

WNA



巻頭言エー礼

ドイツ脳外科女医・現状分析

How is the situation of female neurosurgeons in Germany ?

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第27回WNA会合報告

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First of all my kindest greetings to the Woman's Neurosurgical Association of Japan
It is a great pleasure and honour for me, having been invited to write a message for your
29th edition about the current state of female neurosurgery in Europe.

However, as I was trying to get more information about the number of female neurosurgeons in Europe it turned out, that reliable data about the number of female neurosurgeons, either in training or certified or in chief positions are almost not available, at least not outside from Germany. This may be due to the large number of countries from Spain to Tschechia and Russia which now span Europe, with a wide variety of training programmes and a large number of neurosurgeons in training or certified. According to the training committee secretary of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS), approximately one third of the young trainees, who go the EANS training courses are female. However, as there are two training courses a year, the number varies somewhat over time. No information can be gained from the individual societies regarding the number of female certified neurosurgeons in their individual country, as well as the number of female neurosurgeons in responsible chief positions. However, I am currently not aware of a female neurosurgeon, outside Germany, who is acting chief of a university clinic or larger municipal clinic. It can only be hoped, that with the considerable increase of female neurosurgeons in training nowadays, in Europe this will gradually change.

How is the situation in Germany? In Germany there are currently 88 trained and certified female neurosurgeons among 1069 neurosurgeons. The exact position of these female neurosurgeons in their respective academic or clinical institution is however not known. On the other hand, there is almost no exact information about the number of female neurosurgeons in training in Germany. Therefore, I would like to extrapolate from my clinic to answer this question at least approximately. Currently 7 female doctors are working in my clinic, of a staff of 21 doctors, which correlates to thirty percent of staff.

Of these 2 are certified neurosurgeons acting as associates. One female colleague is a neurologist who is running the department of intraoperative electrophysiological monitoring as part of the neurosurgical clinic. The remaining 4 doctors are in different states of their neurosurgical training. All of these four young female doctors have expressed their interest in an academic neurosurgical career. One of them has already fulfilled a period of external research at the National Institute of Health in the USA. Now, in talking to other chiefs of larger academic neurosurgical clinics in Germany, it turned out, that the situation in their clinics is almost comparable to the one I just described for my institution. This means, that currently about one third of all neurosurgeons in Germany, either board certified or in training are female. However, we are well aware, that this number is increasing, which will definitely lead to a larger number of certified female neurosurgeons in the future in Germany. I just had the chance to talk to Professor Albert Rhoton who is quite well informed about the resident situation in the US. He described to me, that in the US, the number of female residents in training for neurosurgery already comes close to 50 %.

Now, in Germany, despite the relatively large number of certified female neurosurgeons, the percentage of those in chief position is still quite small, considering, that there are approximately 120 neurosurgical clinics in Germany. Currently there are two chairs of neurosurgical university clinic which are occupied by a female neurosurgeon. Two other female neurosurgeons are in chief positions in municipal clinics. So, in summary, the situation, for female neurosurgeons in Europe in general, and in Germany especially, seems to be quite promising. I am sure, that with the number of certified female neurosurgeon increasing almost annually we will see more female colleagues in responsible positions as associates, associate professors and chairmen in the future which is surely a good and timely development for our speciality.