Integrated Neuroscience Session: Breakthroughs in Epilepsy: New Insights for Causes and Treatments

DIRECTOR
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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
There have been a number of scientific and technical advances in the last decades that have altered our understanding of the causes of epilepsy and, as a result, our diagnostic and therapeutic approaches. In this session, faculty will examine three areas in which breakthroughs have had clear impact on diagnosing the epilepsies and developing more specific and effective therapy. These three areas are 1) the recognition of the role that autoimmunity plays in a number of types of epilepsy as well as in some cases of status epilepticus, 2) the revolution in neuroimaging that has revealed many unrecognized causes of intractable epilepsy and has made surgery possible for many more people with intractable epilepsy, and 3) the introduction of the different forms of brain stimulation that may provide new therapeutic options for people with intractable epilepsy. Faculty also will review the key laboratory discoveries that made these breakthroughs possible.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
Upon completion, participants should be able to learn to recognize and diagnose when seizures result from autoimmunity and how to direct therapy; understand how new imaging technologies alter the approach to treating patients with epilepsy; determine if and when brain stimulation is appropriate for a patient with epilepsy; and understand key scientific breakthroughs that led to these advances.

RECOMMENDED AUDIENCE
Neurologists, Neurosurgeons, Trainees, and General Practitioners with an Interest in Epilepsy

SCHEDULE
1:00 Autoimmunity in Epilepsy and Status Epilepticus
   Jeffrey W. Britton, MD Rochester, MN
1:55 Epilepsy in the New World of Neuroimaging
   William D. Gaillard, MD Washington, DC
2:50 Break
3:05 Brain Stimulation: The New Frontier in Epilepsy Treatment
   Andrew J. Cole, MD, FRCP(C) Boston, MA

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3 CME
Friday, January 23
1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

RECOMMENDED COMPANION COURSE
Algorithms in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Seizures, Seizure Emergencies, and Epilepsy