



NEUROREHABILITATION NEWS

American Society of Neurorehabilitation

Message from the President

"Random notes from the Pacific"

Peter W. Rossi, MD, FAAN



Let me begin by thanking Dr. Michael Weinrich for passing the helm of an ever stronger and more vibrant ASNR. The ASNR has been busy these past two years and our accomplishments reflect his steadfast leadership. Let me highlight some of Mike's and our past endeavors:

In the fall we will be celebrating our 12th Annual Meeting in Chicago, and the third in collaboration with the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine. Our collaboration with the ACRM fosters interdisciplinary discussion within our field, broadens the educational offerings at our meetings and assists with logistical and financial risks inherent in producing a quality Annual Meeting.

By most accounts, our Annual Meeting has been strengthened with each succeeding year and we can expect this will continue this year under the direction of our Program Chair, Dr. Anna Barrett and the Program Committee. Anna is working diligently to tailor a scientific program of interest to frontline clinicians and one which maintains a focus on integrating current research endeavors and evidence based medicine. It is anticipated our scientific program will continue to grow, and in order to encourage submissions, we have established

an Award for Young Investigators in Neurorehabilitation in honor of Dr. Fletcher McDowell, a founding father of the ASNR who provided one of the first fellowship programs in neurorehabilitation.

We are now successfully completing our purchase of our journal, Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair. Our partnership with Sage Publications has allowed us to assert more direct control over the journal's growth and will hopefully allow the ASNR to share in the journal's future financial success. Most of us are regular readers of the journal and it cannot have escaped notice that the journal now arrives on time and its scientific content has been strengthened. In addition, the journal is now listed on MedLine and is accessible electronically. This reflects the leadership of the journal's editor, Dr. Michael Selzer to whom we owe our sincere gratitude.

In the past the ASNR has faced some precarious financial times. Although we were always afloat, over the past few years we have been able to identify and stem the leaks and vigorously bail our vessel dry. Our treasurer, Dr. Michael Reding has led this effort. In addition, the Board has recently directed the establishment of the ASNR Foundation which will serve as a vehicle to solicit charitable donations to further our mission.

Our membership rolls continue to grow, and Dr. Barbara Weissman reports that much of our recent growth

has been not just among neurologists but also clinicians and academicians in the interdisciplinary fields of neurorehabilitation. Dr. Weissman and her Committee are exploring ways to encourage membership among students and young clinicians to broaden our interdisciplinary exchange and encourage growth in our organization. And for our current certified members, this newsletter details additional opportunities to meet the educational requirements for recertification.

At this time of growth and opportunity for the ASNR, the Board recognizes the need to reassess our mission and vision. Issues which were at the forefront of discussion in the early years of the ASNR, such as the role of the neurologist in the field of rehabilitation medicine and the need for certification have faded as neurorehabilitation has become an established discipline with an ever stronger scientific base. The ASNR must continue to reflect the interests and needs of our patients as well as our membership, the majority of whom are clinically based. For example, the Board has discussed ways in which we may foster professional exchange between our members and investigators involved in basic research relevant to neurorehabilitation. I would like to ask for the assistance and participation of our members in these and future discussions as we move forward focused on providing better care for those we serve.

OFFICER AND BOARD CHANGES

Please join us in extending our thanks to the following Board members who have served **2 consecutive three-year terms**:

Bruce Dobkin, MD

Richard Bohannon, PT, EdD, NCS, FAHA

We greatly appreciate their hard work and look forward to their future involvement in the leadership of the Society!

Vice President

At the Business Meeting in Ponte Vedra, Florida, David Good, MD accepted the nomination and was approved by majority vote to serve as Vice President for the years 2004-2006.

The following members were approved by majority vote for second terms:

Treasurer/Secretary

Michael Reding, MD - 2004-2006

Board of Directors

Leonardo Cohen, MD - 2004-2007

Rory Cooper, MD - 2004-2007

Jonathan Fellus, MD - 2004-2007

Robert Ruff, MD - 2004-2007

Board of Directors - New Members

2004-2007: The following members were approved by majority vote to serve on the Board of Directors:

Barbara Weissman, MD

Joel Feigenson, MD

NEWS FOR CERTIFIED MEMBERS:

New Option for the “Two Meeting” Recertification Requirement

Barbara Weissman, MD – Chair, ASNR Membership Committee

Certified members are currently required to attend two ASNR meetings in their 6-year recertification period. The Membership Committee has been looking for creative ways to help certified members fulfill this “two-meeting” requirement. The Board recently approved an option to include the Neurorehabilitation courses offered at the American Academy of Neurology’s Annual Meeting as one meeting toward the two meeting requirement. Given the intense peer review of the courses and that ASNR members are involved on the AAN Education Committee, the content of these courses would meet ASNR standards for recertification.

The Membership Committee has identified the following courses and

activities with appropriate Neurorehabilitation content from the annual AAN Meeting this year:

6BS.002 Clinical Trial in Neural Repair. Balancing Scientific Rigor and Patient Needs.

7BS.006 The Diagnosis and Management of Concussion.

6SS.051 Neural Repair and Rehabilitation.

8BS.007 Strategies to Improve Motor Skills of Paretic Patients.

2PC.004 Electrophysiologic Tools to Guide Rehabilitation.

2DS.006 Neurorehabilitation, Central Nervous System Recovery, and Reorganization through Therapy.

3DS.002 Brain Injury after Cardiac Arrest.

7SS.006 Child Neurology, Neurodevelopmental Disability, and Neuromuscular Disease.

Note: If you attended another AAN activity that you feel should be included on this list, please submit the course description to the ASNR office at asnr@llmsi.com and the membership committee will review it.

Members are required to send in a copy of their CME Certificate to prove attendance at the meeting; the amount of hours reported as actually spent in the courses will be on the honor system. A minimum of eight hours of courses will qualify as one meeting.

MEMBER ONLY ONLINE ACCESS TO NEUROREHABILITATION & NEURAL REPAIR BEGAN DECEMBER 1, 2004!

As of DECEMBER 1, 2004

Neurorehabilitation & Neural Repair (NNR) became accessible via your ASNR Membership only. To access the electronic version:

1. Go to the Neurorehabilitation & Neural Repair Home Page at <http://nnr.sagepub.com>
2. Click on the "Activations/Acct Mgr" link on the left side of the page.
3. On the resulting page, click on the activation link "Activate Your Editor/Society Member Subscription"
4. You will be prompted to enter your Customer Number – Customer numbers will be sent shortly from Sage, our publisher.
5. After you enter your Customer Number and click "Submit" just fol-

low the simple instructions on the screen. Activation takes just a few minutes; you need only activate once! To activate your account, you will create a username and password to use when returning to the site. If you forget your username or password, go to the "subscriptions" link on the left side of the page and look for the link "What to do if you forget your User Name and/or Password." You will be asked to provide some information about yourself. Upon confirmation of the information, the username or password will be emailed to you. If you require technical assistance, please contact the SAGE Online technical assistance located on the top of the web page under "contact us." Please do not contact the ASNR Executive

Office to retrieve your password, as we do not have access to it.

WORKSHOP HOST NEEDED

The ASNR will not hold a workshop in 2005 because a host institution could not be identified. If your institution would be willing to host a workshop in 2006, please contact Tisha Kehn in the ASNR office at 952-545-6324.

2005 ACRM/ASNR JOINT CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars!

September 28-October 1, 2005

The Westin Michigan Avenue - Chicago, IL
"Achieving Evidence-Based Rehabilitation"



ASNR MCDOWELL, SCHEINBERG, NAMEROW EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION ESTABLISHED

Michael Weinrich, MD, Immediate Past President

The Board of Directors of the American Society of Neurologic Rehabilitation has established a not-for-profit tax-exempt endowment fund to support Neurorehabilitation Research and Education. This fund has been created in honor of three men instrumental establishing Neurorehabilitation as an area of research and practice integral to the care of patients with neurologic disorders.

Fletcher McDowell, MD, focused on the care and recovery of patients following stroke. Labe Scheinberg MD established the first multidisciplinary Multiple Sclerosis care clinic and advocated for a similar approach at other MS clinics. Norman Namerow, MD,

was the primary advocate for multidisciplinary care of patients with traumatic brain injury. These three individuals actively lobbied within the American Academy of Neurology, and the American Neurologic Association to recruit additional support from within the field of Neurology. Their efforts led to creation of the American Academy of Neurology Section on Neurorehabilitation in 1985, and eventually to the creation of the American Society of Neurorehabilitation in 1990.

Those of us who have had the pleasure of working with these founding fathers would like to memorialize their visionary efforts by dedicating this endowment fund to their memory. The ANSR Education and Research Fund will be a vehicle for

perpetuating their goals of applying Neuroscience to Neurorehabilitation. We solicit donations from our physician and allied health professional colleagues, as well as from patients and family members who would like to support Neurorehabilitation research and education.

Please send your donation payable to "ASNR Education and Research Foundation" and mail it to the ASNR office at 5841 Cedar Lake Road, Suite 204, Minneapolis, MN 55416. You will receive a receipt to acknowledge our gratitude for your tax-exempt charitable donation. A list of donors will be published yearly by the American Society of Neurorehabilitation unless you request anonymity.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SHIFT IN THE MISSION OF ASNR

Michael E. Selzer, MD, PhD

At this year's ASNR/ACRM meeting, the ASNR Board of Directors noted that membership in the society was not growing. Dr. Michael Weinrich, the outgoing President of ASNR, pointed out that changes in the health care environment and the advent of the United Council on Neurologic Subspecialties has made professional accreditation and clinical advocacy less important to the mission of ASNR. The Committee agreed that if ASNR is to thrive, it must redefine its mission to emphasize its intellectual basis, support for research, and education. This would not only invigorate interest among its members; it would encourage expansion of its membership beyond neurologists, who currently are

the overwhelming majority in ASNR. Membership should be expanded to include more researchers whose interests are relevant to recovery of function after neural injury, including basic scientists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, rehabilitation nurses, biomedical engineers, and others. This would also increase their awareness of (and submission of manuscripts to) our journal, Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair. There was agreement that a Strategic Planning Committee should be formed to refine the ASNR's mission and to meet with members of the scientific community at other venues.

At an informal social gathering in Dr. Alex Dromerick's suite at the Florida

Annual Meeting, basic and clinical scientists who had lectured in the scientific program of the meeting gave their opinions about how best to attract them as members and increase their attendance at ASNR meetings. Interest would depend on the quality of the scientific program and the presence of a critical mass of people with similar research interests. However, it was also clear that academic physical and occupational therapists comprised a population of basic and clinical scientists with strong potential interests in the ASNR because for many of them, there was no other true intellectual home. The researchers at the social also emphasized the need for ASNR to improve its recruitment of the next generation of scientists, through special

continued on next page

lectures, prizes, fellowships, etc.

With all this in mind, Dr. Peter Rossi, our incoming President, asked me to represent ASNR at this year's Society for Neuroscience meeting. At that meeting, I had the opportunity to get feedback from several basic scientists, and to address the attendees of the Rehabilitation and Neurology Social (co-sponsored by ASNR), which included many PhD physical, occupational and speech therapists. Most of them were familiar with our journal, and several had submitted manuscripts to it, although they did not know much about ASNR. An ad hoc group convened to make specific suggestions. The group included: Carolee Winstein, PT, PhD, University of Southern California; Mindy Levin, PT, PhD, University of Montreal and President of the International Society of Motor Control; Steven Wolf, PT, PhD, Emory University; Randy Nudo, PhD, University of Kansas; Tim Schallert, PhD, University of Texas at Austin; and Ralph Nitkin, PhD, National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research, NIH. Several points emerged from this conversation.

- Many academic physical, occupational and speech therapists value the opportunity to publish their research in NNR.

- ASNR should offer student memberships for graduate students.

- ASNR should promote interactions with the basic neuroscience community through outreach mailings, inclusion in our annual meeting programs and any other ways we can let them know who we are and what our mission is. A small but significant percentage of the SFN membership would eagerly participate in our programs because they value the opportunity to become known to the clinical neurorehabilitation community.

- ASNR should provide seed money for pilot projects that would translate basic research into clinical research and clinical trials. Pharmaceutical companies and other commercial sources might also be approached for financial support.

- The International Society of Motor Control has only 200 members, many of whom are physical therapists. They have an annual meeting but feel isolated, lacking a critical mass, and would welcome having a joint meeting with ASNR.

- The American Physical Therapy Association would welcome joint activities with ASNR.

- Although our regular dues of \$145/year for Non-physicians is not exorbitant, many of the people attending the Rehabilitation and Neurology Social belong to several overlapping organizations and they would probably be more likely to join the ASNR if dues were lower.

- In general, there was great enthusiasm for our efforts to create a new research- and education-oriented mission for ASNR that involves outreach to the broader rehabilitation research community.

Our next step will be to convene a committee to make specific recommendations to our membership. If you would like to volunteer to participate on the Strategic Planning Committee, please contact Tisha Kehn, Associate Executive Director at 952-646-2022. The Committee will meet initially by conference call and then at the 2005 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

We look forward to the membership's continued support and feedback as we work to update and redefine the mission and goals of the Society.

Message from the Editor of NNR

In 2004, Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair experienced a 40% increase in manuscript submission. The manuscripts were almost all unsolicited and mostly original research articles. Our impact factor increased from 0.19 to 0.59 during the first two years since we were indexed on MEDLINE (i.e. between 2000 and 2002). Thus we have benefited from a solid improvement in perceived quality and prestige. Nevertheless, because we are still a small journal, we are vulnerable to variations in manuscript flow and it is still important for us to increase our impact on the scientific community. In the past year, several initiatives were proposed and progress has been made in achieving most of them.

1. Representation at meetings. NNR was represented at a Sage Publishing Co. booth at this year's ACRM/ASNR Annual Meeting, Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting this past fall, and at the AAN meeting this past spring. The Sage representative indicated that many attendees stopped at the booth requesting information about NNR.

2. We need a greater European subscription base. Momentum toward convincing the European neurorehabilitation societies to bundle subscriptions with their membership dues was lost both because the final cost came in a bit too high (\$55/yr as opposed to the \$50 suggested by some European society presidents) and because initially, communication with the Europeans was not pursued aggressively. Despite addi-

continued on next page

tional attention, no national societies have bundled subscription with membership dues. However, the Swiss Society convinced the Swiss national biomedical library to purchase an on-line subscription. Depending on the way countries organize access to biomedical journals, this may be a very effective strategy. We are reviewing the possibility of offering on-line subscriptions. Although there are financial risks, a larger subscription base will translate into greater impact factors and more manuscript submissions, which in turn will enhance subscriptions.

3. Structural Changes in the Editorial Board. Until this year, the presidents of each national society of neurorehabilitation were appointed Associate Editors. This had the advantage of giving the leadership of these societies a stake in the journal. However, these appointments were not based on academic or research expertise, which made the positions largely honorary. Moreover, the number of sponsoring national societies has grown (by two already this year) and additional societies are being formed. Eventually, there will be too many societies to recognize by associate editorships. For that reason, the Editorial Board has been reorganized. Associate Editors have been selected based on balanced expertise in areas covered by the journal and on willingness to exert efforts on its behalf, in terms of selecting reviewers of articles and solicitation of manuscripts. The outstanding scholars who are now the Associate Editors for their subspecialties are:

Niels Birbaumer, PhD
Eberhard-Karls-University
Technology and Engineering

Stephanie Clarke, MD
University of Lausanne
Cognitive Neuroscience

Leo Cohen, MD
NIH/ NINDS
Neural Plasticity

Bruce Dobkin, MD
UCLA
Spinal Cord Disorders

Steven Dunnett, PhD
Cardiff University
Neural Repair

Hans-Peter Hartung, MD
Heinrich-Heine Universitat
Neuromuscular Disorders

Linda Michaud, MD
University of Cincinnati
Pediatric Neurorehabilitation

Louis Quatrano, PhD
NIH/NICHD
Outcomes Measures

Carol Richards, PhD
University of Laval
Physical and Occupational Therapy

Alan Thompson, MD
Inst. of Neurology, Queens Sq.
Progressive Neurological Diseases

Derick Wade, MD
Oxford Centre for Enablement
Stroke

Richard Zorowitz, MD
University of Pennsylvania
Assistant Editor and Reviews

The new Editorial Board structure has already been reflected in issues of NNR. The presidents of the sponsoring national societies are recognized as such in the list of editors. So far, the manuscript review process is working fairly smoothly.

4. Time for New Leadership is approaching. As many of you know, I have indicated my belief that NNR is now strong enough to undergo a turnover of leadership. With the successful restructuring of the Editorial Board, I again express my desire to step down as Editor-in-Chief beginning with issue 1, 2006. The ASNR will have little difficulty identifying an outstanding successor. If this is done well in advance, it will be possible for the outgoing and incoming Editors to work together to effect a smooth transition, and even plan creative initiatives. Meanwhile, I encourage all of you to submit your research and review articles to NNR, confident in the knowledge that they will have a strong impact on the field of neurorehabilitation.



Michael E. Selzer, MD, PhD
Editor-in-Chief