

## Press Release 1

The World's as well as India's most Experienced and Renowned Leading Authorities on Pediatric Neurological Diseases Gather for 'The Child Neurocon 2016' on the 12<sup>th</sup> February till 14<sup>th</sup> February, at the Kalam Centre and the Convention Centre of K G M U in Lucknow, the Capital of Uttar Pradesh, India.

The inaugural function is on 13th February at The Scientific Convention Centre.

The great importance of this event is reflected through two simple facts:

One- the burden of neurological disorders in Indian children is enormous. Neurologic illnesses are very common and second- The Child Neurologists are very few in number.

Apart from illnesses directly affecting the nervous system, the nervous system is the common final organ system involved in all serious illnesses of other systems. The effect of nervous system illnesses may end with death commonly, or equally, may leave a permanent disabling effect on brain, body or both. The impact is enormous economic, manpower and emotional loss for the sufferer, the family, the community, and finally causing huge irreparable National and International loss.

The attention of pediatricians on this particular super-specialty has been far less than desired. Even a pediatrician needs special training to deeply understand and manage the child neurologic diseases. As it may not be possible to have sufficient number of Pediatric Neurologists in the near future, this conference and the accompanying workshops offering knowledge and experience sharing with the pioneers in the field, is an attempt at bridging the gap to some extent. The Workshops on EEG, Neuroimaging are on 12<sup>th</sup> February and are eagerly waited for and going to be of great definite enhancement in ability of pediatricians to differentiate between some diseases and decision making regarding management. The exchange of experience and advances in the field with galaxy of Pediatric Neurologists is going to benefit the society through the capacity building of the participants.

Child neurologists diagnose and treat a variety of conditions. Neurologists deal with children who have seizures, head injuries, or muscle weakness. They also develop treatment plans and help manage the care of children that have disorders such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism. Children that have developmental disorders, such as speech delays, fine and gross motor delays, and coordination issues, may also see a neurologist. A neurologist may also treat children who have learning disabilities or learning delays. The Indian scenario is unique. As the subcontinent has wide variety of pediatric neurologic illnesses. Seizure disorder ('the fits) is commonly dreaded by all common people. Few interesting illnesses are uncommon elsewhere. E.g. The dreaded Japanese B Encephalitis (J.E), Tubercular Basal Meningitis (TBM), Neurocysticercosis (NCC). The newly emerging Rickettsial illness and the age old Epilepsy are other important child neurological illnesses apart from all important Traumatic Brain Disease and also genetic and degenerative brain disease to name a few group of illnesses.

The Neurology unit of the department of Pediatrics KGMU Lko, the main force organizing this immensely useful conference is doing a yeomen service to the cause of the children from far off, suffering from the after effects of variety of neurological illnesses ranging from Cerebral Palsy (the CP) to specific delayed acquisition of milestones. It is pertinent for the public benefit to mention that a Child Neurology Clinic run on all Thursdays in Pediatric OPD of KGMU, by Professor Rashmi Kumar and Professor Chandrakanta is heavily attended clinic and children from all over the State of Uttar Pradesh and Nepal, and few adjoining States of UP attend it. Especially Chronic disability arising out of Neurological illnesses on children are taken care off and followed up regularly.

The Workshops and the Conference itself are being organized under the aegis of The Department of Pediatrics, King George's Medical University, Lucknow, AOCN (Association of Child Neurology), LAP (Lucknow Academy of Pediatrics), under the watchful eyes of well-known Pediatric Neurologist Professor Rashmi Kumar, the HOD Pediatrics department KGMU Lko, ably assisted by the Organizing Secretary Professor Chandrakanta of the same department.

The conduction of this conference and the associated workshops will add definitely to the cause of children of not only Uttar Pradesh but also from nearby States of U.P. also, through the capacity building of the participating pediatricians and general practitioners.

There will be three pre conference workshops: 1. EEG 2. Neuroimaging 3. Stroke

Distinguished Dignitaries in the workshop on EEG:

1. Basics of EEG: Dr. Rakesh Shukla KGMU
2. Normal EEG in different age group children: Dr Prashant Jauhri, AIIMS
3. EEG in not convulsing Child: Dr RK Garg HOD Neurology KGMU

Distinguished Dignitaries in the workshop on Neuroimaging:

1. MRI in a neonate Dr Atin Kumar
2. Brain infections Dr. Neera Kohli KGMU

Distinguished Dignitaries in the workshop on Stroke:

1. Dr Sunil Jain New Delhi
2. Eucodestrophies Dr Atin Kumar
3. MRI in Spinal cord disorders: dr Anit Parihar KGMU.



## PRESS NOTE

The specialty of Neurology deals with disorders of the brain, spinal cord, nerves and muscles.

Disorders of the brain often last through the life span of an individual. Children are the future wealth of a nation, in fact humanity. Protecting the child's brain is the sacred duty not only of doctors but all citizens of the planet.

A wide variety of neurological disorders occur in children. Neurologic disorders may present with Intellectual disability, motor defects, spasticity, epilepsy etc. Causes can be infectious, nutritional, traumatic, neoplastic and genetic. Neurologic diagnosis and evaluation is difficult, painstaking and specialised.

In resource poor settings, all the causes of neurological disorders are more common. This causes a high prevalence of such disorders. In fact, neurological disorders account for a large proportion of everyday paediatrics – both indoor and ambulatory.

Adult specialties are well developed but pediatric specialities are not. This is despite children below 18 years accounting for almost 40% of the population. Pediatric neurologists are very few in the country.

There is a need for more advanced courses in pediatric neurology. Investigations are very expensive and scarcely available. Apart from doctors, trained paramedics – physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, special teachers etc. are badly needed.

The Association of Child Neurology was founded in 2004 with the objective of enhancing interactions among child neurologists and learning in pediatric neurology. This year the annual conference is being held in Lucknow, jointly organized by AOCN, Lucknow Academy of Pediatrics and Department of Pediatrics, King George Medical University. The theme of the conference is "Pediatric Neurology for the Pediatrician". About 200 delegates will be attending from about 15 states of India and many neighbouring countries.