

HYBRID EVENT



REHABILITATION COURSE SERIES

**20-21 OCTOBER 2025
BARCELONA, SPAIN**

WFNR.CO.UK | WORLD-STROKE.ORG



COURSE COORDINATORS



**PROF. DR.
VOLKER HÖMBERG**
President of the World
Federation for
Neurorehabilitation (WFNR)



**PROF. DR.
JEYARAJ PANDIAN**
President of the World
Stroke Organization



**PROF. DR.
DAFIN F. MUREŞANU**
President of the
European Federation
of Neurorehabilitation
Societies (EFNR)

REHABILITATION

COURSE SERIES

20-21 OCTOBER 2025
BARCELONA, SPAIN

DAY 1 - APHASIA AND COGNITIVE REHABILITATION

Location: Vall d'Hebron Hospital, Barcelona, Spain

09:00

Welcome and Program Introduction

9:15 – 13:15

Module 1 – Aphasia

Coordinator: Prof. dr. Paola Marangolo (Italy)

- Neurological and cognitive diagnosis of aphasia: advantages and limitations.
- Strategies and rehabilitation techniques for persons with severe and moderate aphasia.
- Practical exercises on video recordings of clinical cases
- Presentation of Toolbox “Aphasia”
Q&A

11:15 – 11.30

Coffee Break

REHABILITATION

COURSE SERIES

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BARCELONA, SPAIN

13:15 – 14:15 **Lunch Break**

14:15 – 18:00 **Module 2 – Cognition**

Coordinator: Dr. Sigrid Schwarz (Austria)

- Neurophysiological and neuropathological basics of cognitive rehabilitation
- Basics of Neuropsychology
- What is cognitive rehabilitation and who can perform it
- Interactive case discussions

REHABILITATION

COURSE SERIES

20-21 OCTOBER 2025
BARCELONA, SPAIN

DAY 2 - DYSPHAGIA, MOTOR RECOVERY

Location: Vall d'Hebron Hospital, Barcelona, Spain

09:00 – 13:15 **Module 3 – Dysphagia**

Coordinator: Heather Smith MA, CCC-SLP, CBIS

- Foundations of Dysphagia
- Etiology and Risk Factors
- Clinical Representation and Diagnosis
- Approaches to Management and Rehabilitation

Coordinator: Marina Charalambous SLT, MRCSLT, PhD

- Interdisciplinary Dysphagia Management
- Patient and Family/Caregiver Education
- Clinical Risks and Safety Considerations
- Ethical Practice and Cultural Awareness

11:30 – 11:45 **Coffee Break**

13:15 – 14:15 **Lunch Break**

REHABILITATION

COURSE SERIES

20-21 OCTOBER 2025
BARCELONA, SPAIN

14:15 – 18:00 **Module 4 – Acute Motor Recovery post-stroke**
Coordinator – Prof. dr. Peter Lackner (Austria),
Magdalena Fried, BSc (Austria)

- Incidence, neurophysiologic background of motor impairment and recovery after stroke (upper and lower extremity)
- Early neurorehabilitation / mobilization
- When to start (AVERT trial) – and how to mobilize patients
- Essential guidelines on acute motor rehabilitation
- Essential assessments and scores
- Physiotherapeutic technics for early motor rehabilitation
- How to develop an acute rehabilitation plan
- Specific goal setting in motor rehabilitation
- Essential internal communication and how to build the structures
- Brief introduction “Toolbox” motor recovery and OT
- Q&A

18:00

Closing Remarks

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Module 1 – Aphasia

Coordinator: Prof. dr. Paola Marangolo (Italy)

The course aims to provide guidelines on diagnostic and rehabilitative techniques in the field of aphasiology, focusing on the contributions of pragmatic and cognitive approaches to the study of aphasia. Over the past 20 years, advances in these fields have led to the recommendation of different treatments for patients with severe and moderate aphasia. Initially, the course will offer an overview of the principles that guided the approach to aphasic patients from the 1960s to the late 1980s. This historical segment will allow participants to understand the evolution of techniques and methods used in the past.

Subsequently, the most commonly used diagnostic tests and intervention techniques in the field of aphasiology will be illustrated. This includes an in-depth look at current tools and methodologies that support the process of diagnosing and treating language disorders in aphasic patients.

To further enrich the course, video recordings of individual cases of aphasic people with varying levels of severity will be presented. These practical examples will enable participants to directly observe language deficits and discuss, together with the course instructor and other participants, the most suitable approach for language recovery in each patient.

In summary, the course aims to equip participants with updated theoretical and practical knowledge to effectively address aphasiological rehabilitation, with particular attention to adopting personalized approaches based on the severity of the patient's disorder.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Module 2 – Cognition

Coordinator: Dr. Sigrid Schwarz (Austria)

- Neurophysiological and neuropathological basics of cognitive rehabilitation
- Basics of Neuropsychology
- What is cognitive rehabilitation and who can perform it
- Interactive case discussions

Module 3 – Dysphagia

Coordinator: Heather Smith MA, CCC-SLP, CBIS

- Foundations of Dysphagia
- Etiology and Risk Factors
- Clinical Representation and Diagnosis
- Approaches to Management and Rehabilitation

Coordinator: Marina Charalambous SLT, MRCSLT, PhD

- Interdisciplinary Dysphagia Management
- Patient and Family/Caregiver Education
- Clinical Risks and Safety Considerations
- Ethical Practice and Cultural Awareness

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Module 4 – Acute Motor Recovery post-stroke

Coordinator – Prof. dr. Peter Lackner (Austria),
Magdalena Fried, BSc (Austria)

- Incidence, neurophysiologic background of motor impairment and recovery after stroke (upper and lower extremity)
- Early neurorehabilitation / mobilization
- When to start (AVERT trial) – and how to mobilize patients
- Essential guidelines on acute motor rehabilitation
- Essential assessments and scores
- Physiotherapeutic technics for early motor rehabilitation
- How to develop an acute rehabilitation plan
- Specific goal setting in motor rehabilitation
- Essential internal communication and how to build the structures
- Questions from all countries and joint discussion about how to build rehabilitation structures

CURRICULUM VITAE



Paola Marangolo is a Neuropsychologist, Full Professor in Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuroscience at the Department of Humanities Studies, University Federico II, Naples, Italy. Her research interests lie primarily in cognitive neurorehabilitation. Most of her research is concerned with the study of cognitive disorders, in particular, acquired language deficits in brain-injured adults using interdisciplinary techniques aimed at identifying

the neural processing streams which support cognitive recovery and new rehabilitation techniques. Her current research brings together neuropsychological, neuroimaging and neuromodulation approaches to investigate the interaction between language and other cognitive domains from a network perspective. She is author of several articles published in indexed, scientific journals and of several book chapters focused on the diagnosis and rehabilitation of aphasia.



Sigrid Schwarz, Austria

1995 – 2000 Senior Neurologist at the Neurological Clinic Maria Gugging

2000 – 2010 Senior Neurologist at the Neurological Rehabilitation Clinic Pirawarth

2011 – 2023 Senior Neurologist at the University Clinic of Tulln
Responsibility: Stationary Early Neurorehabilitation and Neurorehabilitative Day-Clinic

2000 – 2024 Management of regional self-help-groups for Stroke Survivors

2020 – 202 Cooperation with SAFE and SAP-E (Stroke Action Plan for Europe 2030)

CURRICULUM VITAE

Present:

Senior consultant at the Neurological Department /University Clinic Tulln

Accreditation as FEES-Instructor (DDG, ESSD)

Establisher and Tutor of FEES - courses in Austria

Host Lecturer at the Danube University Krems (Early Neurorehabilitation

2012 Professional Diploma in Hypnosis

2015 Accreditation in Geriatric and Palliative Medicine



Marina Charalambous is a Speech and Language Therapist, specializing in stroke rehabilitation, and a Clinical Lecturer/Researcher at the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, Cyprus University of Technology. She holds a PhD in Medical Sciences from the Medical School of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. Marina has trained in Advanced Adult Dysphagia at University College London (UCL) and Fiberoptic Endoscopic Esophageal Swallowing (FEES)

at Boston Medicine School, Boston University USA. She is the President of the Cyprus Stroke Association, Secretary of the Stroke Alliance for Europe, and Board Member of the International Aphasia Association. Marina is a proud alumnus of the 'Future Stroke Leaders Program Cohort1' of the World Stroke Organization, a member of the Rehabilitation Implementation Taskforce, and the World Stroke Campaign Committee of the WSO. She participated in numerous universal WSO projects on young people with stroke, and acute stroke rehabilitation, and she is the co-author of the updated Dysphagia, Aphasia & Communication WSO Checklist.

CURRICULUM VITAE



Heather Smith is a medical Speech-Language Pathologist and Research Coordinator at UTHealth Houston's Institute for Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases. She has over 20 years of experience across acute care, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, oncology rehabilitation, and clinical research. Her clinical specialization includes adult dysphagia, aphasia, cognitive-linguistic disorders, motor speech, and voice rehabilitation

in stroke, traumatic brain injury, head and neck cancer, and progressive neurological disease.

Heather is highly trained in advanced dysphagia assessment and treatment, with proficiency in videofluoroscopic swallow studies, Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES), the McNeill Dysphagia Therapy Program (MDTP), neuromuscular electrical stimulation, myofascial release, and evaluation/management of head and neck lymphedema. She is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist and certified in Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (LSVT-LOUD).

She has held senior clinical and leadership roles at nationally recognized hospitals and rehabilitation centers, where she has served as Senior Speech-Language Pathologist Coordinator as well as Rehabilitation Network Clinical Program Manager in Oncology. In these roles, she developed interdisciplinary clinical programs, trained SLPs and graduate students, coordinated with surgical oncology and neurodegenerative disease groups, and advanced best practices in neurorehabilitation.

Currently, Heather contributes to multi-site National Institute of Health (NIH) clinical trials with a focus on post-stroke recovery and vascular cognitive impairment (VCID). She has presented nationally and internationally on topics including dysphagia management, aphasia, head and neck cancer outcomes, motor speech disorders, and emerging rehabilitation technologies. She is an active member of the American

CURRICULUM VITAE

Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders and Sciences, the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and serves as a contributing member of the World Stroke Organization SLP/SLT Sub-Committee.

Heather has been recognized with multiple awards, including seven ASHA Awards for Continuing Education (ACE) and the University of Tennessee's Scholarly Activity and Research Incentive Fund (SARIF) Award for aphasia treatment research. Her career reflects a deep commitment to advancing evidence-based practice, interdisciplinary collaboration, and international training standards in neurorehabilitation.



Peter Lackner is the head of the Department of Neurology at Clinic Floridsdorf, Vienna, Austria. Prof. Lackner is a trained specialist in neurocritical care and has a long lasting publication record in clinical and experimental research done in the field. Prof. Lackner received his MD in the year 2004 from the Medical University Innsbruck. Prof. Lackner has a strong background in experimental research in Neuroinfectiology, Neurotraumatology

and experimental Stroke.. His international experience includes research visits at the Bernhard-Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg, Germany; the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa and at the Department of Basic Sciences and Physiology, Loma Linda University, California, USA. He was founder and group leader of the research group for Translational Neurocritical Care at the Medical University Innsbruck, Austria. Besides translational research, Prof. Lackner has a primary focus on clinical research in severe neurological illnesses where his main interests are traumatic brain injury and hemorrhagic stroke. He is head of the Karl-Landsteiner Institute of

CURRICULUM VITAE

Clinical Research in Acute Neurology. Importantly besides acute care, Prof. Lackner has a special interest in post-acute long-term care after critical neurological insults. In the year 2018, he became head of the department of Neurology of Clinic Penzing, Vienna that has a focus on early neurorehabilitation as well as long-term neurocognitive rehabilitation in an outpatient setting. Since his call to Vienna, he has been deeply involved in the strategic planning of neurological care in Austria. In the year 2021, he was the medical founder of a new department of neurology focusing on acute care in the newly built Clinic Floridsdorf. He is member of several local and international societies for Neurology, Neurorehabilitation and Neurocritical Care and currently the head of the scientific board of the Austrian society of neurorehabilitation.



Magdalena Fried is a dedicated physiotherapist who graduated from the University of Applied Sciences Vienna in 2021. With a strong foundation in orthopaedic rehabilitation, Magdalena Fried gained valuable practical experience from 2021 to 2023. Currently, she is part of the neurological department of Klinik Floridsdorf in Vienna, where she has been working since 2023. Committed to professional growth, Magdalena Fried pursued

a specialization as a neurorehabilitation specialist for post-stroke patients in 2025. This advanced training has not only improved her understanding of neurological mechanisms, but equipped her with a comprehensive set of examination techniques and patient-centered exercises and treatments. Magdalena is passionate about integrating the latest advancements into therapy sessions at Klinik Floridsdorf, ensuring the highest quality of treatment for her patients.

IN COLLABORATION WITH



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Vall d'Hebron Hospital

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World Federation of Neurorehabilitation (WFNR)

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of NeuroRehabilitation Societies

European Federation of Neurorehabilitation Societies (EFNR)

Executive Director: Cristian Andriescu
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GENERAL INFORMATION

LANGUAGE

The official language is English. Simultaneous translation will not be provided.

CHANGES IN PROGRAM

The organizers cannot assume liability for any changes in the program due to external or unforeseen circumstances.

COURSE VENUE

Pg. de la Vall d'Hebron,
119, Horta-Guinardó, 08035
Barcelona, Spain

FINAL PROGRAM & ABSTRACT BOOK

Available online on efnr.org

TIME

The program hours are adjusted to Current Local Time in Barcelona, Spain, Central European Summer Time (CEST), UTC +2 hours

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EVER
P H A R M A

The background of the image consists of several overlapping, wavy, organic shapes in various shades of green and yellow. The colors range from a deep forest green to a bright, almost white yellow, creating a sense of depth and movement. The shapes flow from the top left towards the bottom right, with some areas appearing more saturated than others.

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