

Yearly Report of the WFNR Specialist Interest Group (SIG) on Clinical Pathways in Neurorehabilitation for the year 2021

1.0 Book project and Certificate Teaching Course on “Clinical Pathways in Stroke Rehabilitation: Evidence-based clinical practice recommendations for major topics in stroke”

The book with 282 pages covers clinical problems that are frequently encountered in stroke rehabilitation in a concise and practical way. Conceptually, it acknowledges that consequences of diseases are treated in rehabilitation, e.g. impairments and activity limitations (ICF, WHO 2001). The development of clinical pathways is based on the available best evidence sources that are summarized and critically appraised. The innovative contribution of each chapter is to bridge the gap between clinical evidence and clinical decision making in a practical way. Emphasis is given to deduce specific recommendations from evidence sources that can be used for clinical practice.

The recommendations / clinical pathways of available chapters were discussed and consented by the group of authors and an external review panel including stroke survivor representatives. Thereby, the recommendations are based on a broader perspective of neurorehabilitation specialists around the world and endorsed by the WFNR.

The book was published early in 2021. It was sponsored by the WFNR foundation and is hence freely accessible as digital copy for all with an interest (please get your free copy at <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030585044>). Meanwhile, it received 8 citations, 111 mentions, and 90k downloads (until 17.01.2022).

The authors of the book agreed to run teaching courses covering the topics of the book for an international audience of healthcare professionals working in neurorehabilitation. The first WFNR Certificate Teaching Course on “Clinical Pathways in Stroke Rehabilitation” was held digitally in 2021 with weekly seminars (from February to May, 2021), well attended, and a great success.

The teaching course faculty plans to repeat the course in 2022, likely as a pre-congress course in December 2022 (right before the WCNR 2022; maybe, both in presence and digitally). Everybody who wants to pre-register (to receive further information when planning will be finalised) can do so at https://de.surveymonkey.com/r/WFNR_TC_pre-registration.

2.0 Organizing the Summer School Neurorehabilitation in Greifswald (15th to 18th of June, 2022), book “Neurorehabilitation update” [in German], and E-Learning platform

As a WFNR educational event the fifth Summer School Neurorehabilitation (SSNR) in Greifswald, Germany, will be held from 15th to 18th of June, 2022; preparatory activities had been made in the 2nd half of 2021. The SSNR serves as an update for the current state of the art in clinical practice and will again be given in native language to be inclusive for all members and professions involved in neurorehabilitation teams. The summer school is planned as F2F event, but will be held digitally if needed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information and registration visit <https://t1p.de/ssnr2022>. A book “Update Neurorehabilitation” (5th edition, edited by Thomas Platz) will be prepared along with the summer school by its faculty covering all its topics. In addition, an e-learning platform was established at the host’s site (Krupp-Kolleg, Greifswald; <https://www.wiko-greifswald.de/>, <https://www.wiko-greifswald.de/mediathek/anmeldung-2020/anmeldung-neuroreha/>). All lectures of the previous Summer School Neurorehabilitation (2020) were recorded and afterwards used to establish the E-Learning. Everybody with a professional interest can now register free of charge for the E-Learning and stream the lectures for her/his own individual continuous education. Since it became available in July 2020 the E-Learning has also been well perceived and asked for among neurorehabilitation professionals.

3.0 WFNR SIG Clinical Pathways - Joint activities with other International Groups, e.g. the “WHO-WSO Lancet Neurology Commission on Stroke” and “Cochrane Rehabilitation”

We edited an issue of *Frontiers in Neurology* on stroke rehabilitation (<https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/8337/translating-innovations-in-stroke-rehabilitation-to-improve-recovery-and-quality-of-life-across-the#articles>). The collection with 7 articles from 37 authors received 50,342 views thus far (18.01.2022), and was accompanied by an editorial (Owolabi MO, Platz T, Good D, Dobkin BH, Ekechukwu END and Li L. Editorial: Translating Innovations in Stroke Rehabilitation to Improve Recovery and Quality of Life Across the Globe. *Front. Neurol.* 2020; 11:630830. doi: 10.3389/fneur.2020.630830; <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fneur.2020.630830/full>).

In addition, we edited an issue of *Frontiers in Neurology* on “COVID-19: The Neurorehabilitation Perspective” (<https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/14021/covid-19-the-neurorehabilitation-perspective>). The collection of 25 articles from 176 authors collectively received 132,087 views thus far (18.01.2022).

We are also developing the rehabilitation pillar of the WHO-WSO *Lancet Neurology* on Stroke.

On the 1st of January 2020, Cochrane Rehabilitation and the World Federation for NeuroRehabilitation mutually agreed to continue to Memorandum of Understanding signed on 09/07/2018 till December 31st 2024. In the context of this collaboration between Cochrane Rehabilitation and the WFNR the WFNR SIG Clinical Pathways runs "evidence

to decision/recommendation" projects and organizes Cochrane Rehabilitation educational activities.

A methods paper for the above mentioned "evidence to decision/recommendation" projects was published in 2021 (Platz T. Methods for the Development of Healthcare Practice Recommendations Using Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses. *Front. Neurol.* 2021; 12:699968. doi: 10.3389/fneur.2021.699968). The paper is available open access at <https://internal-journal.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fneur.2021.699968/full> .

In 2021, an update on the "evidence to decision/recommendation" project for the topic “post stroke depression” was started and will be concluded in 2022.

In addition, a half-day WFNR-Cochrane workshop was held on Friday, 6th August 2021 at the Asian Oceanian Congress for Neurorehabilitation, AOCNR 2021 (digital). Its title was “Evidence-Based Medicine and Cochrane Reviews for Neurorehabilitation - A workshop organized by the WFNR jointly with Cochrane Rehabilitation”. Contributions were:

Part A Evidence-based medicine – an Introduction

1. *Evidence-based Medicine, EBM and Study Design (Thomas Platz, WFNR)*
2. *Understanding Cochrane Reviews (content, structure, methodology) (Thomas Platz)*

Part B What Cochrane Reviews teach us for Neurorehabilitation – examples

1. *Organised inpatient care for stroke (Samantha Ramachandra, Cochrane)*
2. *Electromechanical-assisted training for walking after stroke (Julia Patrick Engkasan, Cochrane Rehabilitation)*
3. *Mental practice for treating upper extremity deficits in individuals with hemiparesis after stroke (William Levack, Cochrane Rehabilitation)*



Ibadan & Greifswald, 18.01.2022

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