

WFNR's South American activities began in 2005. The following year, a new program was implemented that offered scholarships for students in the field of rehabilitation, focusing on the development of executive functions and metacognition in adolescents with TBI, called the Metacognitive Dimension Program (MCD), sponsored by the SARAH Network of Rehabilitation Hospitals in Brazil.



In 2008, the South American chapter of WFNR hosted the 5th World Congress in Brasilia, Brazil, in the auditoriums of the SARAH Network. From that event onwards, the Network would go on to host regular Science Days across, which began in 2009 in South America.







The SARAH Network of Rehabilitation Hospitals, sees over 1.8 million patients annually, has a 700-bed capacity and nine hospital facilities spread throughout major regions of Brazil. The Network has long been active with outreach programs in South America, some in tandem with WFNR, such as the MCD initiative from 2006.



In keeping with the Network's commitment to represent WFNR in regional activities – as well as share WFNR content with individuals in diverse parts of the country – SARAH has held a number of *Science Days* and *Scientific Research and Discussion Sessions*, which center around specific topics and involve large groups of physicians and medical professionals.



These meetings and sessions are open to all rehabilitation professionals and students, and began as in-person *Science Days* that interconnected a number of Hospitals, with guest speakers.



In the last two years alone, (2019-2020), almost 7,400 professionals and students attended the meetings, originally in-person and subsequently, since early 2020, online.



These activities, meant to link practitioners and researchers and broaden outreach across the country, take place on a regular basis and are centered around revolving themes chosen ahead of time. Until the Covid-19 outbreak, they were broadcast in auditoriums across the Network.





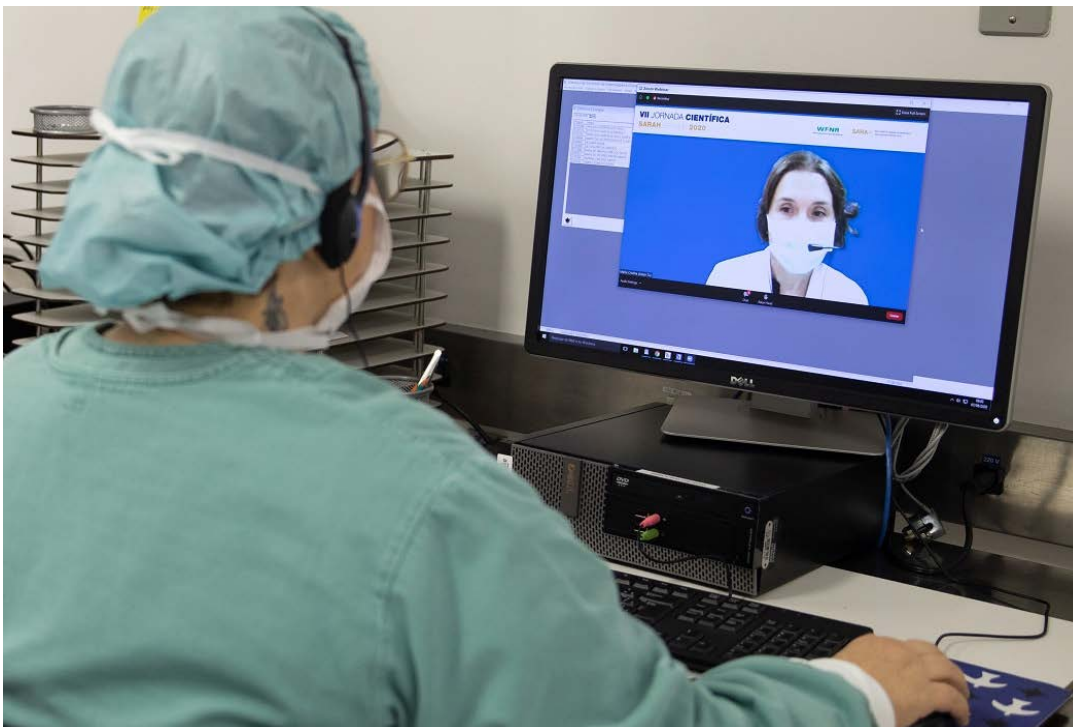
The content delivered to practitioners in the rehabilitation team, via the webinars, meetings, and sessions, which are now strictly online, have proven extremely popular in an age when everyone in the healthcare field is facing challenges while navigating restrictions brought on by the pandemic.



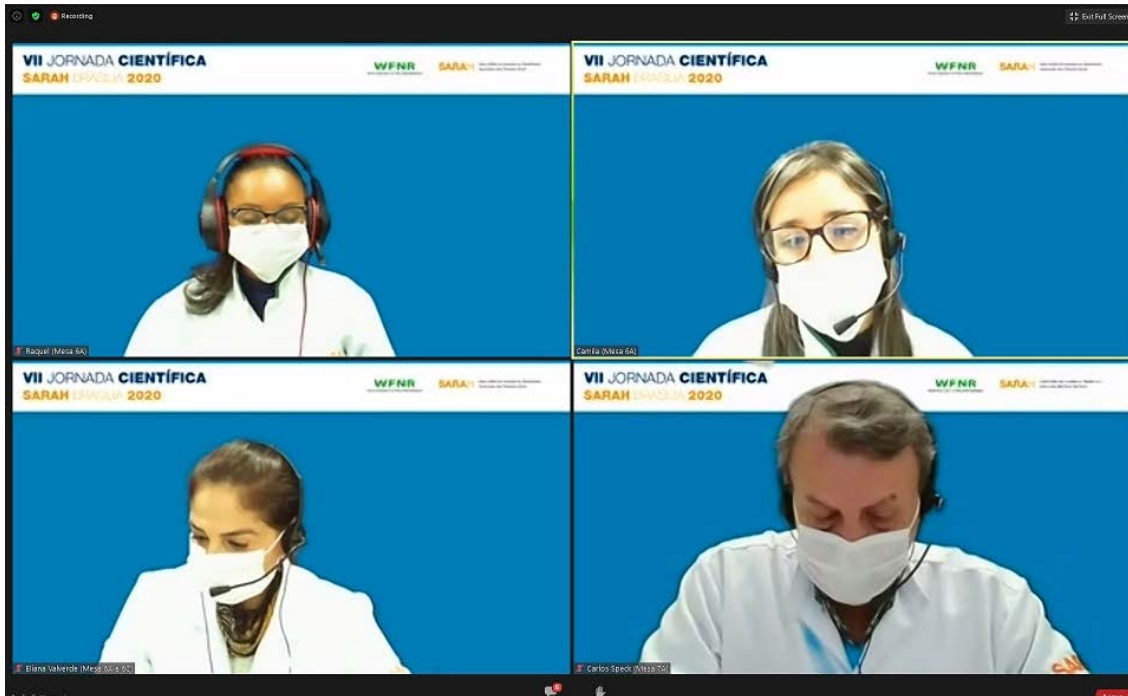
This new mode of delivery has expanded access to practitioners and researchers, as they are now able to join in from their offices, homes, or activity centers.



Collaborative interactions around the discussion topics and cases is strongly encouraged, and the format has been designed to maximize an exchange of knowledge.



These *Science Days* occur several times per year across three days, and include, on average, 40 webinars, in addition to poster presentations and case discussions.



The most recent WFNR webinar was attended by a record number of participants from South America, primarily Brazil, in part due to the SARAH Network's announcement of WFNR activities.





Through this SARA-based initiative and WFNR partnership, individuals in the medical field in Brazil and South America have benefitted from WFNR programming, especially the webinars that occur on a regular basis.

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