



NEUROREHABILITATION NEWS

American Society of Neurorehabilitation

Message from the President

David Good, MD



Let me begin my comments by thanking Peter Rossi for his leadership of the ASNR

from 2004 through October 2006. His term was marked by a number of important events. These include the final buyout of Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair, re-evaluation of ASNR's mission, expansion of membership to a broader rehabilitation constituency, talks with UCNS regarding credentialing for Neurorehabilitation, and the creation of the ASNR Foundation. This has truly been an eventful two years, and many thanks to Peter for his guidance.

We welcome Anna Barrett as our new Treasurer. She replaces Mike Reding, who is now Vice-President. Our Board of Directors includes three new members, Randy Nudo, Steve Page, and Robert Wagenaar. These outstanding neuroscientists will add to the diversity of our organization, and their willingness to serve is much appreciated. They replace Alex Dromerick and Peter Gorman, who have completed two terms in office. Thanks from the entire organization for their dedicated service.

We continue to hold conversations with the United Council for Neurological Subspecialties (UCNS). We are proposing that the UCNS assume the role of credentialing neurologists in our subspecialty, but still wish to maintain ASNR certification for our many loyal certified members. UCNS has a complex

application process, and this includes the necessity for a minimum number of strong fellowship programs. If the UCNS assumes credentialing responsibilities, our membership will still need to assist in designing the certification examination, and I hope many of you will be willing to participate in this important endeavor.

Membership in the ASNR has become more diverse. There has been a slight decline in the total number of members over the past year. Although the organization remains financially viable, it lacks reserves outside the Foundation, and is largely dependent on membership dues. It is important that we continue membership growth opportunities by reaching out to other scientists and professionals in other disciplines. Dr. Mickey Selzer has been holding preliminary conversations

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2007 ACRM-ASNR Joint Conference
Rehabilitation Research Without Borders

October 3-6, 2007

Renaissance D.C. Hotel

Washington, D.C.

2006 OFFICER AND BOARD CHANGES

Please join us in extending our thanks to Drs. Alex Dromerick and Peter Gorman who have served two consecutive 3-year terms on the Board of Directors. We appreciate their hard work and look forward to their involvement in the leadership of the Society.

At the last ASNR Board Meeting and Business Meeting of the membership Randy Nudo, PhD, Stephen Page, PhD and Robert Wagenaar, MD were elected to serve their first 3-year terms.

Congratulations and sincere thanks to all of our volunteer leadership.

A Message From the Editor

Bruce Dobkin, MD

Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair is now a bimonthly journal and continues to receive an outstanding selection of manuscripts. Thanks go to our associate editors and reviewers. The World Federation of NeuroRehabilitation and the ASNR are jointly sponsoring an international trial that compares the daily reinforcement of walking speed during inpatient stroke rehabilitation to no reinforcement to learn whether this simple approach can improve walking speed and decrease length of stay. The following sites have submitted their IRB approvals and about 6-8 more are expected:

*Allen W. Brown, Mayo Clinic,
Rochester MN, USA*

*Giuseppe Galardi, Rehabilitation Unit,
Fondazione Istituto San Raffaele-Giglio,
Italy*

Fancisco J. Juan, University Hospital of

Vigo, Spain

*Ichiro Miyai, Morinomia Hospital, Osaka,
Japan*

*Sam-Gyu Lee, Chonnam National Medical
School & Hospital, Korea*

*Peter Frommelt, Dept. Neurorehabilitation
Askelpios Klinik, Germany*

*Pasquale Fonzetti, Burke Rehabilitation
Hospital, NY, USA*

*Kadriye Armutlu, Haccettepe University,
Turkey*

*Vanaskova Eva, Department of
Rehabilitation, University Hospital,
Czech Republic*

*Mayowa Olowlabi, Federal Medical Center,
Abeokuta, Nigeria*

*Gunes Yavuzer, Ankara University Faculty of
Medicine, Turkey*

*Ed Crisostomo, St. Lukes and Whiteside
Institute for Clinical Research, MN, USA*

Steven Small, University of Chicago, USA

*Jason Greenberg, Helen Hays Hospital, NY,
USA*

*G. Akin Kaymak Karatas, Gazi University
Faculty of Medicine, Turkey*

Shiv Yadav, All India Institute of Medical

Sciences, New Dehli, India

*Robert Coni, St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem,
PA, USA*

Bruce H. Dobkin, MD

*Professor of Neurology, University of California
Los Angeles*

*Director, UCLA Neurologic Rehabilitation
and Research Program*

Reed Neurologic Research Center

*710 Westwood Plaza Rm 1-129 Los
Angeles, CA 90095-1769*

FAX: 310-794-9486 Phone: 310-206-6500

E-MAIL: bdobkin@mednet.ucla.edu

EB: <http://neurorehab.neurology.ucla.edu>

*Editor-in-chief, Neurorehabilitation and
Neural Repair (<http://nnr.sagepub.com>)*

The web-based trial will start in the coming month, but late applications will be accepted for participation.

Contact bdobkin@mednet.ucla.edu if interested.



Annual Workshop June 22-23, 2007

Be sure to mark your calendars for the American Society of Neurorehabilitation Annual Workshop being held in Cincinnati, OH at the Drake Center on June 22 – 23, 2007.

The Drake Center is the region's premier provider of specialized medical and rehabilitative care and is a private, nonprofit hospital that offers the most comprehensive continuum of care.

The theme for this workshop will be Neuroplasticity in Stroke: Changing Minds and Changing Function and will include some of the nation's leading speakers on plasticity.

ASNR members will receive a Registration/Program Brochure within the next couple of weeks.

For more information contact the ASNR Executive Office at 952-545-6324 or email to asnr@llmsi.com.

Thank you to our
2006-2007
ASNRREF
Donors

Anna Barrett, MD
Shin Tsu Chang, MD
Bruce Dobkin, MD
Alexander Dromerick, MD
Shereen Farber, PhD
John Feerick, MD
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Douglas Katz, MD
Laura Lennihan, MD
Mary McWilliams, MD
Norman Namerow, MD
Michael Reding, MD (in
honor of Drs. McDowell,
Scheinberg & Namerow)
Emily Riser, MD
John Riser, MD
Peter Rossi, MD
Robert Ruff, MD
Michael Selzer, MD
Merle Teetzen, MD
Michael Weinrich, MD
George Wittenberg, MD, PhD

UCNS Update

David. Good, MD

During the Board of Directors meeting on June 28, 2007, the ASNR board decided to proceed in conjunction with the Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair section of the AAN to formally apply to the United Council for Neurological Subspecialties (UCNS) to transfer certification of Neurorehabilitation as a subspecialty to the UCNS. While this process will take us some time, if carried to completion, the ASNR would no longer offer new certification for neurologists in Neurorehabilitation, and would cease in administering examinations. A proposal was made that members previously certified by the ASNR keep their certificates indefinitely.

We will keep the membership apprised of any subsequent negotiations with UCNS.

ASNR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FUND

The ASNR Education and Research Fund (ASNRREF) endowment fund was created in honor of Drs. Fletcher McDowell, Labe Scheinberg and Norman Namerow. Physicians and allied health professionals, patients, and family members who would like to support research and education may send donations payable to:

ASNRREF

5841 Cedar Lake Road, Suite 204
Minneapolis, MN 55416

You will receive a receipt to acknowledge our gratitude for your tax-exempt charitable donation.

Department B - A New Service for Members!

The American Society of Neurorehabilitation is proud to announce a new service for members.

ASNR has partnered with Department B to provide consulting and recruiting services.

Department B offers professional placement to ASNR members through its national database of physicians organized by specialty. They make the process of finding a partner almost hassle-free. For more information, please visit <http://www.DepartmentB.com>.

Contact Robert Altieri, Vice President of Department B, at 610-566-0535 with your employment needs.

ASNR 2006 Needs Assessment Survey

The ASNR Needs Assessment Survey was sent out last year to members and nonmembers, soliciting their opinions on the organization. A summary of the results is as follows:

Out of 72 respondents, 76 percent said that ASNR is meeting their professional needs and expectations. Suggestions for improvement of the Society included expanding annual meeting content and help with recertification challenges. Additional suggestions for membership benefits and resources included a “member area of expertise” network, regular ASNR newsletters and posting employment opportunities.

79 percent of those who responded said they read the *Journal of Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair* and find it to be a valuable resource. Most respondents have been on the ASNR website and

found it useful; comments were made to improve the website by adding links to rehab information and increasing the relevance of the content.

Regarding certification, the certified members responding commented on the ways certification is valuable to them, such as giving them the credentials they need to hold positions or practice in certain settings, being useful with insurance companies and as a marketing tool when searching for a new job and furthering their credibility in the “rehabilitation world.”

Most respondents indicated that the annual meeting was very important for meeting their professional needs. 58% of those responding felt that the ASNR should continue to meet jointly with ACRM, with a few indicating that meeting before or after the AAN would be a good alternative.

Concerning attendance at the 2006 annual meeting in Boston, MA, most indicated that they would be attending. Reasons for not attending included personal obligations or that the program content wasn't of interest or applicable to their practice (pediatric).

Overwhelmingly, respondents felt that the ASNR should continue to hold workshops. Suggested topics of interest include cognitive rehab and spasticity, head injury/brain function, pediatric issues, new therapeutics for people with stroke and chronic pain.

The majority of those who responded to the survey were active members and certified members of ASNR. 33 of the respondents indicated that they were certified by the ABPN, and 11 indicated that AAPM&R certification. Other associations reported by respondents were ABPP, AMEM, AOTA and NBCOT.

Website Update

Joel Feigenson, MD

In keeping with the updated mission of the ASNR, the Website Committee is proposing an overhaul of our website to better serve our constituents. Proposals under consideration include:

- Methods of identifying expert resources and personnel for other ASNR members and for the public
- A list of fellowship programs with their areas of special interest, faculty and key contact telephone numbers
- A list of NIH and other governmental agency funding sources with contact names and telephone numbers
- Links to societies, agencies, and/or advocacy groups sharing our vision and mission
- Creating a true Bulletin Board System to replace the listserv
- Allowing members to change their profiles online
- Modernizing the interface to include multimedia content

The Board will be considering these suggestions and their direct/indirect costs in the near future.

We welcome your suggestions about the site and how to make it more useful to you, your colleagues and the public. Please send your suggestions to Jeff Samuels at hpocmps@gate.net or to me at jsfmd@optonline.net. We look forward to your input.

ASNR Education Foundation

Peter Rossi, MD, Foundation President

Since its inception in 2004, the ANSRREF has successfully been established to support the educational and research missions of the ASNR.

We wish to thank our initial contributors including our Board members and the general membership whose contributions were instrumental in the establishment of the Foundation. In particular, we would like to thank one of the Founding Fathers of the ASNR, Dr. Norman Namerow for his generous contribution in association with Board contributions.

Last year the ASNRREF was the recipient of a \$100,000 gift from the Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Medical Research Foundation. The ASNRREF Board agreed on the following distribution of the grant:

The first \$50,000 will to be used for an annual competitive award for excellence and significant contribution to the field of Neurorehabilitation. Nominations will be solicited from the membership prior to the annual meeting. The ASNRREF Board will act as the Nominating Committee in choosing the candidate. The candidate will

then be invited to present a short, keynote address at our Annual Meeting.

The second \$50,000 will be used to support our journal Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair which has become the second most cited reference in rehabilitation medicine and will now be published bimonthly.

We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to Drs. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson for their most generous gift which has allowed our Foundation to advance education and research in Neurorehabilitation.

Finally, the Foundation Board is now comprised of all past presidents of the Society. The immediate Past President of the ASNR will move automatically to the President position of the Foundation every two years.

Please consider the ASNRREF in your annual charitable plans and please inform grateful patients of the opportunity to support the mission of the ASNRREF. The ASNR Executive Office can assist in gift giving plans.

World Federation for NeuroRehabilitation 5th World Congress September 24-27, 2008

The 5th World Congress of the WFNR is to take place in Rio de Janeiro and will provide a forum for individuals from various parts of the world to debate the multidisciplinary approaches and concerns that inform today's rehabilitation practice.

For more information, please write to the following:
www.sarah.br/wfnrrio2008/

ASNR Practice Committee

Proposal for Practice Committee Project

David Good, MD

Background:

The ASNR is a member of the American Brain Coalition (ABC), an organization dedicated to advocacy on behalf of the fifty million people in the US affected by diseases of the brain, and their caregivers, families, and friends.

The ABC has established an Economic Data Workgroup to explore feasible options for ways in which ABC could assist its member organizations in developing and/or using economic data in their advocacy efforts.

This effort has become increasingly important at a time of increasing constraint on research and healthcare budgets. The ABC believes it is important that its members be prepared to articulate the economic, as well as medical and social impact, of brain disease in the U.S. In compiling data of individual disease states and patient populations, the Workgroup hopes to provide the ABC and its members with a compelling snapshot of the economic burden of brain disease – data that will support our collective and individual advocacy efforts in the coming year.

Purpose:

Though the ASNR has not focused on these issues in the past, these are issues that are of paramount importance to our patients and the organizations we represent.

It is proposed, and has been agreed to by the board of the ABC, that the ASNR in partnership with the Economic Data Workgroup, develop processes, templates, models and other mechanisms that can be utilized by any organization to collect this data.

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A VITAL COMMUNITY

What do Ikeda Satoshi, MD, PhD at Kagoshima University, Phillip Beatty, PhD at NIDRR, Michael Johnston, MD a rehabilitation pediatrician and Gade Venkata, MS a biomedical engineer all have in common? All are members of the American Society of Neurorehabilitation (ASNR). In what other community of professionals does such a diverse group focus on a common interest: the neuroscience of rehabilitation?

Members of the ASNR engage in many avenues of communication. The yearly opportunity for interaction comes at the Annual Meeting that is currently shared with the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM). The ASNR actively encourages members to contribute to the courses and presentations that comprise the formal meeting. Additionally, while a member attends the meeting there are ample opportunities to engage in discussions with others working in various areas of the neurorehabilitation community. Workshops, when available, are an added bonus of educational advancement as well as a networking prospect. As with other ASNR educational activities, a member is able to propose a workshop activity. This allows a geographic distribution of workshop locations as diverse as Cleveland, Ohio and Birmingham, Alabama, with a range of topics.

Then again, the ASNR is a year round organization. Members of the ASNR receive the benefit of a subscription to an outstanding journal, *Neurorehabilitation & Neural Repair*. As the case with the meeting, members are encouraged to contribute articles to the journal. The Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Bruce Dobkin, seeks a variety of scholarly papers. The greater number of submissions to the journal parallels the annually increasing number of rehabilitation neuroscientists joining the ASNR.

In addition to the journal, the ASNR provides an online forum of discussion through the website and the listserv. Many members of the ASNR actively promote interests that are vital to the rehabilitation neuroscience community. Thus, for instance, members are apprised of the latest issues from Congress and have an immediate opportunity to discuss with others who have similar concerns. Accordingly, the ASNR is an active and dynamic organization; it is a valuable asset to the neurorehabilitation community.

Legislative Update

David Good, MD

There are two issues of import to those of us in rehabilitation.

The first issue affects all healthcare providers. The federal healthcare budget for 2008 proposes a reduction in Medicare services spending of \$5.271 Billion dollars. Hospitals would be reimbursed \$720 Million less and SNF's 1.010 Billion. IRU care has been targeted to be cut by \$230 Million and Home Health by \$410 Million. These cuts are then projected to go on for another three years through 2012 and total \$75.853 Billion.

Medicaid program funding would also be affected. Overall spending would be cut \$3.457 Billion for 2008 and a total to \$25.731 for 2008 through 2012.

The second issue is especially pertinent to those of us in the IRU setting but does affect all who provide rehabilitation services throughout the continuum through the 'domino' effect.

The new Congress has decided to focus on the 75% rule once again. When last we left this issue, both houses of Congress had been presented a bill designed to establish a commission that would try to bring some degree of objectivity in the process of determining medical necessity for IRU's. These bills were never acted upon.

This year, a House bill has been introduced (and a Senate version soon) that is similar in many ways. This effort would keep the "75% Rule" level at 60%, the current level. It would also make permanent the current provision that allows patients to be counted for admission compliance based on their comorbidities as well as their admitting

diagnosis, a factor that would be phased out as of July, 2007 when the percentage would increase to 65%. The bills would also codify a long standing (and rather logical) requirement that potential admissions meet published medical necessity criteria (HIM 10 Manual) and limit the variable and unreasonable determinations by different fiscal intermediaries. Finally, CMS would be required to provide information to Congress on what is happening to patients denied care at the IRU level.

These are very important issues to each of us in the field of rehabilitation and are worthy of our concern and support. We are all encouraged to voice our concern to our local representatives. Please reach out to your Members of Congress and ask them to become an original cosponsor of the legislation and limit the proposed cuts in dollar resources provided our facilities.

World Federation for Neurorehabilitation

David Good, MD

The ASNR is a member organization of the World Federation for Neurorehabilitation (WFNR). Currently, 19 national societies are members of the WFNR, and several more societies are in the process of forming. A major mission for WFNR is to promote neurorehabilitation world wide, by sponsoring educational meetings. The WFNR has been especially active in promoting neurorehabilitation in underdeveloped and emerging countries. In addition, the WFNR sponsors a world congress every three years. The next is scheduled for Rio de Janeiro Brazil September 24-27, 2008. Several members of the ASNR have been part of the planning committee. All ASNR members qualify for reduced registration at the world congress, and hopefully a number of our members will join our international colleagues in beautiful and sunny Rio next year. One of our members, Dr. Mickey Selzer, is president elect of the WFNR, and will be inaugurated at the Rio meeting, another reason why we should have a solid American presence! Finally, although the NNR is owned by the ASNR, it is the "official" journal for both organizations. This encourages international articles, and strengthens the journal. We are fortunate to be a member of such a strong international organization.

2007 ACRM-ASNR Joint Conference

Krish Sathian, MD, PhD, Program Chair

An engaging program is being planned for the ASNR-ACRM meeting (October 3-7, 2007, at the Renaissance D.C. Hotel in Washington, D.C.). We will have two exciting ASNR-led plenary sessions: one on Brain-Computer Interfaces in Neurorehabilitation and the other on Rehabilitation of Neglect. Both plenaries will span topics ranging from cutting-edge research in basic neuroscience to everyday clinical situations, with the goal of fostering thought and discussion about translational interactions. The ACRM, for its part, has organized two complementary plenaries addressing the national dialogue on healthcare policy and its relationship to rehabilitation, one on Highlights of the IOM Report on Disability, and the other on Medicare's plans to develop a uniform patient assessment instrument and refine the post-acute care payment systems. In keeping with the international theme of the meeting, many sessions feature international speakers in addition to those from the US. The proposed sessions cover a wide range of issues of interest to ASNR members, from both clinical and scientific standpoints, and the popular Research Roundtable luncheons will once again take place. During review of these abstracts, a small number will be selected for their general interest and scheduled as oral presentations.

A special feature of this year's meeting is an Early Career Development Course that is co-sponsored by the ASNR and the ACRM; the membership of both organizations is working with Ralph Nitkin (NCMRR) and Ruth Brannon (NIDRR) to tailor this course to the interests of meeting attendees who are fellows or junior faculty. At the time of early registration, attendees will be asked to indicate whether or not they will be attending the Early Career Development Course; those indicating that they will attend will be contacted with further information regarding the course and offered the opportunity to present a poster at the meeting. This course promises to be of great relevance to those beginning or about to begin their academic careers in neurorehabilitation. It will include speakers from funding agencies, experienced and newly independent researchers, and experienced reviewers of grant applications. So encourage your trainees to register!

We hope that you will turn out in record numbers to the meeting, not only to partake of the offerings that have been put together, but equally important, to enhance the quality of the meeting by your active participation. So, if you haven't already done so, mark your calendars and make your plans to attend! See you in Washington this October!

The primary question and areas of interest are as follows:

ABC would like to collate and put together existing documents, manuscripts, and reports about the cost of brain diseases from its member organizations:

- Do you have any existing documents (publications, reports, etc) on the incidence and prevalence of the disease or conditions your organization represents?
- Do you have any existing documents (publications, reports, etc) on the cost of care – hospital, physician, drugs, devices, durable medical equipment, nursing homes, etc.?
- Do you have any existing documents (publications, reports, etc) on lost wages for patients and caregivers?
- Do you have any existing documents (publications, reports, etc) on lost production in industry because of illness, absenteeism, etc.?
- Do you have any other existing documents (publications, reports, etc) illustrating a cost to the individual patient or society?

Generally, how does your organization conduct its advocacy efforts around research funding?

- What levels of government do you contact?
- What kinds of people (parent volunteers, staff, lobbyist, others) participate in your advocacy around research funding, in terms of contacting legislators or others?
- What kinds of materials do you use in your advocacy efforts, i.e., for meeting with legislators, press releases, distribution to members in newsletters, other formats, etc?
- Do any of these include cost or prevalence/incidence data? If you do, what is the process for developing materials related to cost, burden, or prevalence? Do you track how and how often they are used?
- What does your organization perceive as the potential value of being able to include economic data across all brain diseases in your advocacy and education efforts?
- How often and by whom are you asked about the burden, prevalence, or cost of the disease your organization represents when you are advocating for funding?

Do you have affiliated sites? If so:

- Are there training programs for affiliates around advocacy for funding?
- Do you provide core materials to your affiliated sites?

There are different ways of providing information on the cost of brain diseases and the value of research to legislators.

- What ways have you used in the past to lobby or educate legislators about supporting increased funding for research?
- What was effective? What was less effective?
- How do you think such information would be most effectively provided if presented by representatives of your organization?
- What tools or data do you wish you had in terms of being able to make a case for the economic impact of your disease and more research funding?

In terms of the public, there is information on the cost of brain diseases and the value of research.

- What ways have you used in the past to inform the public about the value of funding for research?
- What was effective? What was less effective?
- How do you think such information would be most effectively provided?
- What tools or data do you wish you had in terms of being able to make a case for the economic impact of your disease and more research funding?

Process:

Step One; The Practice Committee of the ASNR will develop potential strategies and targets to answer the posed questions.

Step Two; The Economic Work Group reviews the plan and provides feedback and suggestions of additional approaches and questions that could be utilized. (The Economic Work Group will be interviewing other ABC Member organizations for data and collect ideas for this project at the same time.)

Step Three; The Practice Committee begins the process of collecting data.

Step Four; The Practice Committee and the Economic Work Group communicate periodically about progress, roadblocks and other issues that can better define the process for any organization to employ. Working together, a roadmap to successful data collection is developed.

with a group of basic scientists who might be interested in partnering with the ASNR, at least in the context of the annual meeting.

Last fall, we held the 12th annual meeting in Chicago. This was a very successful event, in large part due to the efforts of Anna Barrett and her program committee. Anna has been program chair for the past two years, and under her leadership, the meetings have continued to maintain their high standard of scientific content. We welcome Dr. Krish Sathian as the new program chair. Krish has already been very busy working with other members of the ASNR as well as the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) on what is shaping up to be an outstanding 13th annual meeting in Washington, DC next September.

The ASNR has a long tradition of sponsoring annual workshops. This year's workshop is scheduled for June 22nd through June 23rd at the Drake Center in Cincinnati, directed by Steve Page. The title is "Neuroplasticity in Stroke: Changing Minds and Changing Function." This workshop continues the long tradition of outstanding ASNR workshops, and Dr. Page is thanked and congratulated for his efforts.

Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair continues to prosper and grow under the outstanding editorship of Bruce Dobkin. NNR continues to be one of the top three journals in our field. Downloads to the NNR website grew to almost 25,000 last year. Manuscripts arrive from all over the world, and the editorial staff accepts about 40% of submitted articles. This year, the journal will go to six issues each year. The NNR remains

profitable, and therefore is both an intellectual and a financial asset for the ASNR.

I mentioned our Foundation, which now has a corpus of over \$100,000, largely due to a generous contribution from the Adelson Foundation. One half of the funds are earmarked for use by NNR, the other one half can be used by the society. A Foundation Board of Directors, chaired by Dr. Rossi, was created to provide independent oversight of the Foundation.

The website continues to improve. Jeff Samuels, who has long served capably as our webmaster, has passed the reigns to Joel Feigenson. See Joel's article in this newsletter describing our website changes. In the future, we are expecting a major overhaul of the website, as part of the contractual agreement that L & L management has with an independent website contractor.

The ASNR has entered into a new agreement with Department B, a firm involved in rehabilitation recruiting and provision of services to rehabilitation providers. Details of this arrangement are included in the newsletter. There is a possibility of financial benefit to the organization through this non exclusive arrangement.

We continue our affiliation with the World Federation of Neurorehabilitation. Bruce Dobkin has initiated an exciting multi center international randomized trial of gait enhancement following stroke. This is the first international trial of this nature undertaken, and would be impossible without our link to the WFNR. The WFNR is planning its next world congress in Rio de Janeiro in

September 2008. ASNR members receive a reduced registration rate. Several of our members have been involved on the program committee, and this truly looks like an exciting meeting, with over 2000 individuals expected to attend.

As most of you know, the ASNR is managed by L & L Management in Minneapolis. Tisha Kehn has been assigned to the ASNR for several years. We recently learned that Tisha will be promoted within the company. While we will miss her outstanding management skills, we congratulate her on her promotion. During the transition time, Tisha will continue to work on ASNR matters, as they are slowly transitioned to a new staff member.

This is a time of both opportunity and challenge for the ASNR. Issues which were in the forefront of discussion in the early years of the ASNR, such as the role of neurologists in the field of rehabilitation medicine and the need for certification, have faded somewhat, and it seems appropriate to join the national trend towards Neurology subspecialty certification through the UCNS. However, the board recognizes that it is critical to meet the needs of our original core membership, as the organization evolves to a broader based constituency. We will endeavor to do this in a orderly way, and I would ask your assistance in this process as we move forward focusing on an expanded mission for the ASNR. ❖