

Neurology Education and the History of the Korean Neurological Association

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As the chairman of the Korean Neurological Association, I would like to thank the Academic Committee of the Japanese Society of Neurology for inviting me to talk on the past, the present of Korean Neurological Association at the 3rd Korea-Japan Joint-Symposium during the 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting of JSN which was held between May 20-23, 2009 at Sendai, Japan. Since the Korea-Japan joint symposium first began at the Annual Meeting of JSN in Yokohama on May 17, 2008, the second was held at the Annual Meeting of the Korean Neurological Association on October 9, 2008 at Seoul and this year would mark the third joint symposium. I would present the history of the Korean Neurological Association, the residency training system and the academic activities etc in brief.

The first neurologic clinic in Korea was established in Jin-Ju City by Australian doctor Charles Inglis McLaren in 1910. The first Korean neurologist was Dr. Lee Jung-Cheol. He studied and trained in China, Australia, and Japan and began practicing in 1934. The first department of neurology in Ko-

rea started as an independent department in 1958 at the National Central Hospital, which was a collaboration with Scandinavian countries. The development of neurology at Seoul National University was instituted in 1973.

The Korean Neurological Association (KNA) held its first annual meeting in August of 1982 and was attended by 206 psychiatrists and internists. The first international academic meeting, the 9th Asia-Oceania Congress of Neurology, was held by the KNA in 1996. This year, the KNA will hold its 28th annual meeting in October. About 1,600 physicians, including 334 residents, are expected to participate in the annual meeting. The KNA consists of specific Committees and regional lower branches, and is affiliated with other neurological academic societies such as the Korean Epilepsy Society, the Korean Society of Clinical Neurophysiology, the Korean Stroke Society, the Korean Dementia Association, and the Korean Movement Disorders Society.

There are 65 training hospitals with 99 new residents entering each hospital in 2009. A hospital having more than 3

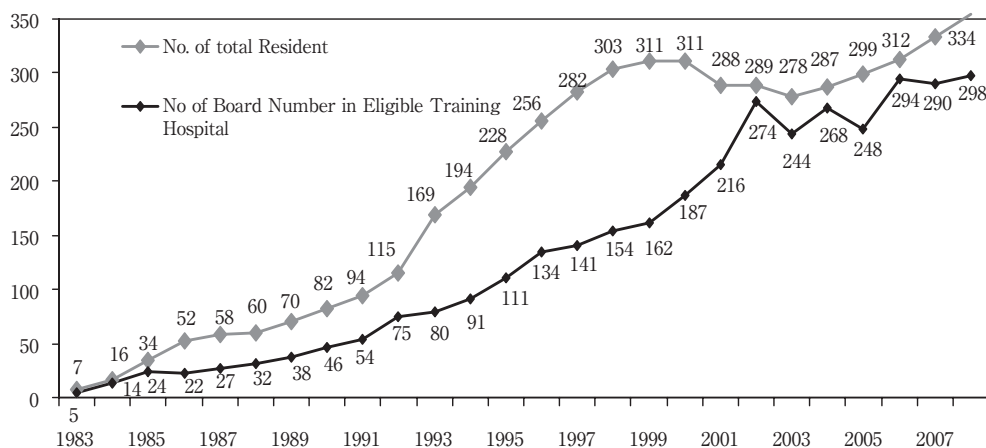


Fig. 1 Total number of residents and number of neurology board in eligible training hospitals. The number of neurology residents and neurology specialists eligible for attendance at the Training Hospital.

qualified neurology specialists can ask for the KNA resident quota. The KNA evaluates all hospitals that request residents and allocates a certain quota. The Minister of Welfare and Family decides the quota for new neurology residents each year. The number of neurology residents and neurology specialists eligible for attendance at training hospitals has increased each year (Fig. 1). Currently, the Cumulative Board Number of the KNA is 1,283 and the total number of neurology residents is 334. After a one-year internship training program, neurology residents go through an educational program for four years. They participate at clinical labs involving outpatient clinics, inpatient care, and variable neurological diagnostic methods (EEG, EMG, TCD, NP test, and PSG). They are required to handle 300 inpatients and 150 outpatients before finishing their training course. They must submit more than two research papers (one must be published in the JKNA or the JCN) and as part of their educational program, all training residents will take an in-service examination every year, which is the qualifying resident program.

The neurology board examination was separated from neuropsychiatry in 1982. The first examination of the Korean Board of Neurology was conducted. 95 physicians out of 113 applicants passed the neurology board examination. The Neurology Board Examination consists of two parts. The first part is a written examination and the second part is a slide, video, oral examination, and CPX (clinical performance examination) with an SP (standardized patient). The rate of passing in the 52nd Korean Board of Neurology in 2009 was 94.3% (84 out of 89). The Korean Neurology Board certification is a separate and independent board. It is taken after completing the educational requirements and is audited every year by peer-reviewers from the members of the Korean Neurological Association.

The official publications produced by the KNA is the Journal of Korean Neurological Association since 1982 (Korean) and the Journal of Clinical Neurology since 2003 (English).



Fig. 2 The Journal of Korean Neurology Association (English), the Journal of Clinical Neurology (SCI-E) and the official internet website.

JCN, in particular, has been recognized as an SCI-E journal (Fig. 2). Each affiliated neurological society also would publish their journal in Korean or in English to promote their academic activities.

In conclusion, just as the efforts of the KNA and JSN of the past two years have resulted the successful planning and the preparation of the Japan-Korea joint symposium, I am certain that the Korean Neurological Association and the Japanese Society of Neurology would incorporate the other Asian neurologists in the near future. I am looking forward to meeting all of you at the fourth Japan-Korea Joint symposium which will be held on October 8, 2009 during the Annual Meeting of the Korean Neurological Association at Seoul, Korea.