

## **Distance learning in neurology**

### **M. Freedman**

*Department of Medicine (Neurology), Baycrest Health Sciences, Canada*

*Department of Medicine (Neurology), Mt. Sinai Hospital, Canada*

*Department of Medicine (Neurology), University of Toronto, Canada*

*Rotman Research Institute, Baycrest Health Sciences, Canada*

Technology and globalization have transformed the learning environment into a virtual classroom without borders through distance learning and have enabled health care professionals to greatly enhance communication and international linkages. This has been accomplished at the basic science and clinical levels across the globe without barriers related to geography. This presentation will illustrate the successful impact of distance learning in neurology at a global level involving partners from sites that include Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America, and South America. Distance learning initiatives spearheaded by neurology faculty will be highlighted within the context of international videoconference rounds for continuing professional development. These rounds are under the auspices of the Canada International Scientific Exchange Program (CISEPO), the Peter A. Silverman Global eHealth Program (PASGeP), and the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation (CNSF). In addition, there is a parallel international videoconference rounds series organized by, and targeting, neurology trainees. The latter is called NIRVE (Neurology International Residents and Exchange). The presentation will also highlight the role of the World Federation of Neurology in distance learning, including its support of the relatively new International Africa-Canada Behavioural Neurology Rounds series, as well as the role of the World Federation of Neurology and Baycrest Health Sciences in posting international videoconference rounds on the internet. Finally, there will be a discussion of interactivity using the medium of videoconferencing for distance learning.