

## **WFNR statement on the SARS-CoV2/- COVID-19 Pandemic**

The entire world is at the height of a pandemic caused by a new coronavirus, the properties of which are unknown and, for which at the moment, there is no pharmacological intervention or vaccination available. For now, the major emphasis on dealing with the COVID-19 problem is in the fields of epidemiology and acute and intensive care to decrease the number of people dying from COVID19.

The World Federation for Neurorehabilitation (WFNR) is, of course, primarily dealing with more remote problems of rehabilitation of patients. Nevertheless, WFNR is very well aware of the problems caused by this pandemic. All members and member societies of the WFNR will help in individual regions to assist colleagues in acute medicine by whatever means they can, for instance by offering easy access for none COVID but severely ill patients for rehabilitation, for example after TBI or stroke.

Also, during the pandemic, there is still a need for early-onset intensive rehabilitation particularly in severely affected patients. In order to decrease infection risk in rehabilitation patients and personnel, special actions should be taken to deliver rehabilitation therapies in the safest way possible. This can be done not only by rigidly instating best possible hygiene standards and encouraging the use of protection devices, but also by reducing “hands-on” treatments as much as possible and providing self-training strategies for patients both during in-house rehabilitation as well as for home training. Telerehabilitation strategies should be made available for large parts of the population.

The WFNR has installed a task force of neurorehabilitation experts to provide guidelines for therapeutic practice in the pandemic and to make available training material for self-training, as well as home and telerehabilitation treatments. Sharing the experience of members in different countries and facilities, could be the way to collect data to develop evaluation and research. Information on this will be available on the WFNR website soon.

The next World Congress for Neurorehabilitation (WCNR) will be a digital meeting held from 7-11 October 2020. For further information, please visit, [www.wcnr-congress.org](http://www.wcnr-congress.org).

PRESIDIUM OF WFNR