

Professor Tissa Wijeratne

MBBS MD PhD FRACP FRCP FAAN FAHA FEAN

Global Health Leader | Educator | Researcher | Advocate



Tissa Wijeratne is a senior Neurologist, Professor in Neurology, Director, Academic Medicine and head of the Department of Neurology and Stroke at *Western Health* (Victoria, Australia). He was the chair International Working Group for Young Neurologists and Trainees (2010–2012), He is the current Chair, Special Interest Group for Headaches and Migraines, *World Federation of NeuroRehabilitation* and Chair, Public Awareness and Advocacy committee (2018–present) with the *World Federation of Neurology*. He is the first Sri Lankan neurologist to be elected as a member of the International Committee with the *American Academy of Neurology* (2018–present) and was awarded the prestigious Donald M Palatucci Advocacy Leadership in 2008. For his contribution to global neurological education and leadership among young neurologists, he became one of the first neurologist in the world to be bestowed the Ted Munsat Award (*World Federation of Neurology*, 2017). Tissa is a finalist, Stroke champion award, National Stroke Foundation 2019. He is the inaugural recipient of a prestigious Priscilla Kincaid-Smith award, AMA, Australia, 2019 for his outstanding contribution as an academic neurologist, mentor, and advocate. He is a recipient A.B. Baker Teacher Recognition award, AAN 2020, USA.

Tissa is a proficient publisher and accomplished international speaker with his translational research in clinical neurology generating 256 publications and 128 invited presentations. He has more than 77000 citations (h-index = 73) and maintains a full-time clinical commitment as leader of the fastest growing stroke & headache service in Australia (*Western Health*). He established this state-of-the-art neurology service, which has been pioneering headache care in Australia since 2006. To further assist headache professionals and the community, Tissa masterminded the birth of the *Australian and New Zealand Headache Society* in 2014 (in collaboration with four of his colleague founder members) and birth of James Lance-Peter Goadsby Annual Migraine Oration and Symposium 2018. A strong track record in community outreach, Tissa has published more than 3000 media (print and radio) segments as a medical journalist. He continues to publish public health education materials globally, through his activities on World Brain Day, in collaboration with the *World Federation of Neurology*.

He founded the *David Marsden Memorial Annual Movement Disorders Symposium* and successfully advocated for free membership of Movement Disorders Society for neurologists from low to middle income countries. He successfully advocated for free membership for all medical students worldwide to the *American Academy of Neurology*.

Tissa is a popular supervisor trainer, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Australia & New Zealand since 2008. He trained 1800 physicians from Australia and New Zealand on supervision through RACP online supervisor training throughout the pandemic. He launched the world first Global Migraine Bill of Rights at Genova, WFNR in March 2019. He led the 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 WBD campaigns with huge impact worldwide. He is the only Asian nominee, Secretary General, WFN (first Australian Neurologist) and the President, Asian Regional Consortium for Headache from 2022-2025.