

Neurosurgery and Neuroscience in Brazil

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Professor Madjid Samii is one of the greatest neurosurgeons in the last decades. He is intellectually brilliant and has an extremely creative mind. He is a “great man”. The International Neuroscience Journal (INJ) is a remarkable example of his creative thinking.

Recently I visited a Neuroscience Fair at the university hospital where I am working, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, one of the largest universities in the country. From forty presented research projects five were neurosurgical studies. They ranged from trials with a new inhaled drug, the perillalcohol, for treatment of patients with recurrent glioblastomas, to studies on neuropathic pain and metabolism in the basal ganglia in Parkinson disease patients. Dozens of young people from different areas of knowledge such as biochemists, biologists, psychologists, neurophysiologists, anatomists, neurologists, neuropathologists, neurophysiologists, neuroradiologists, geneticists and biostatistics professional attended this scientific event. All projects were carried out under supervision of recognized upstanding researchers. It is worthy of note that these researchers and their studies were sponsored by Brazilian government agencies which provides payments to the researchers and to the acquisition of materials and equipment needed to develop the projects. The Brazilian Government has created a program called

“Science Without Borders” (Ciência sem Fronteiras), that allows thousands of Brazilian post-graduate students to accomplish Masters or PhD degrees at universities in Europe and in the United States. In the near future, these young scientists from different areas of knowledge, will bring a unique development to the research projects in our country.

Other neurosurgical studies presented at the Neuroscience Fair in Rio de Janeiro involved sophisticated projects on the science of behavior, neuropathic pain, hereditary diseases and genetic mechanisms triggering specific diseases. Neurosurgery should not be regarded as an isolated and independent specialty. Neurosciences, today, involve different areas of knowledge as a multidisciplinary team. Unlike many other scientific journals, the INJ was created to integrate all specialties related to neurosciences. Management of tumors and functional disorders of the nervous system are good examples for the need of this integration.

What a happy coincidence! I was looking at that group of young people eager to acquire and to spread knowledge and was able to inform them that a new scientific magazine, the INJ, would be released and is waiting for their contribution.