NEUROSCIENCE & PUBLIC POLICY SEMINAR

GLOBAL BURDEN OF NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS

WALTER KOROSHEZ
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AND STROKE

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4:00 PM
341 BARDEEN LABS

The global burden of neurological, mental, and substance abuse (NMS) disorders has been described by a number of studies including those of the World Health Organization. They combine to cause substantial social and economic consequences for developed and underdeveloped countries and are ballooning as the population ages. Examination of their regional distribution shows dramatic disparities. The prevalence of epilepsy in Sub-Saharan Africa estimated at 6% is 10 times higher than in the US and much of the affected individuals go untreated. Stroke, which is in large part preventable, is the leading cause of death in China. Despite their impact NMS disorders have been largely ignored by global health initiatives. Even the recent movement to shift attention from infectious to the non-communicable chronic disorders at this year’s United Nations General Assembly purposefully omitted the NMS disorders. A case will be made that a unified neuroscience voice is what is necessary.

For additional information or questions, contact Jessica Karis: karis@wisc.edu or 262-4932