IHS Education Committee Report 2022

Following 2 years of being unable to support such visits, finally we were able to have the first African Visiting Professor in Kenya in May 2022. Two more Visiting Professor programs will take place in Cameroon in October and Cambodia (delayed from 2020) in November/December, as well as a virtual Visiting Professor in Moldova and likely Iran. The Visiting Professor Plus program from 2020, which was due to be held in Russia, is deferred due to the current situation in Ukraine.

Members of the Education Committee evaluated and selected three recipients for the Headache Trainee program. The committee also participated, together with the Scientific Committee, in selecting one recipient of the IHS Fellowship. The Education Committee warmly encourages applicants to apply for these grants in 2023 as well.

The Education Committee took the initiative to make a survey on past IHS grant recipients in collaboration with the Junior and Scientific Committees, who had previously received HIS grants. Eighty-one percent of the recipients reported to have remained in the headache field since the award, half of them held a current academic position and over three-quarters had stayed in contact with the host institution. The totality of questionnaire responders stated that the grant had had a significantly positive impact on their careers. The survey resulted in an article: “A history of International Headache Society grants and their impact on headache careers” published as open access in Cephalalgia June 2022.

The committee continued to review programs from national and regional conferences in order to receive endorsement at the request of the Board. In general, these were approved, with some feedback to the organizers. The past chair of the committee, Allan Purdy, was involved together with the IHS Leadership and Faculty to support a Best of IHS Congress 2021 Education Program in China that took place in November 2021 with 20,000 online.

There have been ongoing changes in the membership of the committee. Dr. Espen Kristoffersen, Dr. Delphine Magis, Dr. Michalis Vikelis and Dr. Rigmor Jensen resigned from the committee; we have been so very grateful for all their efforts and work over the years. Dr. Allan Purdy also resigned as co-chair and previous chair of the committee, and was thanked for his enormous work for headache education over the years. The committee welcomed several new members the last year, Dr. Olivia Begasse De Dhaem (USA), Dr. Augustina Charway-Felli (Ghana), Dr. Debashish Chowdhury (India), Dr. Amr Hassan (Egypt), Dr. Michael Huth (South Africa), Dr. Kirill Skorobogatykh (Russia), Dr. Bronwyn Jenkins (Australia), Dr. Mi Ji Lee (South Korea), Dr. Marco Lisicki (Argentina), Dr. Roberta Messina (Italy), Dr. Marcio Nattan (Brazil), and Dr. Vladimir Romanenko (Ukraine).
The Learning Center on the IHS website continues to grow. Several videos, podcasts and webinars have been posted on the IHS website and social media channels over the past year. In February and March, the Education Committee launched campaigns on tension-type headache and cluster headache together with the Electronic Media Committee. Each campaign consisted of a three-part video series on each headache disorder, with the content to target a broad viewership that includes patients as well as healthcare professionals. The purpose was to provide open-access material that delivers a concise overview of the definition, prevalence, diagnostic criteria, clinical features, and therapies for each headache disorder. To underscore the global nature of IHS, we have posted the video series by speakers in languages such as Spanish, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Greek, Turkish, Russian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Urdu, Farsi and Arabic. A new campaign on medication overuse headache is planned and will launch later this year.

As a new initiative the Education Committee, expect to release an on-line course on migraine via a new Learning Institute on the IHS website later this year. The course will be a CME accredited and available for all IHS members. We plan future courses on tension-type headache, cluster headache and other headache disorders.

The Education Committee would also like to thank all the IHS members, who have contributed greatly to all the online activities – without their great work, this would not have been possible. The committee would also like to thank IHS Administrator Carol Taylor and the Electronic Media Committee, who have been of key importance in collaborating with and advertising about the educational activities on various media platforms.

Education has been and continues to be a big part of the mission of the society. As Chair and on behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the President, Professor Cristina Tassorelli, the Executive and Board for their enthusiastic support of all we do. It is an exciting time to be in the headache field and the worldwide reach of our educational activities is helping to expand the field immensely.

Respectfully submitted by:

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