

**Report of the 1st African and 2nd MENA
headaches meeting organized by YBT
association 6th-8th April 2017 in Marrakech**

The International Headache Society (IHS), Turkish Society of Neurology and MENA headache group of experts, in partnership with the neurology department of the Marrakech university hospital, the Marrakech medical School, Laboratory of clinical and experimental Neurosciences of Marrakech Medical School, the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA) and the Youssef Ben Tachfine association (YBT), organized the 2nd MENA and 1st African headache meeting, which took place in Marrakech between 6 and 8 April 2017, in Marrakech Medical School, this congress was dedicated to Africa and Arab world, but also to many other countries; it was the first opportunity in Africa and 2nd in Middle East in term of continuing educational for medical and paramedical staff, many topics were covered, from diagnosis to management of headache and pain disorders, new developments in the science of headache medicine and the care of headache sufferers. Local experiences were presented by African & Middle East neurologists. Other specialists, like neurosurgeons, internal doctors, otolaryngologists and ophthalmologists attended also this event, and finally practical session dedicated to GPs & nurses.



Figure 1: Photo of the **Opening Ceremony**, the 6th April 2017, in presence of Pr Rapaport on behalf of the IHS and Pr Kissani, President of the YBT Association. Traditional music from Marrakech was in the spotlight.



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During this congress, the scientific program was rich, divided between a scientific section reconciling interventions of the world experts in headaches to practical workshops, oral and poster presentations.



Figure 2: photo from 1st session: dedicated to epidemiology, chaired by Pr. Timothy Steinert, Pr. Naiib Kissani and Pr lamiaa Essaadouni.

scientific committee consisted of imminent neurologists from Morocco, Africa and Turkey: At least 223 participants from 18 countries were present, from both French and English-speaking regions.



Photo 3: Neurologists from Morocco, Turkey, Mali and Cameroon, during the 1st day morning coffee-break. Africa was in the spotlight.

The main objective of this meeting was to learn to African colleagues how to manage headaches, how to make the right diagnosis and ensure the right treatment, and to educate and sensitize Paramedics and patients.



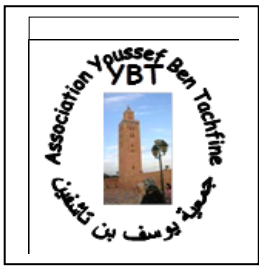
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Another objective was to involve our region in the various clinical trials involving headaches with collaboration between North and South, and between South and South.



Photo 4: souvenirs of Moroccan crafts for the participants, for Pr Peter Coasby, given by Dr Peter Garland, a visiting GP in Morocco for Ireland.

This first African congress was beneficial for all our neurologists, neuroscientists, nurses and patients, thus improving the management of headaches for our doctors and leading to a better quality of life for our patients.



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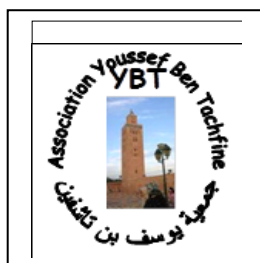
The event closed on 08/04/2017 with a gala dinner and a collective photo of the participants.



Photo 5: Group photo of participants in this first African edition of the congress

Given the lack of neurologists, general practitioners and nurses are major actors in the management of headaches in Africa. The congress invited 15 Moroccan and African general practitioners and 23 nurses from the various departments of the CHU to benefit from the latest news in the management of headaches.

The table below illustrates the presence of the various neurologist colleagues at the congress:



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<u>Country</u>	<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Number</u>
<u>Maroc (154)</u>	<u>Neurologists</u>	<u>36</u>
	<u>Internal medicine</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>Neurosurgery</u>	<u>10</u>
	<u>Ophthalmology</u>	<u>7</u>
	<u>ORL</u>	<u>12</u>
	<u>Radiology</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>GP</u>	<u>15</u>
	<u>Neuroscientists</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u>Nurse</u>	<u>23</u>
	<u>Physiotherapist</u>	<u>7</u>
	<u>Medical students</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Africa</u>		
<u>Tunisia</u>	<u>Neurologists</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Mali</u>	Neurologists	<u>3</u>
<u>Sénégal</u>	Neurologists	<u>4</u>
<u>Egypt</u>	Neurologists	<u>3</u>
<u>Cameron</u>	Neurologists	<u>1</u>
<u>Ivory coast</u>	Neurologists	<u>1</u>
<u>Algeria</u>	Neurologists	<u>2</u>
<u>Nigeria</u>	Neurologists	<u>2</u>
<u>Sudan</u>	Neurologists	<u>3</u>
<u>Burkinafaso</u>	Neurologists	<u>1</u>
<u>Niger</u>	Neurologists	<u>3</u>
<u>Mauritania</u>	Neurologists	<u>1</u>
<u>Guiné Conakry</u>	Neurologists	<u>1</u>
<u>Europe</u>		
<u>UK</u>	Neurologists	<u>2</u>
<u>France</u>	Neurologists	<u>1</u>
<u>Turquie</u>	Neurologists	<u>4</u>
<u>Norway</u>	Neurologists	<u>1</u>
<u>Scotland</u>	Neurologists	<u>2</u>
<u>Irlande</u>	GP	<u>2</u>
<u>Asia</u>		
<u>Palestine</u>	Neurologists	<u>1</u>
<u>Pakistan</u>	Neurologists	<u>2</u>
<u>Lebanon</u>	Neurologists	<u>2</u>
<u>UAE</u>	Neurologists	<u>9</u>
<u>Kuweit</u>	Neurologists	<u>1</u>
<u>KSA</u>	Neurologists	<u>5</u>
<u>America</u>		
<u>USA</u>	Neurologists	<u>4</u>
<u>Total</u>		<u>220</u>

- The programme of the congress was rich and varied; a pdf copy is attached to this document.