

YOUNG WFNR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Name of Special Interest Group (SIG)	Young World Federation for Neurorehabilitation
Chair Email	Elia Fischer, MD elialuca.fischer@insel.ch
Co-Chair	Maria Alejandra Spir Brunal, MD
Number of Members	85
Key objectives and action plan	<p>The primary aim of the young WFNR is to spark interest in the field of neurorehabilitation among early-career professionals from various backgrounds (physicians, therapists, researchers). As a global community of young fellows, this Special Interest Group (SIG) offers a unique opportunity for networking and establishing long-lasting and fruitful collaborations. The creation of a group of young professionals promotes the exchange between generations, ultimately leading to mutual benefits for both junior and more senior members of the WFNR.</p> <p>Within the SIG itself, the core aims are to promote both education and clinical research in the field of neurorehabilitation. The young WFNR collaborates with the WFNR on existing programs and creates new programs such as regular webinars to reach these goals.</p>
Activities during previous 12 months	<p>The young WFNR SIG has been reactivated in 2021. During this year, the key objectives of the SIG were defined by the presidium together with the SIG chair.</p> <p>In 2022, a major focus of the SIG was the recruitment of new members. Several means of communications were used to spread the news about the reactivation of the SIG. First, the young WFNR contributed to multiple newsletters of the WFNR (including the 25th anniversary newsletter), asking early-career professionals to join and</p>

	<p>senior members to inform their mentees about the SIG. Second, the SIG was advertised at webinars and both regional as well as international congresses, such as the Indian Federation for Neurorehabilitation Convention in April (IFNRCON 2022) or the World Congress for Neurorehabilitation in Vienna (WCNR 2022). Third, the WFNR Presidium, Members at large, Regional Vice-Presidents (RVPs) and SIG Chairs were asked to distribute a letter about the reactivation of the young WFNR within their network. Finally, until the end of 2022, the young WFNR SIG grew from one member to over 85 members. Additionally, the appointment of Maria Alejandra Spir Brunal as the secretary of the SIG completed the young WFNR board.</p> <p>In August 2022, the young WFNR implemented a quarterly research webinar series. The rationale is that early-career professionals can present their own research and subsequently receive feedback from peers and invited international experts. Speakers thus profit from valuable input on how to improve their research and gain exposure to connect with the invited senior experts and peers with a similar research interest. Members in the audience in turn learn about the latest advances in the respective fields.</p> <p>At the WCNR 2022, the SIG actively contributed by the organisation of a roundtable symposium on career development and a symposium about the contribution of young researchers to advanced technology neurorehabilitation.</p> <p>To improve the distribution of news and the communication within the SIG, the young WFNR recently established a presence on social media.</p>
<p>Proposed activities</p>	<p>The research webinar series of the young WFNR will continue to be held every three months in 2023, with the first implementation scheduled for February 1st. To improve upon the educational aspect of the webinar series, we plan to integrate short input talks about the way of doing research. Potential topics include statistics and selection of an adequate study methodology.</p> <p>A webinar series on education is currently in planning. Like the research webinars, these will be held quarterly and will feature keynote lectures about clinical aspects of neurorehabilitation by international senior experts. Young WFNR members can subsequently present clinical case reports about a similar or related topic. The webinar series on education intends to improve clinical knowledge and provide members without any research activity with the opportunity to expose themselves within the community.</p>

	<p>As a further goal for 2023, the young WFNR will establish synergies with existing SIGs to facilitate the exchange between early-career professionals with interests in specific domains of neurorehabilitation and distinguished experts in these fields.</p> <p>The recruitment of new members and the contribution will continue to be of high priority for the SIG in 2023.</p>
Publications	None