

## **WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES (India) TRUST**

New Delhi, India hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Neurological Surgery in 1989 and savings of approximately Indian Rupees 6 million was made. The Government of India rules were such that no money could be repatriated as hard currency i.e. dollars, marks, etc. to any country. Then President of W.F.N.S, Dr. Kemp Clark and Secretary, Dr. Alfons Walder along with Dr. Lindsay Symon (who in the succeeding year became President of W.F.N.S.) suggested that a Trust be formed with the corpus of the savings to resolve the impasse. The interest of the Trust could support the neurosurgical community of India and surrounding region by providing funds to help improve the skills and knowledge of neurosurgery, in consonance with the objectives of W.F.N.S. The name of the Trust was suggested by Dr. Lindsay Symon. The corpus has subsequently increased and only the interest on the corpus is used for the purposes of the Trust activities.

The W.F.N.S (India) Trust was created during the time the late Dr. B. Ramamurthi was President and Dr. A. K. Banerji was Secretary. The other life trustees were Drs. P. N. Tandon, S. N. Bhagwati, M. Sambasivan, R. Bhatia & V. K. Kak. The Trust realized that the best way to maximize its effects would be to give an initial partial financial grant which would allow further grants to be obtained from various other grant giving bodies. This proved most useful over the years.

The Trust is exempt from income tax as a special privilege by the government. The office space is complementary.

The Trust has funded a large number of seminars, symposia, workshops and conferences. It has further funded visits of Indian neurosurgeons abroad for training in skills not available in India, as well as for attending conferences and symposia, etc. The Trust has set up 2 microsurgery training laboratories at Chennai and Mumbai which have been used extensively by local and regional neurosurgeons, including some from neighbouring countries.

Indian neurosurgery today has become world class and due in part to the impetus and drive of the W.F.N.S (India) Trust. Along with the parent association Neurological Society of India, there are 6 separate neurosurgical societies today (I) Neuro Spinal Surgeons Association - India (II) Neurotrauma Society of India (III) Skull Base Surgery Society of India (IV) Indian Society of Stereotactic & Functional Neurosurgery (V) Indian Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery (VI) Indian Society of Cerebrovascular Surgery.

The international community of neurosurgeons, who are a part of W.F.N.S., have provided generous assistance. Every year, 25-30 neurosurgeons have been going to India to participate in academic activities, giving their free time and effort and often travelling at their own expense. The Trust supports only the local hospitality of the invited faculty. The existing bonds of world neurosurgery have been strengthened by these activities. Support has been extended for training neurosurgeons from other countries and to date, people from Nepal, Bangladesh & South Africa have been able to use the facilities & expertise thanks to the Trust.

For additional information about the W.F.N.S (India) Trust and its activities, please kindly contact:

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