

Honorees in the WCN 2009 Named Orations

A primary component of a World Congress of Neurology is the Named Orations. They are funded by donations from their colleagues, held in trust accounts managed by the World Neurology Foundation. The Foundation and World Neurology have worked with the families of these truly remarkable human beings to create brief biographies that explain why they are so honored by their colleagues. This year, all four speakers have donated their honoraria to the Foundation for the purchase of tool kits as part of the 2009 Tool Kits for Africa distribution for Uganda. The Foundation is seeking donations for its desired shipment to Nigeria for 2009.

Eddie Bharucha (b. 1916) and Pilo Bharucha (1917-2001)

Dr. Eddie Bharucha received medical degrees in Mumbai and London. He trained at Queen Square and Maida Vale in London, at the Neurological Institute



rabies. He is a member of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Rabies and Director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Research and Training in Viral Zoonoses.

B.S. Singhal, M.D. (b. 1933)

Dr. B.S. Singhal completed his medical training at Grant Medical College and Sir J. J. Group of Hospitals in Mumbai, and trained in neurology in London.

He has served as president of the Neurological Society of India and the Indian Epilepsy Association; established the Parkinson's Disease Foundation of India; is founder fellow of the Indian Academy of Neurology, the Association of Physicians of India, and the International Medical Science Academy; and is a member of the American Academy of Neurology, the American Neurological Association, the French Neurological Society, and the Association of British Neurologists. He has



served on the research committee of the World Federation of Neurology, and was regional director of the Asian-Oceanian Chapter of the WFN from 2005 to 2009.

Dr. Singhal is the chair of neurology at the Bombay Hospital Institute of Medical Sciences in Mumbai. He is widely respected for his gentle style, positive approach, and incredible work ethic. He has contributed nearly 200 papers to national and international journals and recognized a form of leukodystrophy unique to the Indian subcontinent. His many awards include the Priyadarshini Academy National Award for Excellence in Medicine, the Wockhardt-Harvard Medical International Award for Neurology, and the Dr. B.C. Roy Indian National Award. Dr. Singhal is married to Dr. Asha Singhal.

The Singhal Oration was established by Dr. Sorab Bhabha to honor Dr. Singhal's lifelong contributions to neurological education and research, his clinical excellence, and his devotion to patient care. Dr. Bhabha was a neurologist, a friend and colleague of Dr. Singhal, and helped establish this lecture before his death from ALS in 2006.

The 2009 Singhal Oration will be given by SAMUEL F. BERKOVIC, M.D., on Oct. 28 at 8:00 a.m. He is Laureate Professor in the department of medicine at the University of Melbourne and director of the Epilepsy

Research Centre at Austin Health in Heidelberg, both in Australia.

Melvin D. Yahr, M.D. (1917-2004)

Dr. Melvin D. Yahr was a lifelong New Yorker. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees at New York University, a free education at that time. He admitted to playing the clarinet in a jazz combo to earn extra money, although he insisted that he played badly. After three years of military service, he joined the neurology department at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. He was chairman of the department of neurology at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York from 1973 to 1992, and continued his clinical practice and research until his death in 2004 at the age of 86.



Dr. Yahr and colleague, Dr. Margaret Hoen

Based on research in the late 1950s showing that depletions of the chemical messenger dopamine could set off Parkinson's disease, Dr. Yahr conducted and published the first clinical trials of L-dopa in the late 1960s. These studies changed the outlook for people with Parkinson's disease. By 1972, barely 3 years after his study was published, about half of the nation's 1.5 million people with Parkinson's disease were taking it. Today, L-dopa, despite some side effects, is by far the most common treatment for Parkinson's. He was the first scientific director of the Parkinson's Disease Foundation.

In 1948, he married Felice Turtz, a marriage that lasted 44 years until her death in 1992. They had four daughters. His daughter Carol remembers that, no matter who the patients were, or how hopeless their situation seemed, her father was always engaged, positive, and supportive.

The 2009 Melvin D. Yahr Lecture will be presented by ROGER N. ROSENBERG, M.D., on Oct. 29 at 8:30 a.m. He is the Zale Distinguished Chair and professor of neurology and director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health's Alzheimer's Disease Center at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, U.S.A. He is a past-president of the American Academy of Neurology, a trustee of the World Federation of Neurology, and editor in chief of Archives of Neurology.

Richard Lambert Masland, M.D. (1910-2003)

Dr. Richard Lambert Masland was born in Philadelphia, U.S.A. He attended Haverford College and the Universi-

ty of Pennsylvania Medical School, and served residencies in neurology and psychiatry at Pennsylvania Hospital, interspersed by service in the Air Force during World War II. He then joined the faculty of the new Bowman Grey School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C., U.S.A.

From 1959 to 1968 he was the director of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, and was part of the team that crafted the merit-based peer-review system that is the foundation of American medical research. He then became chair of the department of neurology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in New York; in 1973, he became H. Houston Merritt Professor of Neurology, emeritus.

Dr. Masland mentored many of the most gifted research neurologists of two generations, including Carlton Gajdusek, Leonard Kurland, J. Kiffin Penry, and William F. Caveness.

He is best known for leading the National Collaborative Perinatal Project, a nationwide study of pregnancy and child development between 1959 and 1966. The study followed more than 50,000 women from the time of their pregnancies until their children reached the age of 8.

Dr. Masland was president of the American Epilepsy Society and the New York Neurological Society. He was pres-



ident of the WFN from 1981 to 1989, bringing to developing countries the battles against mental retardation, epilepsy, and head injury.

During his spare time, Dr. Masland built a 33-foot Herreshoff ketch. He launched the wooden sailboat in 1967 and vacationed on it between Cape Cod and the Chesapeake Bay for 30 years. Dr. Masland and his wife, Mary Wootton Masland, a speech and language pathologist, had four children.

The Richard L. and Mary Masland Lecture will be given by David Dodick, M.D., on Oct. 30 at 8:00 a.m. He is professor of neurology at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Ariz., U.S.A. He is president-elect of the American Headache Society and editor in chief of Cephalalgia.

—DIANA M SCHNEIDER, PH.D.,
Public Relations Committee, WFN, and a
Member of the Board of the World
Neurology Foundation.

The 2009 Bharucha Oration will be given by THIRAVAT HEMACHUDHA, M.D., professor of neurology at the faculty of medicine, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, on Oct. 26 at 9:15 a.m. His main research interest is human