



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mike Reding, MD

As incoming president of the ASNR I want to thank my predecessor, Dr. David Good for his capable leadership of our society over the past 2 years.

Dr. Good has been instrumental in enhancing the financial security of the ASNR by the generous offer of L&L Management to reduce our management fees and by Sage Publications to boost their Editorial Stipend for further development of our ASNR journal, *Neurorehabilitation* and *Neural Repair*. The increase in Editorial Stipend is a generous acknowledgement by Sage Publications of the increase in quality, size and frequency of NNR issues per year. Under the expert leadership of Dr. Bruce Dobkin, NNR now boasts an impact factor of 3.823 which ranks NNR highest of all 27 listed Rehabilitation Journals. Dr. Dobkin was asked to provide additional information concerning the success of NNR which is presented below.

Also under Dr. Good's leadership we have finalized an application in joint sponsorship with the American Academy of Neurology

to have Neurorehabilitation Fellowship programs and physician subspecialty certification assumed by the United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties. The quite significant amount of effort completing this application process was provided by the capable and persistent efforts of Dr. Douglas Katz who has served as Chairman of our ASNR Fellowship Education and Credentialing Committee. Dr. Katz was asked to provide a more detailed update for our membership which is presented below.

Dr. Good was Responsible for initiating our annual ASNR Fellowship Award. This award is in recognition of one or two of our members each year who have provided ongoing support and direction for the society over its lifespan. Our first two Fellows were Drs. Fletcher McDowell and Norman Namerow.

During the past 2 years of Dr. Good's stewardship the ASNR has seen a diversification in its membership and an ongoing effort to solicit membership and participation from the broad spectrum of neurorehabilitation specialties, clinical researchers, and basic neurosciences relevant for neurologic recovery and neural repair.

continued on page 4

ASNR WORKSHOP

The 2009 ASNR Conference *Accelerating Use of Technology in Stroke Rehabilitation: Opportunities and Challenges* will be proudly hosted by **Drake Center in Cincinnati, Ohio** on June 19 and 20 with support from the University of Cincinnati, Nexstim, Bioness and GaitRite. Building on our cutting edge care and research programs in stroke, this two-day workshop will bring together international experts to discuss the practical application, evidence, and opportunities available with new technologies in stroke rehabilitation. Topics include the use of virtual reality for balance and motor retraining; the practical

application of technology to apraxia, speech, swallowing and gait assessment; and half day lab/lectures on memory retraining and electrical stimulation. The faculty includes internationally recognized experts, including local faculty.

Set on a beautiful 42-acre campus in Cincinnati, Ohio, **Drake Center** is the region's premier provider of specialized medical and rehabilitative care. Drake is a private, nonprofit hospital that offers the most comprehensive continuum of this care—including long-term acute care (LTAC), transitional skilled nursing care, outpatient

continued on page 4

The American Society of Neurorehabilitation is undergoing modifications. True to the mission of the ASNR: "The mission of the ASNR is to promote the medical and social wellbeing of persons with disabling neurological disorders, to advance training and research in the basic and clinical sciences that can lead to functional recovery of neurologically impaired persons, and to disseminate the knowledge of this research among professionals and the general public." ASNR leadership realizes that professionals reflecting this mission include other disciplines. The ASNR is does not just represent a group of neurologists.

One discipline in particular that is dynamically promoting Neurorehabilitation is the group of neurologically oriented Physical Therapists. Leadership of this group includes the American Physical Therapy's Neurology Section. The current President of the section is Katherine Sullivan PhD PT. The web site access is www.neuropt.org. It is evident to any one who reads the journal of the ASNR, *Journal of Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair*, or to anyone who attends the ASNR-ACRM meetings that this particular group is quite involved in Neurorehabilitation research as well as activities complimentary to ASNR membership. The Neurology Section of the APTA

continued on page 4



American Society of Neurorehabilitation

Accelerating Use of Technology in Stroke Rehabilitation:

OPPORTUNITIES &
CHALLENGES

June 19 -20, 2009

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PROGRAM COMMITTEE UPDATE

George F. Wittenberg, M.D., Ph.D.
Staff Physician, GRECC, VAMHCS,
Baltimore
Associate Professor, Neurology,
University of Maryland

I was honored to take the reins of the ASNR Program Committee from Krish Sathian's very able hands. (Tamara Bushnik will continue for one further year as ACRM Program Chair, helping maintain much appreciated continuity.) We had a great ACRM-ASNR Joint Educational Conference in Toronto in 2008 and look forward to another one in Denver this Fall (October 6-10, 2009). The subtitle of the Conference is "Building the Evidence Base for Rehabilitation Interventions: From Research to Clinical Care." I am looking at the program for this meeting and the next one as a pair, so that we cover a broad sample of neurorehabilitation interests over the course of two years, without being repetitive.

Last Spring, the Membership task force, of which I am a member, surveyed ASNR members about the annual Conference. We found, not surprisingly, that members had a very broad range of interests, from molecular mechanisms to clinical practice issues. Some members felt that the Conference did not adequately address their interests. We have taken this advice to heart, with steps to include underrepresented clinical perspectives (e.g. pediatric rehabilitation) and scientific expertise on the basic science of neurorehabilitation.

At the time you will read this, the joint ACRM-ASNR will be reviewing plenary and symposium proposals. We are strongly considering an ASNR plenary session on traumatic brain injury, connecting advances in neuroimaging, physiology, and pharmacology



with translation into clinical practice. I think everyone will agree that it is a timely topic, as the sophisticated tools available for non-invasive brain anatomy, particularly diffusion tensor MRI, have not yet translated into meaningful clinical tools for this increasingly important clinical population. Other symposium proposals that are being developed are:

- 1. Genetic and molecular factors** affected rehabilitation outcomes, non-invasive brain stimulation methods as adjuncts in motor retraining,
- 2. Cerebral palsy lifespan issues**, including the clinical care of adults with CP and the potential for useful neuronal plasticity in this population.
- 3. Advanced assistive technologies** with a presentation from the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Advancing Cognitive Technologies in Denver.
- 4. Outcome assessments:** a critical view as it relates to recovery of function.
- 5. Exercise interventions** in neurological disorders, including stroke and Parkinsonism.
- 6. Interagency agreements on collaboration** in TBI, amputation and other signature injuries of the current U.S. participation in global conflicts.

The meeting in Denver will also include more pre-courses than ever, including one on rehabilitation of patients with low levels of consciousness, and the wonderful Early Career Course. But the content also depends on *you*. The abstract deadline is March 31, and we will have a larger space for posters this year, as well as oral presentations of selected abstracts. We look forward to your submissions.

The next meeting will likely include symposia on robotic rehabilitation, a workshop on transcranial direct current stimulation, but again, the content depends on *you*. I would be happy to help ASNR members develop symposium proposals and participate in the Program Committee. See you in Denver and beyond!

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Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair apparently continues to fill the translational research needs of its readers. Its citation index was the highest among 25 rehabilitation journals and in the upper third of all clinical neurology journals in 2008. Submissions have increased by 50% a year for the past 4 years. The acceptance rate has dropped to about 25% despite a doubling of printed pages over the past 2 years. NNR now offers 9 issues of over 100 pages a year. Submissions from Asia and Europe have especially increased, in keeping with the aims of the World Federation of NeuroRehabilitation that NNR also represents. The number of submissions puts a burden on reviewers who have expertise in areas that seem to attract investigators to submit to NNR. The editorial board is always looking to add volunteer reviewers to its list.

The ASNR has been especially helpful in providing resources for the journal's growth. Also, to help with the increasing load, Gert Kwakkel, PhD, who is the new Chair of Neurorehabilitation in the Dept. Rehabilitation Medicine at VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam, has agreed to serve as a European managing editor and began his stint with the January 2009 issue. His group adds to the journal's ability to review research designs and statistical methods. The associate editors and editorial board look forward to your comments and support.

Bruce Dobkin, MD

ASNR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION (ASNRREF)

The ASNR Research and Education Foundation (ASNRREF) is a non-for-profit entity that was established in honor of Drs. Fletcher McDowell, Labe Scheinberg and Norman Namerow in recognition of their contribution to Neurorehabilitation and the ASNR. The basic corpus of the foundation was received as a gift from the Adelson Foundation with additional generous donations from ASNR members and friends. The major purpose of the ASNRREF is to serve as a vehicle for perpetuating the goal of applying neuroscience to neurorehabilitation. The foundation funded the 1st annual Miriam and Sheldon Adelson lecture at the annual

meeting in Toronto in October 2008. The first recipient was Dr. Mark Tuszynski of the University of California San Diego. Dr. Tuszynski's outstanding lecture on axonal plasticity and regeneration in the injured spinal cord was well attended. The Adelson award will again be presented at the 2009 annual meeting to be held in Denver, Colorado in October, 2009.

As a non-profit endowment fund, the ASNR Research and Education Foundation appreciates contributions from our members and friends. It is with these contributions that the Foundation will continue to flourish.

_____ Yes, I would like to donate \$ _____ to the American Society of Neurorehabilitation Research and Education Foundation.

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Credit Card #: _____ Exp.: _____

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continued from page 1

As incoming president of the ASNR I hope to continue the successful efforts of my predecessors. I look forward to helping foster our society's role as a collegial meeting ground for sharing ideas, open discussion of novel intervention strategies, and thoughtful application of neuroscience discoveries to the benefit of our patients.

Building on past successes, the ASNR Program Committee headed by Dr. George Wittenberg is busy collaborating with their colleagues at the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine to develop a varied and interesting agenda for our upcoming combined ASNR-ACRM annual meeting October 7-9, 2009 in Denver, CO. Please mark these dates on your calendar, and plan to attend another exciting ASNR/ACRM Meeting. Please see George's

more detailed comments below.

Also in this newsletter we want to feature the Neurorehabilitation Workshop "Accelerating Use of Technology in Stroke Rehabilitation: Opportunities & Challenges" being presented June 19-20, 2009 in Cincinnati, OH by Dr. Stephen Page and his Colleagues at The Drake Center. Dr. Page was asked to provide more details which are presented below.

In an effort to publicize recent developments in the field of molecular biology and neurogenetics we have asked Dr. Raj Ratan, MD, PhD to give a brief overview of how ones inheritance may have a significant impact upon neurologic impairment and recovery. The importance of ones genetic predisposition to injury, repair and pharmacologic intervention is become increasingly important as is discussed below.

continued from page 1

services, assisted living and wellness programs. As an LTAC hospital, Drake can admit patients directly from intensive care units and provide specialized care and rehabilitation for those needing longer hospital stays because of complex conditions. Drake Center's continuum then helps them progress through all stages of recovery. The ultimate goals are to help patients regain their highest possible levels of functioning and independence. Drake's signature services include care for traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, pulmonary care/ventilator weaning, stroke and advanced wound care. Drake's unique campus includes state-of-the-art therapy gyms; a warm-water aquatic therapy center; and a landscaped, peaceful therapeutic courtyard with multiple outdoor therapy areas. Research is an ongoing priority; a number of these studies are conducted by Drake's Neuromotor Recovery and Rehabilitation Laboratory. Drake is the only hospital in the region with in-house clinical research laboratories funded by the National Institutes of Health, The American Stroke Association and other national and

international funding organizations.

Drake Center is also the first inpatient rehabilitation hospital in the world to use the Nexstim Navigated Brain Stimulation device for clinical research. Drake Center is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and CARF (The Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission—Inpatient Rehabilitation, Hospital [Adult]).

On Friday, June 19, following the conference, Drake will host a cocktail reception in the outpatient area to showcase some of the specialized equipment and services offered to patients such as the BalanceMaster, GaitRite, Bioness, Saeboflex and Driver Simulator, as well as the area's only warm water therapy pool with moveable floor for easy patient access.

Continuing education credit will be available for speech, physical, and occupational therapists, as well as physicians. However, space is limited and, in 2007, the conference filled very quickly. For more information or to register, contact Shannon Wild at The American Society of Neurorehabilitation either by telephone (952-545-6324) or by email at shannonwild@lmsi.com.

continued from page 1

currently lists approximately 3700 members. The ASNR already has some outstanding members who are members of this section. Their participation is valued in the ASNR organization. There are likely more exceptional individuals who would benefit from ASNR membership.

The leadership of the ASNR recognized the importance of establishing a relationship with the Neurology Section of the APTA. Thus, a discussion is ongoing regarding developing an alliance between the two organizations. Benefits to the members of the Neurology Section of the APTA include access to the *NNR* as well as discounts to the annual meeting and access to our newsletter, website and listserv. The leadership is likewise considering other allied healthcare organizations with similar missions in concert with the ASNR.

The leadership of the ASNR wishes to maintain a growing and dynamic organization. Thoughts about how the ASNR may continue to improve are always welcome. Participation in the organization is definitely encouraged at all times. Please contact me or Mike Reding, MD with your suggestions. Thank you for your continued participation in the ASNR.

Barb Weissman, MD
bweissm@emory.edu





LEVELING THE WAY ... RESEARCH PRIZE OF THE FÜRST DONNERSMARCK-FOUNDATION

In 1916, Count Guido Henckel Prince of Donnersmarck set up the Fürst Donnersmarck-Foundation Berlin as a "major convalescence and treatment clinic" for the war wounded, together with a "Research centre for the scientific study and therapeutic evaluation of the medical experience gained in the current war". Today, the foundation runs institutions for the rehabilitation and support of people with physical and multiple disabilities. At the same time it has also set itself the goal of supporting research work in the field of rehabilitation. To mark its 90th Anniversary in 2006, the foundation established a research prize in the field of the rehabilitation, which will be awarded again in 2009.

The Board of Trustees of the Fürst Donnersmarck-Foundation Berlin, which is dedicated to the rehabilitation of people with physical and multiple disabilities, awards a **research prize** for neuro-rehabilitation.

The **prize money of EUR 30,000** can be distributed between more than one winner.

The prize is awarded for **current scientific research work** in the field of neurological rehabilitation of people with acquired damage to the nervous system. The focus of the work shall be on post-clinical long-term rehabilitation, and we are particularly interested in interdisciplinary rehabilitation strategies and methods, as well as the examination of scientific effectiveness and efficiency (outcome research), and how these developments meet the special needs of rehabilitation providers, funding bodies and political institutions (socio-economic effects).

You may submit **academic dissertations and theses, published project reports, book publications** and **specialist journal articles** which have been completed within the past two years.

The prize will be awarded by the Board of Trustees of the foundation on the basis of the recommendation of a **jury** made up of **scientists and doctors working in the field of rehabilitation**.

In your application please enclose the following **document in triplicate**:

1. The scientific paper(s) or dissertation, with a summary
2. A justification for the submission in terms of the goals of the prize
3. Curriculum vitae with scientific career

The decision of the trustees is final and cannot be contested.

Applications must be submitted by 30 June 2009 to:

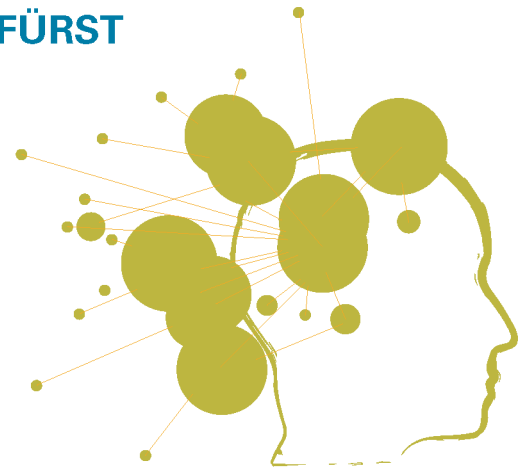
Prof. Walter Schönle
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Dalandweg 19
12167 Berlin, Germany

Queries can be sent to:

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