



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mike Reding, MD

This past October we held our Annual Educational Conference in conjunction with the American College of Rehabilitation Medicine in Denver Colorado. Our ASNR and ACRM program Chairpersons, George Wittenberg, and Tamara Bushnick respectively, deserve our appreciation for all the work they and their committees spent arranging this very successful event.. There were in excess of 400 registered attendees. Courses, symposia, platform and poster sessions presented cutting edge strategies for enhancing motor recovery, cognitive and behavioral retraining, constraint induced language therapy, electrophysiologic dysphagia rehabilitation, and much more. The ASNR Foundation invited lectureship was presented by Thomas Carmichael, MD, PhD. He presented his work using serial retrograde neuronal labeling in a mouse mode

of stroke. His work allows quantification of the frequency and anatomic extent of neuronal sprouting and motor system plasticity that occurs following stroke. His model allows one to quantify the effects of environmental enrichment on synaptic network remodeling. The Kenneth Viste Award lectureship was presented by John Chae, MD, ME. He discussed the effects of functional electrical stimulation via implanted electrodes for prophylaxis and treatment of shoulder subluxation, shoulder-hand complex regional pain syndrome, and functional upper extremity recovery following stroke. These two invited lectures were videotaped and will be available free of charge for all of our members to view on our ASNR Web site.

Leonardo Cohen, MD and Michael Weinrich, MD were presented with ASNR Fellowship awards recognizing their years of dedication to the Society and for their clinical research productivity and advocacy. Fellowship Awardees are nomination and elected by our membership with ratification by our Board of Directors.

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UCNS NEURAL REPAIR AND REHABILITATION SUBSPECIALTY APPLICATION

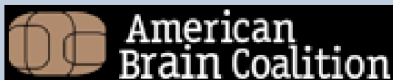
The application for Neural Repair and Rehabilitation subspecialty certification by UCNS was submitted to UCNS this year. This application process has been a joint effort of the Section of Neural Repair and Rehabilitation of the AAN and the ASNR. The application includes details of a neurorehabilitation curriculum and guidelines for subspecialty training in neurorehabilitation. It was reviewed by a primary reviewer of the UCNS for initial feedback before final submission to the Board of the UCNS. We added changes to the application document to answer the initial comments, as agreed

to by the Board of the ASNR. There were some additional suggestions by Board member, Nathan Zasler MD, to enhance the application with regard to the need for neurorehabilitation certification, the historic role of physiatry in neurorehabilitation, the need for multidisciplinary cooperation and additional items to add to the curriculum. After a recent review of the latest version of the application, the primary reviewer has made a few additional comments to be incorporated into the application. The final version will be submitted to the UCNS Board early in 2010 for consideration.

6th World Congress for NeuroRehabilitation

www.wcnr2010.org

March 21-25, 2010
Hofburg Congress Center
Vienna/Austria



ASNR AND THE AMERICAN BRAIN COALITION

ASNR is a proud member of The American Brain Coalition (ABC), which is a non-profit organization comprised of some of the United States' leading professional neurological, psychological, and psychiatric associations and patient organizations. Together, we seek to advance the understanding of the functions of the brain and to reduce the burden of brain disorders through public advocacy. The American Brain Coalition is a strong and powerful voice for patients, families and professionals dealing with neurological and psychiatric disorders.

This voice is used to advocate for increased support of federal research funding, improving care for those with chronic conditions, advocating for stem cell research, and supporting the ethical use of animals in research. We believe that our support for these issues will lead to better treatment, services and support to improve patients' quality of life, and a national commitment towards finding cures.

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CALL FOR SYMPOSIA PROPOSALS

Become an active participant of the 2010 ACRM-ASNR Joint Conference!

2010 ACRM-ASNR Joint Educational Conference
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
October 20-23, 2010

Online submission now available!
Submission deadline: January 29, 2010.
Online submission only.

Message from the President
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Next year's Annual meeting will be in Montreal and will be held in collaboration with ACRM. Please contact George Wittenberg gwittenb@grecc.umaryland.edu with suggestions for courses, symposia or invited lecturers. We need our membership to be active in this planning process. It is an ideal forum for presenting your latest Neurorehabilitation research.

The ASNR Board of Directors, and our Committee Chairpersons held a one-day pre-conference Strategic Planning Meeting. This was skillfully directed by Mike Weinrich, one of our past presidents, and previous board member. A number of plans were developed to advance the relevance of the society for its members. The top four initiatives will be operational by the end of 2010. Anna Barrett, our Vice President will be developing a web based research consortium of clinician researchers that will be modeled after the international prospective randomized SIRROWS study recently completed by Bruce Dobkin. We will develop a CME committee to provide credit for selected articles published in our ASNR sponsored journal,

Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair, and our Annual Workshops. We will develop a formal mentoring program to help our younger members develop clinical research careers. We will create a Finance Committee to help solicit donations and sponsorships for our ASNR educational and research activities. Several other initiatives were proposed and will be implemented as time and resources allow.

Our Web site is advancing as a vehicle for communication among our members. Joel Feigenson jsfmd@optonline.net is our Web Site Committee Chairperson, and welcomes your suggestions and your participation. Please visit our web site for recent society information, Job listings, Neurorehabilitation Meeting Calendar, and other relevant information. This year we are initiating Web access to our two invited lectureship presentations at our Annual Meeting. Please look for the lectures by Thomas Carmichael, and John Chae as they become available. As mentioned above, over the next several months we hope to add CME access for time spent reading selected articles in Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair. This will be extended to other ASNR educational activities in the future.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE UPDATE



Society for Neuroscience Meeting next 13-17 November 2010 in San Diego

ASNR Newsletter 12/2/09

George F. Wittenberg, M.D., Ph.D.

Deputy Director, VA Maryland Exercise and Robotics Center of Excellence
Staff Physician, VA GRECC
Associate Physician, Dept. of Neurology,
University of Maryland SOM, Baltimore

The ASNR Program Committee is looking forward to a very exciting 2010. There is the programming for the ACRM/ ASNR Joint Educational Conference in Montréal (20-23 October 2010). Then the ASNR Strategic Planning Meeting came up with two charges to our committee:

1. an ASNR meeting as a satellite to the Society for Neuroscience Meeting (next 13-17 November 2010 in San Diego) and
2. An ASNR pre-conference course. These two meetings have the potential to give our organization a more visible identity and to attract both current and potential new members.

While the Program Committee is sizeable, we can always use more members to help review potential content as part of the committee. We also welcome contact from members who are interested

in presenting programming. Here are some ways to contribute:

1. Consider **nominating yourself or others for the ASNR plenary** session. (Last year we had a TBI plenary.) We try to have plenary content formulated by January.
2. Submit a **symposium proposal**. The deadline is 29 January 2010 and more info. is at http://www.acrm.org/annual_conference/Course_Proposals.cfm
3. Participate in the **pre-conference course**. At this point we are considering a bench-to-bedside course on upper and lower extremity rehabilitation robotics.
4. Participate in developing the the **Society for Neuroscience Satellite** conference. Possibilities include:
 - a. Rehabilitation of Sensory Deficits
 - b. Timing of Rehabilitation Interventions
 - c. Neuroimaging in research and clinical rehabilitation
5. Submit **abstracts** to the joint educational conference 19 March 2010.

Please contact me with any questions or suggestions. I am always happy to work with individuals and groups on developing content that will be stimulating to our membership and beyond.

American Brain Coalition
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The ABC's main vehicle for achieving these goals is through advocacy. We send alerts to ASNR about timely legislative issues, ask you to take action, and even provide us with access to CapWiz, an online legislative action center where-with a few clicks of the button-you can send a pre-formulated letter to your Members of Congress or the President. The ABC encourages visits to Capitol Hill and even provides background papers (<http://www.americanbraincoalition.org/go/advocacy/position-papers>) and a white paper with talking points for you to use (<http://www.americanbraincoalition.org/go/advocacy>). The ABC tries to make it as easy as possible for ASNR members to engage in advocacy on behalf of key legislative issues that affect patients.

To learn more about The American Brain Coalition, please visit: <http://www.americanbraincoalition.org/>.

International Brain Injury Association (IBIA)

8th Biennial World Congress
Washington, DC

March 10-14, 2010
www.internationalbrain.org

FROM 'NEUROSCIENCES AND REHABILITATION' TO 'NEUROREHABILITATION SCIENCES': ROBERT C. WAGENAAR

During the ASNR board meeting during the 2009 ACRM/ASNR conference it became clear to me that we are presenting ourselves as an organization specifically targeting neurosciences and rehabilitation as its core business. The question I posed was whether by doing so, we are adopting an approach to Neurorehabilitation with a strong, but still limited perspective on movement disorders, and hence unintentionally exclude researchers, educators and clinicians involved in Neurorehabilitation (research) with a different but related focus on Neurorehabilitation.

The ASNR is an outstanding forum for research, educational and clinical care activities in the Neurorehabilitation domain. I thoroughly enjoy being part of this society and in my view it can be even more successful in creating exposure to cutting-edge research, educational and clinical care activities and attracting a larger membership. Currently, the society is presenting itself as a multi-disciplinary organization including neurosciences, neuropsychology, rehabilitation, physical therapy, speech therapy, etc. Therefore, it is important to acknowledge that – during the last two decades – the rehabilitation profession has provided strong (research) evidence for a large number of interventions (e.g., Constraint-Induced Movement Therapy, Partial Body Weight Support during gait training) as well as diagnostic and prognostic tools. In addition, the field is in the process of developing a strong theoretical basis not only from the perspective of neurosciences, but also from movement sciences perspective (including biomechanics, (motor) control theories and motor learning theories).

In my opinion, one of the most important outcomes from clinical trials regarding rehabilitation efficacy is that functional activities need to be specifically trained in order to get the desired outcomes in the home and community setting. This implies that we need to know more about the 'nature' of the functional activity limitations and the coordination disorders involved. "Only when one knows precisely what is being re-learned can one really begin to come to terms with questions as to how re-learning takes place" (Wagenaar & van Emmerik, 1994). This question taps into the expertise of, for example, movement scientists and engineers working in the domain of robotics, and requires the usage of complex tools (e.g., inverse, forward and non-linear dynamics) in order to get a proper understanding of the task at hand and allow for an adequate interpretation of rehabilitation findings, also from the perspective of neurosciences.

During the III STEP conference organized by the American Physical Therapy Association in 2005 (Salt Lake City) focusing on the relevance of neurosciences for physical therapy, an audience member asked 'what is skilled movement behavior?'. Randy Nudo replied – and I paraphrase – 'perhaps we need tools from non-linear dynamics to capture to complex movement patterns', and Michael Merzenich stated – again I paraphrase – 'we need to know more about the quality of the movements of healthy individuals', and - may I add - 'individuals with movement disorders'. Indeed it is, for example, crucial to acknowledge that different walking patterns exist dependent on walking speed, in order

to apply appropriate diagnostic and prognostic tools as well as gait training (Wagenaar & van Emmerik, 2000). This insight provides the theoretical basis for the beneficial effects of gait training at higher than comfortable walking speeds and the appropriate guidelines for implementing treatment guidelines for the usage of external (rhythmic) cues in Parkinson disease. If the core mission of the ASNR is the advancement of Neurorehabilitation in clinical care, education and research, in my opinion we should include this perspective and broaden our scope from 'neurosciences and rehabilitation' to 'neurosciences and rehabilitation sciences' or even better 'neurorehabilitation sciences'. In this way, we may also be able to attract new members to our society.

Wagenaar, R.C. & van Emmerik, R.E.A. (1994). Dynamics of pathological gait. *Human Movement Science*, 13 (3-4), 441-471.

Wagenaar, R.C. & van Emmerik, R.E.A. (2000). Resonant frequencies of arms and legs identify different walking patterns. *Journal of Biomechanics*, 33, 853-861.

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The meeting is just one value of ASNR membership. Another significant value continues to be the journal, Neurorehabilitation & Neural Repair. The

journal contributes substantially to the Rehabilitation and Neuroscience scholarly activity with its impact factor greater than 3.5 for the past 2 years. The journal is an important value for the membership. With all else, costs of items of value may rise. The cost of the journal is increasing by \$10 per year per member. This cost will be reflected in a dues increase for 2010.

The membership of the ASNR continues to sustain diversity of its members. As aptly discussed by Robert C. Wagenaar, MSc, PhD at the recent ASNR business meeting, the members of ASNR display a common interest in neurorehabilitation science. Thus, individuals from varied backgrounds find membership in ASNR valuable in sharing similar interests and a supportive environment to discuss those interests. Continue to share information about ASNR with any associates who may benefit from membership. Please remember to pay your dues! 2010 should be an excellent year for ASNR. The meeting in Montreal will be excellent as well. Be certain to save the date, October 20-23, 2010.

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