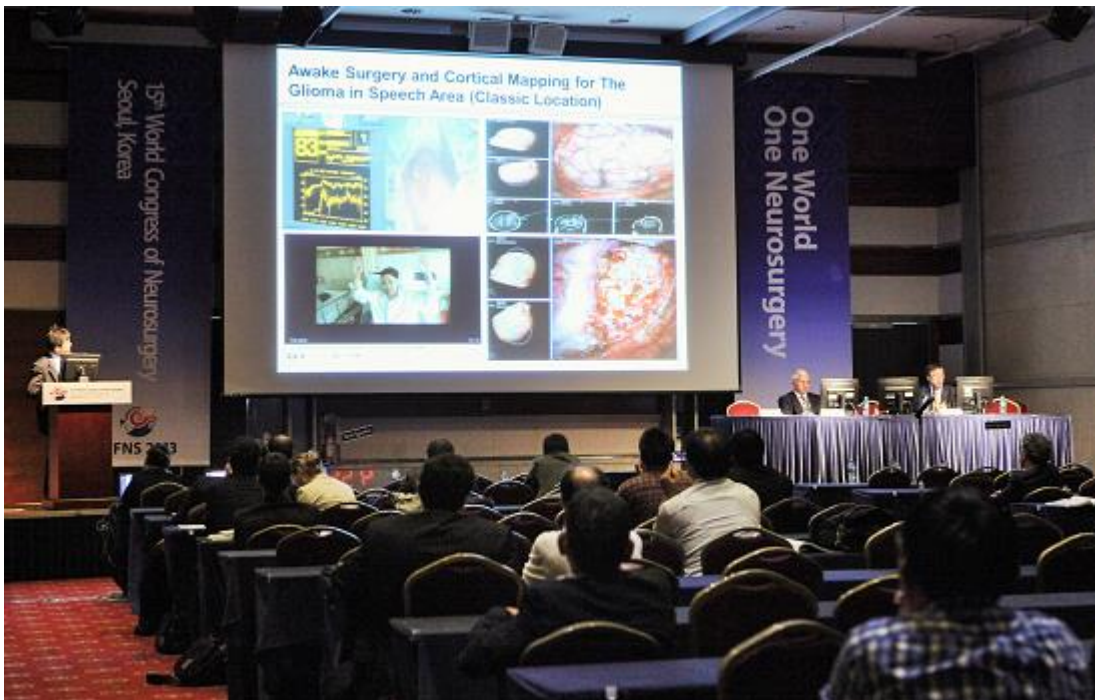
During the second part of the ceremony, the SNU Wind Ensemble Orchestra gave an excellent performance and soprano Young Zoo Oh sang two beautiful arias. The final dance of Gangnam Style concluded the evening's entertainment with pomp and festivity. The ceremony, attended by 3,200 people, was followed by a welcoming reception.

### ***Scientific Program***

The Scientific Programme Committee chaired by Dr. C-K. Park assembled a comprehensive and educational program covering all fields of neurosurgery. The total number of scientific sessions and papers presented were, respectively, 330 and 2,789, including 618 invited lectures, 1,073 oral papers and 1,068 electronic posters. The 2,789 abstracts received and presented constituted the largest number in history of WFNS Congresses.

Eight Luncheon Seminars were sponsored by commercial companies and three, namely, Japan-Korea, China-Korea and Turkey-Korea Friendship Symposia, were hosted by the Organizing Committee of the Fifteenth World Congress.

The first use of the electronic-voting system was remarkable during the Interactive Session, which attracted many participants. Each evening, five Educational Sessions for Young Neurosurgeons sponsored by commercial companies were held with free dinners.





During the closing ceremony on Friday, the outbound President of the Congress (Dr. Hee-Won Jung) and the new incoming President of the Federation (Dr. Yong-Kwang Tu) and the President of the next WFNS World Congress (Dr. Ugur Ture) gave short farewell addresses. An extensive institutional and trade exhibition consisting of 227 booths (76 institutions and companies) was well received.

Travel grants for Young Neurosurgeons (USD 200,000) were sponsored by DePuy, Synthes, Johnson and Johnson, and 130 recipients were selected to be awarded free registration and travel expenses. Personal scholarships provided by Drs. M. Kao and Y. Kato were awarded to 14 doctors. M. Samii's Medal of Honor was awarded to Professor Lindsay Symon. Four Pre-Congress Symposia and Courses were held on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> September.

### ***Social Program***

The social events were warmly received and highly successful. Monday evening Dr. Hee-Won Jung hosted a fantastic 'Presidential Dinner' at the Ashton House of the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel located beside of the Han River. There were 114 invited guests.

On Tuesday, the Korean Neurosurgical Society hosted a 'Friendship Dinner' held at the Grand Ballroom of the Grand Intercontinental Hotel. There were 295 invited guests who were welcomed by the President of the Korean Neurosurgical Society.

On Wednesday, 'Korea Night' was organized, and all participants were invited. There were 3,200 attendees. Following a delicious buffet dinner, performances by a famous Korean traditional dance team and top K-pop singers enthralled the audience at the main Hall of COEX Convention Center. The official 'Gala Dinner' was held on Thursday. Nine hundred seventy-nine participants attended to witness performances by the Sookmyung Gayageum Orchestra and the Greta Lee Fashion Show with Korean traditional costumes.









### ***Financial Results***

The Fifteenth World Congress in Seoul was also a great financial success. The meeting produced the largest balance in the history of the WFNS, consisting of USD 450,000 plus three sets of ZEISS PICO microscopes, all of which were transferred to the account of the WFNS in February of 2014. The voucher for the ZEISS microscopes was remitted to the Foundation Committee of the Federation in February of 2014.



***The 15<sup>th</sup> Interim Meeting of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies took place in September 2015 in Rome, Italy. The venue was the Marriott Park Hotel.***

The officers of the organizing committee hosting the meeting were as follows:

Francesco Tomasello, President of the meeting  
Roberto Delfini, President of the local committee  
Michaelangelo Gangemi, Secretary  
Giancarlo Guizzardi, Treasurer  
Alberto Delitala, President of the Italian Society of Neurosurgery.

Honorary Presidents of the meeting were Giovanni Broggi and Gianpaulo Cantore

The officers of the scientific committee were:

Franco Servadei, President  
Paolo Cappabianca, co-chair  
Vincenzo Esposito, co-chair



***Professors. Tomasello and Tu, Presidents of the Rome Interim Meeting and the WFNS,***

The meeting in Rome was a great success offering the delegate a wonderful scientific program and an exciting social and cultural program as well. Registration consisted of 2028 delegates from 105 different countries. The Italian Society of neurosurgery offered 145 educational grants for young neurosurgeons from developing countries, so that they could join and benefit from the meeting. Sponsorship of the meeting was greatly assisted by exhibits from 43 companies.

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, 12 preliminary courses were given, and were attended by 133 neurosurgeons, mostly under the age of 35, and coming from 34 countries.

The opening ceremony of the meeting was a great combination of welcoming addresses and a superb cultural performance. Speakers included members of the organizing committee, a Presidential address by Yong Kwang Tu, remarks by the secretary, Basant Misra, and comments regarding the history of the World Federation by Dr. Edward Laws.

WFNS Medals of Honor were awarded to Francesco Tomasello, Francisco Velasco, and Liang Fu-Zhou. The Madjid Samii medal was awarded to Alexander Konovalov. Following this, Dr. Farias, the Chairman of the Young Neurosurgeons Award Committee presented the winners of these awards.



***Dr. Laws Commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WFNS***



***Awarding of the Medals of Honor***

A highlight of the meeting was the opening lecture on “ Renaissance Neurosurgery: Italy’s Iconic Contributions “ by Anil Nanda.



***Professor Nanda’s Erudite Address***

### **Scientific Highlights**

The scientific program was superb. The Meeting was organized along six tracks: Neuro-oncology, Neurovascular, Spine and Peripheral Nerve, Neurotrauma, Functional & Pediatrics, Education, and Ethical & Socio-economic.

There were 4 Plenary and 21 Main Sessions, with 24 and 168 lecturers, respectively.

The Organizing Committee scheduled 4 Luncheon Seminars including: Controversies in Neuroendoscopy; Meet the Editors: How to publish a successful paper; Lessons learned in Military Missions; There were also 6 Industry Sponsored Luncheon Seminars on “Controversies in cervical spine treatment”; “Established and new frontiers of treatment of ICH/IVH and related clinical trials”; “Ultrasonic bone dissection in spinal surgery”; “Difficulties and complications in cranial decompression and reconstruction”; and, “Cyberknife, the ideal tool for Neurosurgery”.

Some of the innovative topics deserve to be mentioned, such as the vexatious issue of newly diagnosed glioblastoma multiforme, with an update of the EF-14 randomized study from NovoTTF. A comprehensive overview on Laser ablation surgery for deep seated cerebral lesions was addressed as well. Furthermore, current research in onco-virology and neuroimmunology and related therapies were reviewed along with the current state of understanding of oncolytic virotherapy and cytotoxic immunogenic therapy.

The most relevant updates on Neurovascular treatment both by microsurgery and endovascular therapy, spinal surgery, functional neurosurgery and pediatrics were also presented.

It is noteworthy that some lectures were devoted to ethical issues and the state of the art of neurosurgical practice in different Continents.

Neurorestoration is now a global neurosurgery agenda item, where the goals of research meet the need of the patients’ requests not only to be cured but also to regain lost function.

### **Social program**

The social program was as rich as the scientific program. Delegates and their families and friends enjoyed a number of breathtaking and innovative tours throughout the eternal city and other parts of Italy, making their stay unforgettable. As a matter of fact, Rome is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, and is one of the greatest open-air museums, comprising 3000 years of the history of Civilization. For this reason the theme of the Meeting was, “From Ancient Rome to Modern World Neurosurgery”.

Amongst the amazing social activities, many will remember the visit to Pope Francis I, who presented a special greeting to the meeting and to the delegates, and the Gala Dinner at the Terrazza Caffarelli, one of the most elegant places in Rome.



*Elegant Social Events*

### **Featured Speakers**

The Meeting was enriched by the participation and lectures offered by non-neurosurgeon speakers, such as Admiral Giuseppe De Giorgi, Chief of the Italian Navy, on “Mare Nostrum”, and Marco Gaiani, Professor of Architectural Representation at the Alma Mater (space added) Studiorum University of Bologna, on “Dissection of Leonardo’s drawing The Vitruvian Man”.

### **The joint meeting with the Neuroscience Nurses**

It is noteworthy that there was a Joint Meeting of the Italian Association of Neuroscience Nurses (ANIN), President Cristina Razzini and Vice-President Giusy Pipitone, the World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses (WFNN), President Christi DeLemos, and the European Association of Neuroscience Nurses (EANN), President Neal Cook.

### **The bids to host the WFNS Congress of 2021, and the election of the new President of the WFNS**

During the Meeting, there were the bids for hosting the next WFNS Congress in 2021. The delegates of the Neurosurgical Societies who attended the Interim Meeting elected Colombia as the Country that will be the site of the 2021 WFNS Congress, and China (Beijing) as the site for the 2019 WFNS Interim Meeting.

Franco Servadei was elected from the floor as the next President of the WFNS. It is the first time that an Italian will serve as President of the WFNS, representing the more that 30 thousand neurosurgeons in the world, and 127 National Societies grouped in 5 Continental Associations



*President Elect – Franco Servadei*



**Conclusion**

As the curtain closed on the XV Interim Meeting of the WFNS in Rome, Italy, we need to remember the high level of educational endeavor, the friendships made and renewed, and the scientific, topical and cultural discussions that are part of the intangible benefits that we and our colleagues derive from the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies, as we look forward to the 2017 WFNS Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey.