



# NEUROREHABILITATION NEWS

American Society of Neurorehabilitation

## Message from the President

David Good, MD



**G**reetings of the holiday season to all of our ASNR members. As we move into 2008, this newsletter

provides a review of ASNR activities during the past year.

The annual ASNR-ACRM meeting in Washington in October was again a major success with a record number of 455 attendees. The ASNR's contribution to the program was outstanding, and many thanks to Dr. Krish Sathian and the program committee for their hard work in making this such a success. The ASNR lost money on the 2006 meeting, which was a cause for concern. However, the

financial figures for the 2007 meeting have just arrived, and it appears that after covering all of our expenses that we essentially "broke even." The annual meeting has never been a major source of revenue, but it is important that the organization not lose money. We are in the process of negotiating a new contract with the ACRM, which we hope will ensure financial stability for our component of the meeting. At the ASNR board of directors meeting in October, a long discussion was held regarding whether the joint meeting with the ACRM should continue, or whether we should consider a "stand alone" meeting or a meeting with another organization. There are a number of opinions in this regard, although the majority of the board members are pleased with the current annual joint meeting. There is a sense that the ASNR has

made significant contributions to improving the scientific content of the meeting over the years, and our organization should be proud of this. For 2008, and probably for 2009, the ASNR will continue to hold the joint meeting with ACRM. However, Dr. George Wittenberg has agreed to chair a task force to explore the future of our annual meeting. For the 2008 meeting, Dr. Sathian and the program committee is already hard at work, and the preliminary program looks exciting. As Dr. Sathian notes in his report in this newsletter, the deadline for submission of symposium proposals is February 1, 2008, and for posters/abstracts is March 28, 2008. Please consider submitting a proposal or abstract for the meeting. We need continued involvement from the membership to make the annual meeting a success.

*continued on page 5*



2008 ASNR-ACRM Joint Conference

October 15-19, 2008

Delta Chelsea Hotel

Toronto, Ontario

Canada

# NEUROREHABILITATION & NEURAL REPAIR

The 2006 Thomson Scientific Journal Citation Reports for 2006 show *Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair's* 2006 Impact Factor at 2.4. NNR is now ranked 1/27 in the Rehabilitation category and 51/146 in the Clinical Neurology category.

The pursuit of quality basic and clinical research for neurological rehabilitation has grown quite rapidly over the past 5 years. This work has built upon the exciting insights of the past 10-15 years from studies related to plasticity, regeneration, motor control, functional imaging, robotics, assessment, and very clever ideas for clinical trials. The NNR editorial board, backed by the American Society of Neurorehabilitation and the World Federation of NeuroRehabilitation, as well as the online and circulation platforms of Sage Publications, is delighted to be one of the forces that encourages thoughtful and creative experiments that will benefit patients.

## ASNR MEMBERSHIP

*Barbara Weissman, MD*

The recent American Society of Neurorehabilitation (ASNR) 2007 meeting reflected the diversity of the membership who all share a common interest in the neuroscience on rehabilitation. Members participating in the meeting included research physical therapists, psychologists, basic scientists and both pediatric and adult neurologists. The advantage of the format of this meeting is that it promotes discussion. The subjects of the discussions include topics that interest the varied group of neuroscientists. For instance, the presentation, "Translation of Neuroplasticity Research from Laboratory to Evidence-Based Rehabilitation," was excellent and

related to multiple disciplines. The presentation organizer was Harvey Levin, PhD.

The ASNR is developing more ways to engage the membership in exchanges of information. In addition to workshops, listserves and the website, a task force of members is proposing other means of communication and interaction with members. Suggestions from the membership for improvements to our ability to connect with others in the neurorehabilitation community are always welcome and should be directed to:

Barbara\_weissman@oz.ped.emory.edu

The American Society of Neurorehabilitation is expanding its membership community. Therefore, if you have colleagues in various disciplines who are interested in the

ASNR, please share information with them. You may lend them your copy of the *Neurorehabilitation & Neural Repair* Journal, link them to our webpage that has excellent listings of resources or direct them to information regarding our meeting. David Good and I are available to talk with potential members. The field of neurosciences is growing and neurorehabilitation should be able to grow with it by encompassing all who share a common interest in this area of science and clinical practice that traverses many areas of expertise.

## Program Committee Report

*Krish Sathian, MD, PhD*

The 2007 annual ASNR-ACRM meeting was held at the Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC from October 4 through October 7. The meeting was a resounding success, with a record number of 455 attendees. The initially reserved hotel blocks sold out and more rooms had to be secured! The hotel provided a pleasant venue, conveniently located in downtown Washington, and the administrative organizations ensured an efficient and smooth meeting. The joint program was very well received by members of both organizations. There was a very good representation of a range of topics of interest to the ASNR membership, with a nice mix of basic science and clinical applications. Especially notable were the two ASNR-sponsored plenaries, one on brain-machine interfaces in rehabilitation and the other on rehabilitation of neglect, both featuring world experts in their respective fields. The reconstituted Program Committee (listed below) is actively working on developing the program for the 2008 meeting in Toronto, along with our ACRM counterparts. The deadline for submission of symposium proposals is February 1, 2008, and for submission of poster/paper abstracts, March 28, 2008. Members are strongly encouraged to submit symposium proposals and regular abstracts and make plans to attend the meeting. We should also encourage colleagues doing work relevant to our interests to attend our meetings, present material, and join our society. The vitality of our organization depends on such continual renewal and growth.

## Application to UCNS for Neurorehabilitation Subspecialty Membership

*Douglas I. Katz, MD*

A joint committee of the ASNR and Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair Section of the AAN is in the process of preparing an application to the United Council for Neurologic Subsidiaries (UCNS). The committee is chaired by Douglas Katz, MD and the other members are Peter Rossi, MD, Jeffrey Samuels, MD, Mindy Aisen, MD, Laura Lennihan, MD (NNR Section Chair), David Good, MD (President ASNR), Cheryl Alementi (AAN/NNR Section representative) and Kris McDowell (ASNR representative). The application document includes a description of the subspecialty of neurorehabilitation, proposed curriculum for subspecialty training in neurorehabilitation and training program requirements. The sponsoring organizations will be the ASNR and the NNR Section of the AAN. The application preparation process is well underway and should be completed early in 2008. Before submission, the application will be reviewed by other ASNR members including some fellowship directors and the Board. Once the application is accepted and UCNS membership of the Neurorehabilitation subspecialty is established, there will be an extended process that includes establishing a certification examination and accreditation process for training programs.

The UCNS was established in 2003, as a non-profit professional organization sponsored by the AAN, American Neurological Association, Association of University Professors of Neurology, Child Neurology Society and Professors of Child Neurology, to provide subspecialty certification and training program accreditation for neurologic subspecialties. The UCNS is meant to  
*continued on page 4*

### ASNR Program Committee 2008

Cathrin Buetefisch, MD

Anthony Chen, MA, MD

Leonardo Cohen, MD

David Good, MD

John Krakauer, MD

Anastasia Raymer, PhD

Emily Riser, MD

Krish Sathian, MD, PhD (Chair, 2007-2008)

Delaina Walker-Batson, PhD

Michael Weinrich, MD

Barbara Weissman, MD

George Wittenberg, MD, PhD (Chair, 2009-2010)

## UCNS Continued

offer an alternative to the route offered by the American Board of Medical Specialties for establishing subspecialty certification. To date several neurologic subspecialties have achieved membership in UCNS including: autonomic disorders, behavioral neurology and neuropsychiatry, clinical neuromuscular pathology, headache medicine, geriatric neurology, neuroimaging, neurocritical care and neurooncology. These subspecialties are in various stages of establishing their examinations and accrediting training programs. Some are already certifying subspecialists and accrediting training programs.

In 2006 the ASNR Board and membership decided that certification would no longer be a focus of the ASNR and that this would be transitioned to a certification and program accreditation process under the UCNS. Members who are already certified by ASNR, who remain current with their dues, will be able to retain this certification credential but the ASNR will no longer offer a certification examination or renewal process. Certified ASNR members will be encouraged to establish certification through UCNS. Neurorehabilitation practitioners will have to take the UCNS examination, when it is available,

to achieve certification under UCNS. There will be a defined time period (practice track) that those already practicing neurorehabilitation will be able to take the examination. After that time period, only trainees of accredited programs will be eligible for the examination.

As the application process moves along, the ASNR will apprise the membership of the progress. Once membership in UCNS is established, the ASNR and NNR section will need volunteers to assist in the process that will include creation of the certification examination. The completion of this process will likely extend over at least 2 years.

## Website Update

*Joel Feigenson, MD*

Continued refinement of the ASNR website ([www.asnr.com](http://www.asnr.com)) has led to increased content and more consistent organization to make it more “user friendly.” Some highlights:

- The mission statement is now clearly defined and easy to find
- There is a very nice welcoming statement from the ASNR President
- There is a timely listing of courses and events
- There is a timely listing of political action issues although sometimes it is difficult to find these items given the current website structure
- There is a timely listing of research, fellowship and career opportunities
- There is a listing of ASNR fellowship programs with information about each program and contact information
- Prepublication previews of JNNR articles and abstracts are now available online via a link to the Sage site
- The “Links” section has been enlarged and should be a resource for professionals and for the public
- A listserv has also been established—you can enroll through the link on the ASNR home page
- Outdated material is being removed in a more timely fashion

We are looking into making the site interactive. This would give members the opportunity of changing their profiles online, paying dues online, enrolling in online educational opportunities (and the yearly ASNR meeting), and perhaps even allowing us to offer online CME credits by partnering with other organizations that already have the technology to offer this service. We are also considering ways of using the ASNR site to help drive the new mission of broadening membership.

The Board is trying to put together a survey of ASNR members to get a listing of “areas of expertise” so that anyone contacting ASNR or looking for “an expert” in a certain area can find an appropriate contact.

*continued on page 5*

## President's Message Continued

I am pleased to announce that the 2008 meeting in Toronto will include the inauguration of the annual Adelson Lecture. The first speaker will be Dr. Mark Tuszynski of the University of California at San Diego. Thanks to all of you who submitted names for consideration for this prestigious award. The foundation board of directors made an excellent choice in Dr. Tuszynski as the inaugural speaker. Also at next year's annual meeting, a new award for "Fellow of the ASNR" will be created. We will be requesting the nomination of individuals who represent excellence in neurorehabilitation, and dedication to the mission of the ASNR.

Talks continue with UCNS. Dr. Doug Katz is the chair of the joint application committee of the ASNR, and the Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair section of the AAN. The application process is well underway, and should be completed by early 2008. There are several additional steps before UCNS certification for our Neurorehabilitation subspecialty is established, as outlined in Dr. Katz's report. Our application follows several years of intense discussion within the ASNR, and many thanks for those who participated.

The ASNR thanks Dr. Steve Page for a very successful workshop held in June 2007 at the Drake Center in Cincinnati. Well over one hundred persons attended this event, which was also profitable for the ASNR. Dr. Page has already volunteered to hold another workshop in 2009, possibly at a different site.

An active membership is critical for our organization, and Barbara Weissman and the membership committee have been working to continue expanding our membership to all of those interested in the clinical and scientific aspects of neurorehabilitation.

The ASNR is developing more ways to engage the membership through exchanges of information, and is seeking ways to make the organization attentive to the needs of the members. One of the ways to accomplish this is through our website. Joel Feigenson has done an excellent job in improving the content, timeliness, and features of the website. He has included an excellent summary in this newsletter, which I encourage you to read.

*Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair* continues to be a star and is now the number one rehabilitation journal nationally in terms of impact factor. Dr. Bruce Dobkin has done an outstanding job as editor and has taken the journal to even greater heights. Our organization owes him a debt of gratitude for his outstanding efforts.

Finally, thanks to Kris McDowell, our Associate Executive Director. Although new to our organization in 2007, she is a quick learner and has been invaluable in moving the organization forward. My personal thanks to Kris for all of her assistance.

All of the best to our organization and our individual members for 2008. The ASNR continues to be a dynamic organization, and continues to make a major impact in the field of neurorehabilitation.

## Website Continued

Once the survey has been completed, both public and professionals will be able to use the ASNR website to access this information.

Continued development should include a specific section on political action activities where we can help educate the public and our members about important issues and also use our site to allow members to contact their legislators about important topics and legislation. At present, the ASNR can not offer this service but partnering with other groups that have this technology might allow us to develop this interactive capability in the near future. Any political action postings would have to be approved by the ASNR president. Sometimes current event issues could also add timely content that might make our website more interesting. Follow-up on issues once timely, now forgotten, might be even more interesting.

A separate section on Research Opportunities might also enhance the site. We already have a section on Career Opportunities and we urge any of you who are looking for colleagues to use this section to advertise positions. There is no cost for this service.

If you have any suggestions for changing the site or adding content, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our goal is to have the site help the ASNR and its mission. To meet this goal, we must continually strive to improve our site just as our members strive to enhance our knowledge.