

Report for the EC/Education Commission and CAO. Chengdu 15-16 April 2010.

The ASEPA teaching course was held in Chengdu, Sichuan Province on 15-16 April 2010. The venue was West China Hospital, Chengdu. The theme was paediatric epileptology and the aim of the course was to provide a comprehensive overview of paediatric epileptology delivered by leaders in childhood epilepsy from across the region. The congress was organised locally by Dr Dong Zhou, Chengdu, with assistance from Dr Weiping Liao, Guangzhou, who was the local ASEPA coordinator

The two day course took the form of didactic lectures from paediatric epileptologists. There were approximately 80 registered attendees to the workshop, however this number increased to 120 if the local attendees were included. To allow accessibility to the talks in languages other than Chinese, the non-Chinese lectures were translated as they were orated.

There was an overview of epilepsy in China from Dr Zhou, and a contemporary overview of seizures and syndromes from Dr Zhang Yue Hua (Beijing). Other topics included the idiopathic partial epilepsies, the idiopathic generalised epilepsies and the treatment of epilepsy – both surgical and non-surgical. Dr Liao spoke about febrile seizures and concepts of Dravet syndrome. Dr Chak (Hong Kong) spoke about the Symptomatic Generalised Epilepsies, Professor Kenji Sugai (Tokyo), covered drugs and the treatment of the epileptic encephalopathies. Dr Chi Ching-Shiang (Taiwan) provided a thorough review of paediatric metabolic disease and epilepsy, much from his own vast experience. At the end of the first day there were presentations from the neurology trainees from Chengdu, with case-based discussions.

The workshop was well received. Members of the faculty had the pleasure of being able to observe the EEG facilities at West China Hospital as well as having an overview of the 225 bed neurology unit, which formed part of the 4,000 bed West China Hospital, the major regional referral centre for Western China. Overall, in China, paediatric epilepsy is managed by paediatricians and adult trained physicians with an interest in paediatric epilepsy. There are very few paediatric neurologists in China and there is an ongoing need for more physicians to be trained in the field of paediatric epileptology.

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