



## **International Headache Society, Visiting Professors Programme**

**The Pre-Congress event of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the Association of Srilankan Neurologists**

**November 18<sup>th</sup> 2016, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

The “Masterclass on Headache”, a Visiting Professors programme in collaboration with the International Headache Society (IHS) was held for the first time in Sri Lanka. This was a Pre-congress event of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the Association of Srilankan Neurologists (ASN) held on Friday 18 November 2016, at the ClinMARC auditorium of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka. Two eminent Visiting Professors Prof. Rigmor Jenson from Denmark and Dr. Anand Diwan from India conducted the entire programme in tandem.

The programme was held at the National Hospital, the largest hospital in Sri Lanka, situated in the heart of Colombo, to ensure optimal participation by doctors. As envisaged, there was a record 160 registrations, one of the best compared to similar events in the past. Most of the participants included Neurologists, General Physicians, Specialists Registrars and Registrars in Neurology and Medicine, House Officers and General Practitioners from in and around Colombo. At the onset, the President of the ASN, Dr. A. T. Alibhoy, welcomed the participants and introduced both the speakers. Dr. Alibhoy also welcomed Prof. Subash Kaul, the Immediate Past President of the Indian Academy of Neurology and the Guest of Honour of the Annual Congress and Dr. J.B. Peiris, Patron of the ASN who were present at the meeting. He encouraged all the participants to obtain Associate Membership of the IHS which was being offered free of charge for Sri Lanka and

requested them to utilize its benefits, which included free online access to Cephalalgia and the Neuroscientist.

The topics scheduled for the Masterclass were as follows

- Migraine presentation and treatment of Migraine
- Recent advances in migraine
- Chronic headaches
- Cluster headache and other trigeminal autonomic cephalalgias TAC
- Management of Subarachnoid Hemorrhage
- Idiopathic intracranial hypertension
- Headache emergencies
- Rare headache syndromes
- Case histories and interactive discussions

The programme commenced with the topics on Primary Headache Disorders, with Dr. Diwan talking on Migraine and followed by Prof. Jenson discussing Chronic Headaches including Medication Overuse Headache and then the TAC disorders. Following the lunch break, many topics on Secondary Headaches were discussed. Each of the talks were kept interactive as possible, with question and answer time at the end of each talk. The finale was the case histories and discussions which were conducted by both the speakers. There was great interest and active participation by the attendees. The entire program was well received by the participants who then filled up the Evaluation forms sent by the IHS. An immediate feedback on the day's events was very useful. The participants wished that it would have been quite beneficial if more time was allocated for case discussions, as this was practically very useful for the majority who were clinicians. The day culminated with the Inauguration ceremony of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress which was held at the Cinnamon Lakeside hotel, Colombo.

Sri Lanka has just over 40 Neurologists, all practicing in general neurology and only a few having an interest in Headache disorders. This "Masterclass on Headache" programme, the first of its kind in Sri Lanka, was a great success. I am sure it would have stimulated those interested in Headaches to contemplate forming a Sri Lankan Headache Society which could later become an affiliated member society of the IHS. Such a society could take over the task of organizing future

programmes with international invited speakers. However, I believe that future programmes should also include a local faculty presenting case histories from Sri Lanka.

I am confident that this “Masterclass on Headache” was an important step forward in stimulating interest, accumulating knowledge and improving patient care. Thus, this programme held in collaboration with the IHS would be remembered as an important milestone in the history of Headache Neurology in Sri Lanka.

Yours Sincerely



Dr. A. T. Alibhoy

President, ASN 2016

Sri Lanka

Email : [atalibhoy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:atalibhoy@yahoo.co.uk)