

The 6th Chinese American Neurological Association Annual Meeting

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Received: December 02, 2021

Accepted: December 04, 2021

Published: December 06, 2021

Citation: Xu Z, Luo JJ. 2021. The 6th Chinese American Neurological Association Annual Meeting. *J Neurol Exp Neurosci* 7(2): 50-51.

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Published by United Scientific Group

The 6th Chinese American Neurological Association (CANA) Annual Meeting was successfully held virtually on November 6th, 2021. This year's conference focused on updating research advances in clinical performance for neurological diseases and a debate on tele-health in neurology practice. Over one hundred attendees participated in this conference.

Yonghua Zhang, MD, (Neuroscience Institute, Chicago, Illinois) conducted "Migraine updates: CGRP modulators and more" by presenting current understanding of the pathophysiologic roles of CGRP in migraine, and the efficacy, safety, and utility in administering molecule biologic antibodies (fremanezumab, galcanezumab, eptinezumab) or CGRP receptor blockers (erenumab), and the new generation of small molecule CGRP receptor antagonists (-gepants) in treating patients with migraine, including in rescue (ubrogepant and rimegepant) or prevention (atogepant and rimegepant). The newly FDA-approved agents provide expanded options in better care for patients with migraine in complimentary to currently clinical available medications, such as triptans, ditan/lasmiditan, Botox injection, and neuromodulators.

Zhigao Huang, MD, PhD, (Baptist Medical Center, Jacksonville, Florida) talked on "Parkinson's disease: Overview in clinical management" narrating clinical features of Parkinson's disease and current therapeutic options of medical and surgical interventions for Parkinson's disease.

Wengui Yu, MD, PhD, (University of California Irvine, Irvine, California) presented "Stroke update-2021" focused on stroke prevention and intervention of emphasizing the importance of several critical measures with various modalities relevant to the outcomes in patients with a stroke. A concept of "B.E.F.A.S.T." which stands for "balance, eyes, face, arm, speech, and time" would stimulate and arouse public attention in early recognition of a stroke in a patient. On-going clinical trials with new studying agents (e.g., Tenecteplase) and interventional procedures shed more light in the hope to improve stroke outcomes in the near future.

Charles C. Wang, MD, (NorthShore University Health System, Skokie, Illinois) overviewed "Epilepsy in 2021", including the association of Covid-19 and seizures. Observations of increased incidence of Covid-19 in patients with seizure disorders and increased occurrence of seizures in patients with Covid-19 were discussed. Additionally, ILAE Classification of seizure and epilepsy and newly FDA approved therapies of AEDs in the past 5 years (Brivaracetam, Cannabidiol, Cenobamate, Everolimus, Fenfluramine) were reviewed.

Invited speaker Michael C. Kruer, MD, (Barrow Neurological Institute at Phoenix Children's Hospital, Phoenix, Arizona) talked on Genetic Causes of Cerebral Palsy (sponsored by PTC Therapeutics) and Jin Li, MD, PhD, (New

York Medical College, Valhalla, New York) talked on FDA newly approved migraine medication (sponsored by AbbVie Pharmaceuticals).

Jin Jun Luo, MD, PhD, (Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) talked on the newly FDA-approved anti-amyloid immunotherapy, Aducanumab, for Alzheimer's disease (AD) titled "Convulsed Saga in the development of anti-amyloid therapy: Do we see a light in the dark?" commenting turmoil occurred among neurologists immediately after the FDA approval in welcoming this new agent with questions and confusion on the efficacy and the adverse effects from administering this agent. In the concerns of the suitability of amyloid hypothesis in anti-amyloid immunotherapy for AD, evidence from laboratory, humans including clinical trials regarding the dual (trophic and toxic) effects of soluble amyloid precursor protein and amyloid- β protein was presented. Understanding current hypotheses and controversies may help better evaluate the limitations and challenges in the exploration of more potentially efficacious therapies for patients with AD.

Ge Xiong, MD, PhD, (University of California, Davis, California) overviewed the "immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI) associated neuromuscular complications". ICI is a revolutionary immune therapy for patients with some types of cancer. Adverse effects, although relatively rare, could result in ICI-associated with neuromuscular complications, including myositis, myasthenia gravis, overlap syndrome, and neuropathy, from which some patients may have a fatal course. The clinical presentation, diagnosis, and management of ICI-induced neuromuscular complications were discussed.

A debate on "telemedicine in Neurology practice" was conducted between two teams: team-A in "favorite" of Drs. Jin Jun Luo, Jin Li, and David Wang, and team-B in "against" of Drs. Qing Ni, William Tung, and Charles Wang. Telemedicine in the history, its advantages and usefulness in Neurology practice, such as in caring for patients with neurologic disorders, particularly for the subspecialties of stroke, epilepsy, sleeping, and cognitive medicine; and the disadvantages, such as lack of a thorough neurological examination which may lead to inability to precisely localize a pathology so as to missing or delayed a correct diagnosis and, therefore, possibly increasing malpractice liabilities in some subspecialties such as neuromuscular medicine. Patients with dementia, Parkinson's disease, and stroke may have a limited capacity of using electronic devices. Additionally, a rapport physician-patient relationship may be compromised with a low cost-effect due to increased unnecessary laboratory diagnostic testing. Team-A concluded that with the advances in technology and 5G WiFi commercially available, improved skills in telemedicine in Neurology will enhance the web-based platform in the care for patients with neurologic disorders. Team-B concluded that telemedicine in neurology is inferior to in-person interactions.

Conflict of Interests

Dr. Jin Li reported she serves on AbbVie speaker bureau. All others reported no disclosure or no conflict of interest pertaining to the talks at the Annual Meeting including Drs. Yonghua Zhang, Zhigao Huang, Wengui Yu, Charles Wang, Jin Jun Luo, Ge Xiong, David Wang, Qing Ni, William Tung.