G.C.	Gustavo C.	Román, Chairman
------	------------	-----------------

Research Group on Neuroepidemiology, World Federation of Neurology, Bethesda, Md., USA

Neuroepidemiology in Latin America

Gustavo C. Román, Neuroepidemiology Branch, NINDS, National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD 208892 (USA)

International Neuroepidemiology Course in Argentina

Under the auspices of the WFN Research Group on Neuroepidemiology/Pan American Society of Neuroepidemiology, the Work Group on Neuroepidemiology of the Argentinian Society of Neurology (Dr. Manuel So-moza, Dr. Lucia Bonami, Dr. Mario Melcon, Dr. Raul Forlenza), the Neuroepidemiology Branch, NINDS, National Institutes of Health, and the Fogarty International Center, Bethesda, Md., USA, sponsored a course. This international course took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 2-3, 1991. It was addressed to neurologists in Latin America interested in the application of epidemiological methodology to the study of neurological problems in their communities. Over one hundred neurologists from most countries in Central and South America participated in this course.

Invited speakers included Dr. V. Mazza-fero (Buenos Aires) who underlined the relevance of

epidemiological research for public health. Dr. W.T. Longstreth (Seattle, Wash., USA) provided an overview of classic and clinical neuroepidemiology; Dr. W.A. Hauser (New York, N.Y., USA) described the techniques utilized for epidemiological studies of epilepsy and current clinical trials for the treatment of this condition; Dr. P. Davis (Shreveport, La., USA) reviewed techniques for neuroepidemiological studies and controlled clinical trials in stroke; Dr. P.B. Gorelick (Chicago, Ill., USA) provided an update on the epidemiology on dementia and Parkinson's disease; Dr. A. Arregui (Lima, Peru) reviewed studies of neurological problems in populations living at high altitudes in the Peruvian Andes; Dr. D. Anderson (Bethesda, Md., USA) provided an overview of the methodology used in field studies in neuroepidemiology. Dr. Roman (Bethesda, Md., USA) reviewed the methodology for the study of transmissible diseases and geographic isolates and clusters of neurological disorders. A highlight of the meeting was the closing session entitled, 'The Voice of Experience: Problems, Rewards, Adventures and Frustrations of Field Studies' with participation of neurologists from Latin America with extensive experience in the field. Participants included Dr. B. Guerra (Venezuela), Dr. C. Ketzoian (Uru-

DMU_n^J_n |AZ~|IAOni/TTOA\

guay), Dr. A. Arregui (Peru), Dr. F. Gracia (Panama), Dr. G. Pradilla (Colombia), and the Argentinian Work Group on Neuroepidemiology. It was very clear that considerable progress has been achieved in the study of neurological conditions in Latin America using neuroepidemiological tools, often under adverse conditions. The enthusiasm of the researchers in Latin America has overcome the problems posed by outbreaks of cholera throughout Peru, Ecuador and Colombia; earthquakes and floods in Panama; guerilla warfare and civil unrest in Peru and Colombia. Despite these difficulties, neuroepidemiology is thriving in this part of the world as evidenced by a very active Panamerican Society of Neuroepidemiology and by the organization of neuroepidemiology work groups as part of the neurological societies of the majority of countries.

**5th Panamerican Symposium on
Neuroepidemiology**

The 5th Panamerican Symposium in Neuroepidemiology met in Montevideo, Uruguay, October 5, 1991 prior to the 8th Panamerican Congress of Neurology of the World Federation of Neurology. The main topic was cerebrovascular disease and invited speakers included Dr. V. Hachinski, Dr. P. Gorelick, Dr. P. Davis and Dr. W.T. Longstreth. A total of twenty-one papers was presented from Peru, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay, Argentina, Venezuela and Bangalore, India. Following the meeting, the Panamerican Society of Neuroepidemiology elected the new Board as follows: president; Dr. G.C. Roman (Bethesda, Md., USA), vice president; Dr. M. Somoza (Buenos Aires, Argentina), secretary; Dr. B. Guerra (Caracas, Venezuela), and treasurer: Dr. A. Salazar (Washington, D.C., USA). The next Panamerican Symposium on Neuroepidemiology will take place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia in 1993 on a date that will be announced later.