



NEUROREHABILITATION NEWS

American Society of Neurorehabilitation

Message from the President

Peter W. Rossi, MD, FAAN



The ASNR has experienced another busy year! In the fall we will be celebrating our 13th Annual Meeting in Boston, and the fourth in

collaboration with the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine; be sure to mark your calendars. This year's meeting will include the ASNR presidential and Fletcher H. McDowell Awards. The ASNR offers the Presidential Award for the best basic science poster presented by a student, resident, post-doctoral fellow, or a clinician within five years of training and the Fletcher H. McDowell Award for the best clinical science poster presented by a student, resident, or post-doctoral fellow, or a clinician within five years of training. The purpose of both awards is to encourage research relevant to neurorehabilitation by clinicians and/or

young investigators. We are also pleased to announce the presentation of the First Kenneth Viste, Jr., MD Memorial Lectureship Award to Drs. Michael Selzer, Bruce Dobkin and Barbara Bregman for their plenary session entitled "Spinal Cord Injury: Translating Repair Strategies to Functional Recovery." We hope you will join us for this plenary and presentation of the Award on Saturday, September 30, 2006 at 7:30 am in the Boston Sheraton.

At last year's Annual Meeting, a Long Range Planning Committee met. Highlights of this meeting can be found on page 5 of this newsletter. Many thanks to all of the volunteer committee members for their time and thoughtful contributions.

A new mission statement for the ASNR has been adopted and may be found on our website. In summary, the Long Range Planning Committee Meeting recommitted the ASNR to be responsive to the needs of our membership and recognized the increasing

interdisciplinary nature of our membership. The ASNR is focused on education, research, and training in neurorehabilitation and wishes to foster increased interaction with our colleagues in the basic science of neural repair.

The ASNR Board of Directors continues to explore the possibility of joining the United Council of Neurologic Subspecialties (www.ucns.org). We want to assure the membership that it is the consensus of the Board that the ASNR will maintain the certification of current ASNR-certified members even if future neurorehabilitation certification is offered by UCNS. We will keep our members posted of our progress.

We invite any member interested in taking a leadership role in ASNR to contact the Executive Office at asnr@llmsi.com. We are always looking for new volunteers!

We look forward to seeing you in Boston in September!



2006 ACRM-ASNR Joint Conference

"Translating Research into Practice"

Mark your calendars!

September 27-October 1, 2006

Sheraton Boston Hotel – Boston, MA

Boston Harbor

2005 OFFICER AND BOARD CHANGES

Please join us in extending our thanks to Ann Tilton, MD who served two consecutive 3-year terms. We appreciate her hard work and look forward to her future involvement in the leadership of the Society.

At the last ASNR Board Meeting and Business Meeting of the membership, Laura Lennihan, MD, and George Wittenberg, MD, PhD were elected to serve their second 3-year terms and Anna Barrett, MD was elected as a new member of the Board.

Congratulations and a sincere thank you to all of our volunteer leadership!

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.

Many thanks to the **Dr. Miriam & Sheldon G. Adelson Medical Research Foundation** for their recent generous donation to the Foundation.

FIRST ANNUAL VISTE LECTURESHIP

Bruce Dobkin, MD, Barbara Bregman, PhD, PT, and Michael Selzer, MD have been chosen as recipients of the First Annual Kenneth Viste, Jr., MD Memorial Lectureship for their plenary entitled "Spinal Cord Injury: Translation Repair Strategies to Functional Recovery." Commemorative plaques will be given to the recipients before the plenary, which will be presented at the upcoming ACRM-ASNR Joint Conference on Saturday, September 30, 2006.

Kenneth M. Viste, Jr., MD was a tireless advocate for neurorehabilitation and ASNR, and was active in the organization since its inception. He served as President, Membership Committee Chair, and as a member of the Practice Issues Committee. ASNR will honor the memory of Dr. Viste each year at the annual meeting.

We are honored to have this plenary session included in the Annual Meeting and once again, pleased to acknowledge Drs. Dobkin, Selzer, and Bregman as recipients of the First Annual Viste Lectureship.

2006 Presidential and McDowell Awardees



Jeanne Hoffman, PhD, (R) University of Washington - Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, winner of the Fletcher McDowell award for Best Clinical Science poster presented by a student, resident, or post-doctoral fellow, and Fletcher McDowell (L).



Dai-Youl Kim, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, (R) Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Seoul National University College of Medicine, winner of the Presidential Award for Best Basic Science poster presented by a student, resident, or post-doctoral fellow, and Peter Rossi, MD, (L) President of the American Society of Neurorehabilitation

Thank you to our 2005-2006 ASNRREF Donors

Anna Barrett, MD
Shin Tsu Chang, MD
Alexander Dromerick, MD
John Feerick, MD
Joel Feigenson, MD
Jonathan Fellus, MD
Douglas Katz, MD
Laura Lennihan, MD
Mary McWilliams, MD
Robert Ruff, MD
Michael Selzer, MD
Merie Teetzen, MD
George Wittenberg, MD, PhD

A Message From the Editor

Bruce Dobkin, MD

Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair, an International Journal of Translational Science for Researchers and Clinicians, was ranked among the top 10% of rehabilitation journals and top 40% of all neurological journals for 2004 based upon its ISI impact. The journal belongs to you, the membership of the ASNR, and serves as the official journal of the WFNR and its 15 national societies. This year's issues included the abstracts from

the World Congress in NeuroRehabilitation in Hong Kong and from the 11th International Symposium on Neural Regeneration. The associate editors are Niels Birbaumer, Stephanie Clarke, Leo Cohen, Armin Curt, Stephen Dunnett, Hans-Peter Hartung, Linda Michaud, Louis Quatrano, Carol Richards, Rudiger Seitz, and Alan Thompson.

The journal will expand to 6

issues a year starting in 2007 to accommodate a recent doubling of submissions. One new feature, Point of View: Directions for Research, aims to bring new concepts and old controversies into perspective for the clinician and clinical scientist. Feel free to send me suggestions for a POV or review article and to submit your studies to us. Book reviews and letters about published manuscripts are welcome. Check out our web site at <http://nnr.sagepub.com>.

JOIN A READY-MADE CLINICAL TRIAL WITH INTERNATIONAL COLLEAGUES

The ASNR offers its members the opportunity to join a multi-center randomized clinical trials network for neurorehabilitation interventions, sponsored by the World Federation of NeuroRehabilitation (www.wfnr.co.uk) and ASNR. The ASNR and the WFNR and its national societies aim to promote education and research. One approach will be to join clinicians together to conduct multi-center randomized clinical trials (MRCTs) of simple-to-perform interventions.

By participating in the proposed trials, clinicians and members of the rehabilitation team can acquire experience that may enable them to develop their own center's studies, come to appreciate the scientific rationale for controlled trials, and participate with colleagues around the world. Over time, we anticipate that network participants will suggest both commonly used and novel interventions that may be of interest for the network to test. We believe that the network will enrich your experience in patient care and give you greater access to experts in the discipline of rehabilitation science and patient care. All trials will adhere to CONSORT criteria and advanced registration. Successfully completed studies will be a priority for peer-reviewed publication in Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair (<http://nnr.sagepub.com>) with all contributors listed.

The first single-blind, randomized, multi-center clinical trial employs a rather simple design to test a possibly

valuable intervention within the context of daily care. During routine inpatient rehabilitation for patients with hemiplegic stroke, the Experimental Group will receive daily feedback and verbal reinforcement about its walking speed from a timed walk over 15 m (50 feet). The Control Group will not be timed or receive feedback about walking speed. The study will then compare continuous walking speed for 30 m (100 feet) at the time of inpatient discharge, as well as distance walked in 3 minutes. The reinforcement received by the Experimental Group and the greater awareness about walking speeds over time on the part of the therapist are expected to improve walking speed and distance by greater than 25% over the Control Group.

The trial will determine the effects of reinforcement about walking speed on recovery, examine walking speed changes over the early course of rehabilitation, examine the relationship between short distance walking speed and walking distance over a fixed time, and serve to initiate the clinical research network. The plan is to enroll at least 20-25 subjects from at least 20 centers over 12 months and to follow up these subjects, when possible, at 3 and 6 months after rehab discharge. The findings will add new information about the course of stroke rehabilitation and perhaps lead to evidence for a new and practical intervention.

Participation is painless. You only need to notify the UCLA Data Management Center of a new subject through its Web site, automatically receive the randomized assignment, fill in a few descriptors

about the subject, and follow the simple protocol during the inpatient stay. You will need a blinded observer who can be a PT or nurse to record over the Internet the walking speeds about 3 times during the hospital stay. To participate, you must fill in the application form on the ASNR Web site and agree to follow the first research protocol and submit an approved Informed Consent. All interactions will take place via a dedicated Web site once it is clear that enough sites are interested. No funds are available to participants, but if the network is successful, we expect to compete for funds for the next trial. We aim to start this trial up in September. Please send your application by email to Dr. Bruce Dobkin at bdobkin@mednet.ucla.edu.

WORKSHOP HOST NEEDED

The ASNR will not hold a workshop in 2006 because a host institution could not be identified. If your institution would be willing to host a workshop in 2007, please contact Tisha Kehn in the ASNR office at 952-545-6324.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

A Long Range Planning Committee Meeting was held during the joint ACRM-ASNR meeting on September 28, 2005 at the Westin Michigan Avenue Hotel in Chicago, IL. Volunteer subcommittees were invited before the meeting to write and present position papers on the following topics: Mission and Vision, Promoting Education in Neurorehabilitation, Promoting Research in Neurorehabilitation, Promoting Training in Neurorehabilitation, Needs Assessment of Clinically Based Members, Promoting Membership, Promoting Certification, Finances, Governance, Advocacy and Communication. A summary of the discussion and decisions that were taken to the Board for vote are as follows:

- It will be important for ASNR to build relationships to focus on the bigger picture of injury and recovery so that the message will be able to reach the general public.
- The annual meeting was discussed and it was recommended that the partnership with ACRM be continued. It was also suggested that the Annual Workshop be combined with the Annual Meeting and to use it as a forum to kick-start the meeting.
- The development of a detailed membership survey was recommended.
- It was suggested that the Society be more involved with putting out position statements through the AAN to increase visibility; the Practice Committee will propose suggestions to the Board for how the ASNR can create a system that responds to important issues.
- The Certification subcommittee recommended polling members regarding whether or not they are in favor of the ASNR joining with the UCNS if their current certification is maintained by the ASNR. Fellowship directors should also be polled to see if they are willing to help develop training guidelines.
- Ideas generated by the Promoting Research Subcommittee were holding a workshop or meeting to discuss multi-site trials, utilizing the website to link people doing research, continue ASNR representation at the SfN social, make ASNR a natural reference for young people in different specialties, using the website as a main resource, and to fund a lecture-ship similar to the Coulter Lecture supported by ACRM during the Annual Meeting.
- The Membership subcommittee reported the establishment of the new student membership category; the Membership Committee was charged with creating a plan to increase membership and recruit pain specialists; this plan should include target goals for growth.
- Membership with the WFNR will be continued and offering CME credit for the WFNR meeting in Brazil will be explored. The possibility of hosting the 2010 meeting will also be explored.
- The Communications subcommittee reported that the newsletter will continue to be published 1-2 annually. It was also suggested the website be kept more current and user-friendly.
- Communication will be made with the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) to work on educational and lobbying endeavors. The Liaisons subcommittee reported on efforts to increase a more formal line of communication between the ASNR and the AAN with an ASNR representative on each Board of the AAN.
- It was agreed that there should be an increased awareness about the Foundation and its educational activities. The possibility of hiring a grant writer will be explored to help raise funds for the Foundation.
- The Mission and Vision subcommittee recommends that the Board adopt the following mission statement: "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."

The Long Range Planning Committee concluded their meeting with the suggestion that the Committee reconvene in five years.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the long terms goals of the Society, please send them to the Executive Office at asnr@llmsi.com.

BRAIN INJURY PROGRAM - Physician Position Available

The National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) in Washington, D.C., and the Georgetown University Department of Rehabilitation Medicine is seeking a physician for our Brain Injury Program. Responsibilities include clinical care, teaching and program development. There are ample opportunities for clinical research and program leadership. The ideal candidate is a BC/BE neurologist or physiatrist with relevant fellowship training or experience in Brain Injury Rehabilitation. Applicants with research training or experience are encouraged to apply. The position also includes a faculty appointment in Rehabilitation Medicine or

Neurology at Georgetown University. NRH is an internationally recognized 125 bed free-standing rehabilitation hospital and outpatient network serving the Baltimore–Washington area. We have a PM&R residency program and a growing externally funded research division. Dedicated clinical programs include Brain Injury, Stroke, SCI, Pediatrics, Sports, Cancer, Post-Polio, and more. The Brain Injury Program includes a 24 bed unit, a strong neuropsychology service, and a Day Treatment Program. The adjacent Washington Hospital Center maintains a Level I Trauma Center, a Burn Unit and active Neurosurgery, Neurology and Interventional Radiology services,

and the NIH/NINDS Stroke Service. Our location in the nation's capital offers an unparalleled opportunity for involvement in Advocacy and Policy matters at the Federal level.

The position includes excellent benefits and salary commensurate with experience. Interested candidates should contact Edward B. Healton, M.D. MPH, Senior Vice-President and Medical Director, National Rehabilitation Hospital, 102 Irving Street NW, Washington, DC, 20010; 202-877-1504, renata.v.belt@med-star.net

ACRM-ASNR 2006 JOINT CONFERENCE

Join us at the 2006 annual joint meeting of the American Society of Neurorehabilitation and the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, “Translating Research into Practice.” We’re very excited about the scientific program this year, which includes a wide range of high-quality plenary, course and abstract presentations. The program begins Thursday morning, September 28th, when ASNR President Peter Rossi, MD will welcome attendees jointly with ACRM President Mitchell Rosenthal, PhD. Scientific content is scheduled through Saturday evening the 30th. ASNR-led plenaries will take place on Friday and Saturday, with the first annual Kenneth M. Viste, Jr. Memorial Lectureship awarded to the plenary, “Spinal Cord Injury: Translating Repair Strategies to Functional Recovery,” to be presented by Michael Seltzer, MD, PhD, Barbara Bregman, PhD, PT, and Bruce Dobkin, MD. We are delighted to have a number of member and nonmember presenters taking part in this year’s course program, with nonmember presenters including Robert Wagenaar, PhD, and Alvaro Pascual-Leone, MD, PhD.