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1st Pan American Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders Congress

FEBRUARY 24–26, 2017 MIAMI, FLORIDA, USA

www.pascongress2017.org

IMPORTANT DATES
January 24, 2017 Final Pre-Registration Deadline
February 24-26, 2017 1st Pan American Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders Congress

#pascongress2017
Letters to the Editors

Your Comments and Questions Are Always Welcome

Editorial Policy

As part of its democratic commitment, MDS welcomes the input of all its members about the features and articles that appear in this newsletter. Have a comment or question? Each issue will include responses in the “Letters to the Editor” section. All materials submitted become the property of MDS.

Address your communications to:
Editor: Moving Along
International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society
555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3823 USA
Tel: +1 414-276-2145 • Fax: +1 414-276-3349
E-mail: info@movementdisorders.org
Looking back on 2016, we could highlight all of the many outstanding accomplishments of the Society over the past year. Instead, we would like to take this opportunity to remember why it is we work so hard to further the field of Movement Disorders and ultimately improve the lives of the patients suffering from these diseases. In this issue, we pay tribute to a very special patient - on June 3, 2016, Muhammad Ali lost his decades-long fight with Parkinson’s disease (PD), and we have asked MDS members to share stories, lessons and anecdotes from their experiences with him through the years. ”The Greatest of All Time” had a mission to fight his disease, perhaps with more strength and fury than he did in the boxing ring, and as the physicians, scientists and health professionals working with PD patients every day, we have a mission to continue his fight. We know these stories are not even a fraction of what our members could share, but we hope you find some wisdom, inspiration and humor in these very personal testimonials.

Looking ahead to 2017, MDS already has a full calendar of activities around the globe, one of which is the 1st PAS Congress coming up in February in the beautiful destination of Miami, FL, USA. You will find the latest updates about this exciting new meeting on page 9. The annual International Congress will quickly follow in Vancouver, BC, Canada in June. And while the 2017 activities are rapidly approaching, the Society is also busy with planning for the years ahead. In this photo below, you will see MDS President, Oscar Gershanik, working with the MDS committees to make arrangements for the International Congress to be held in Nice, France, in September 2019.

We are pleased to introduce a new series of brief interviews with young movement disorder specialists from the MDS LEAP Program. We hope you enjoy the first interview with Dr. Mónica Kurtis. Last, but certainly not least, this issue includes updates from the MDS Website Editors, Health Professional (Non-Physician) Special Interest Group and the MDS Regional Section Chairs.

We wish for a very happy and prosperous new year for our readers and hope you all enjoy this special issue of Moving Along!
Dear MDS Members,

As 2016 comes to a close, I would like to take a minute to reflect on the great accomplishments the Society has seen this year.

Our membership has grown to over 6,500 members in 127 countries, with over eight years of continued membership growth. The International Congress in Berlin brought over 5,500 movement disorders specialists together, marking a record breaking attendance number in Europe. MDS successfully held 22 live courses in 2016, including the 5th annual Asian and Oceanian Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Congress in Manila, Philippines. We have had many successful partnerships with groups such as the Michael J. Fox Foundation and the SAFRA Foundation, leading to increased education and awareness worldwide.

2017 is looking to follow the same tremendous growth as 2016, with the introduction of the 1st Pan American Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Congress in Miami, FL, USA, in February, the 21st International Congress in Vancouver, BC, Canada in June and over 35 live courses in development on a number of topics to be held throughout the world during the coming year.

The continued success of MDS gives the Society the opportunity to truly give back to the field through programs such as free membership for underprivileged countries through the Waived Dues program, our newly established free membership program for Junior and Student members, our Associate Membership program, giving the opportunity for one free year of membership and a 50% discount on the second year for people newly introduced to the Society through our educational opportunities, as well as a significant increase in the number of travel grants that will be available for delegates attending the International Congress.

This issue of Moving Along truly gets to the heart of why we do what we do. As we highlight the memory of Muhammad Ali through stories from our members who treated him, it shows how patients touch our lives, which is why we continue to work to achieve our mission of advancing the science and promoting education and awareness of Parkinson’s disease and movement disorders throughout the world.

Sincerely,

Oscar S. Gershanik, MD
MDS President, 2015-2017
Continuing the Fight Against Parkinson’s Disease – MDS Members Remember “The Greatest of All Time”: Muhammad Ali (1942–2016)

— Mark Stacy, MD, Professor of Neurology and Vice Dean for Clinical Research, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA; Moving Along Co-Editor

On June 3, 2016, with the words, “After a 32-year battle with Parkinson’s disease, Muhammad Ali has passed away at the age of 74. The three-time World Heavyweight Champion boxer died this evening,” the world changed. Again.

While much has been written of this man, the world of Parkinson’s disease came to know him as he served as our ambassador with the lighting of the Olympic Cauldron in 1996. Moving Along has chosen to honor his legacy through the experiences of two groups who were fortunate enough to see him frequently during this time. The first are his physician care team from Emory University: Mahlon DeLong, Stewart Factor, and a successful fellow, now Chair, at the University of Florida, Michael Okun. The other, the leaders of his center, The Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center at Barrow Neurological Institute: Abraham Lieberman, Mark Stacy and Holly Shill.

There are many stories about Muhammad: www.cnn.com/2016/06/06/health/muhammad-ali-parkinsons-stacy/. Many share the same themes, his desire to make a difference for all people, even if, and especially, if it was one at time.

While Ali once proclaimed, “I shook up the world,” the arc of his life may be measured in two periods of time. After winning the gold medal in the 1960 Olympics, Muhammad received a hero’s welcome in New York only to return to Louisville, Kentucky, where he was refused service at a local diner. He became the heavy weight champion – three times. The second period, after his title was taken from him when he refused to be drafted as a soldier in Vietnam, led to a lifetime of work as a civil rights activist and a lecturer on college campuses that was vital to the push for equality in the United States. While in this period, he was praised and sometimes vilified, and his second Olympics produced a far different response from the first. For the millions watching, his determination to carry the torch and light the Olympic cauldron was simply remarkable.

The Olympic gold of his youth did not matter to many in 1960’s America. The opening ceremony of the 1996 games was where his muted dignity became extraordinary - he lit that flame for everyone: people of color, people with disabilities, people with struggles. He went on to found the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center in Phoenix, Arizona in 1997, and in 2005 the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky. The tenets of these centers: peace, social responsibility and respect, and the caregiver behind it, were exemplified at his memorial service. Natasha Mundkur, a center volunteer, with the gentle support of Mrs. Lonnie Ali from the front row whispering, “it’s ok,” summed up the thoughts of many: “We are Ali…his story is far from over.”

It is difficult to say much more than what everyone knows about Muhammad’s unique personality, character and generosity, except as preserved in personal experiences. I first saw Muhammad for his Parkinson’s in 1994 two years before the Olympics in Atlanta, which was a memorable occasion. Muhammad had been specifically invited to visit with the athletes. I had seen him on Tuesday in the clinic and headed out of town on Thursday for a meeting. As I watched the opening ceremony on TV, I was shocked, as were the commentators and viewers, to see what was one of the most remembered images of all time. Out of what seemed to be a slow opening appeared Ali, tremulous as he attempted to light the torch. Ali watching feared, as did Ali himself, that he would not be able to do it. The organizers had told him only 24 hours before the opening ceremony, in order to keep it a secret. This event became a lasting image of his steadfastness and preservation in dealing with his Parkinson’s, which he seemed to view as just a part of the hand he had been dealt. He dealt with it head on, never complaining, and focusing on other issues and others problems.

Muhammad and Lonnie made frequent visits to Atlanta. It would be difficult to overstate how his presence and interactions with all who he came together with were so singular and remarkable. On several occasions, we went out for dinner, unannounced to anyone. Once, as we left the restaurant and walked to the car, I noticed a flock of diners following us. Muhammad, always ready to engage an audience, began to interact with the growing crowd in the parking lot, and, finally, to perform numerous magic tricks, which he frequently did for anyone willing. It was something I will never forget - demonstrating his special joy and way of interacting with others.

— Mahlon DeLong, MD, Professor, Emory School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, USA
Muhammad Ali has received care at Emory University since 1996, under the leadership of Mahlon DeLong, MD. I joined the faculty at Emory in 2005, and during one of the first few weeks, Dr. DeLong asked me to come with him to see one of his patients in the VIP pavilion of the University hospital. I walked in, and there was Mr. Ali and his wife, Lonnie. He was larger than life, powerful arms and the unmistakable face. He was sitting in a chair, drawing a picture with a purple marker - a boxing ring, two figures and huge crowd depicted by hundreds of dots that he meticulously placed. When I asked who was in the picture, he said matter-of-factly and with a smile, “Joe Frazier”. He never met me before but was interactive, friendly and funny and laughing at himself.

Lonnie was warm and friendly, and spoke openly about how long they knew each other and when they married and how he misbehaves. I had numerous opportunities to see them again as they returned every six months. He was always happy to have his picture taken with staff. He especially loved to get his picture taken with young women, including my daughter, Rachel.

In late 2005, he had cervical spine surgery for stenosis. He recovered in the rehabilitation center on Emory campus. He nearly knocked Mahlon over when he demonstrated he could still throw a punch.

— Stewart Factor, DO, Director of the Movement Disorders Program, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, USA

I was driving down the road in my old Honda Accord with Muhammad Ali in the passenger seat. We began to start having an argument. He stated emphatically, “Everyone knows me.” I said, “Not everyone knows you, Muhammad” and he said, “Watch.” We pulled up to a bus stop and he rolled down the passenger window. He performed his signature mouth clicking noise to get the attention of a random woman who was waiting for the bus. As soon as she turned and looked, she lit up. She screamed, “It’s Muhammad Ali, its Muhammad Ali!” Suddenly, the whole bus stop erupted and started jumping up and down. They all rushed to the open car window. Luckily, the light changed before we were swallowed by the crowd. Muhammad said, “See, everyone knows me.” I argued back, “Everyone does not know you, Muhammad.” We pulled up to the next light and he rolled the window down again. He clicked, but this time the woman looked up and then ignored him. He kept clicking, and she became visibly uncomfortable. She tried to look away. The light turned and we drove away. Muhammad then turned to me and said, “Ok, maybe she doesn’t know me.” He then pulled a Lenny Kravitz CD out of my folio and instructed me to crank it on.

— Michael Okun, MD, Adelaide Lackner Professor and Chairman of Neurology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA

I met Ali in 1984 after he was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease and he wanted a second opinion. In the last nine years, I saw Ali frequently. He and his wife, Lonnie, were very interested in the Ali Parkinson Center at Barrows and involved themselves in its mission and operation. The Center now encompasses 30,000 square feet and offers a comprehensive program from support groups, to fall prevention, to deep brain stimulation. Funding is through Celebrity Fight Night, which Ali jump started, and the Parsons Foundation, which Ali facilitated.

To say Ali was a greater inspiration to all Americans, and especially African Americans, than the legendary Joe Louis does not capture Ali. In 1938, when Hitler threatened civilization, Joe Louis, grandson of a slave, knocked out Hitler’s champion, Max Schmeling. It was boxing and politics on a global scale.

In the 1970s, when Ali was at the height of his career, he visited hospitals and nursing homes to give hope to those in need. One day while visiting a home, the administrators rushed him past a closed door.

“Who’s in that room?” asked Ali.

“Oh he’s hopeless, hasn’t talked in years.” said the Administrator.

“I want to meet him.” said Ali.

Inside, seated on a wheel-chair, was an old African American man. Ali looked in his eyes and said, “Do you know me?”

“Yes.” replied the old man. Speech therapists, psychologists and psychiatrists had not gotten the old man to speak, but Ali had.

“Who am I?” asked Ali.

“You Joe Louis” said the old man.
Everyone, except Ali, tried to correct him. But Ali hugged the old man, swept everyone out of the room and said, “If that man thinks I’m Joe Louis, and he’s so glad he met Joe Louis that he talked, then I’m Joe Louis.”

— Abraham Lieberman, MD, Lonnie & Muhammad Ali Professor of Parkinson Research, Barrow Neurological Institute, Phoenix, AZ, USA

In all the time I spent with Muhammad, there was only one instance that I saw him bristle. I was driving him and three of his long-time friends back to their hotel, and we passed a popular restaurant. Someone in the back seat—Muhammad always road shotgun—stated that “Lonnie (Ali) loves to go there.” I responded, “Me, too, but I can never get a table.” To which, Muhammad said, “I don’t like that.” This was followed by a statement, and laughter, “Muhammad, you have never waited for a table in your life.” He let it go.

I am grateful for a man who changed the world, and that in the light hearted banter after a long day, he could forgive friends easily, even when they forgot how hard he fought for a seat.

— Mark Stacy, MD, Professor of Neurology and Vice Dean for Clinical Research, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA

I first met Muhammad Ali in the late 1990s, when I was a resident in neurology at Barrow Neurological Institute. At the time, I had not yet decided whether to specialize in Movement Disorders. He was at the newly established Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center to visit with the team and learn about its activities. He had PD for more than a decade, but still had an amazing persona. He was a huge man and enveloped me in a big bear hug, even though I had just met him. I remember thinking that I hope he remembers to let me go again. He had difficulty speaking and relied on a close friend to “translate” for him. Despite this, there was no doubt PD had not changed the personality of “The Greatest of All Time.” He spent the visit playing practical jokes on the various team members and doing magic tricks to entertain the staff and their families. I realized shortly thereafter that this specialty was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I wanted to meet other patients like him and somehow give them some of this grace and humor to deal with this complicated neurological condition. I am very proud to be back at the Muhammad Ali Movement Disorder Center as its Director. I hope we, and the rest of the Parkinson’s community, can continue to honor his legacy by taking care of patients and families as he wanted us to—without regard to race, background or socioeconomic status.

— Holly Shill, MD, Director, Lonnie and Muhammad Ali Movement Disorder Center, Barrow Neurological Institute, Phoenix, AZ, USA
PAS Congress Updates

Planning is nearly complete for the 1st Pan American Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Congress, February 24-26, 2017, in Miami, FL, USA.

As a result of the rapid growth of the MDS Pan American Section (MDS-PAS), there is the need for a forum to discuss relevant issues in our field that are specific to the Pan American Section. This will also be a tremendous opportunity for MDS-PAS members to interact with colleagues from different parts of Pan America.

Registration and Housing

The final pre-registration deadline is January 24, 2017. After this date, delegates must register onsite. The headquarter hotel and venue for the 1st Pan American Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Congress is the InterContinental Miami. Accommodations are limited, so please reserve your room as soon as possible. For more registration and housing details and pricing information please go to www.pascongress2017.org.

PAS Congress Theme: “Movement Disorders in the Americas: State of the Art”

The theme of the PAS Congress is "Movement Disorders in the Americas: State of the Art", which will be showcased in two Plenary Sessions and two Parallel Sessions. Experts from the Pan American region will serve as faculty, and the meeting participants can elect to attend any or all of the sessions.

Scientific Program

The PAS Congress Scientific Program will incorporate Corporate Therapeutic Symposia, Themed Plenary and Parallel Sessions, Skills Workshops and Guided Poster Tours. Sessions will focus on cutting edge research into disorders relevant to the Americas. The complete Scientific Program can be found by visiting www.pascongress2017.org.

Events

Welcome Ceremony

Friday, February 24, 2017
19:30 – 21:00

All PAS Congress attendees are warmly invited to attend the Welcome Ceremony at the InterContinental Miami. This event is open to all registered delegates for no additional fee.

Challenging Case MDS-PAS Rounds

Saturday, February 25, 2017
19:30 – 22:00

Please join Drs. Alberto Espay, Steven Frucht and Helio Teive, as they present interesting and educational movement disorder patient cases. On the evening of the event, the chosen cases will be presented and the audience will witness an expert explain the diagnosis with possible help from the audience. Recognition will be given for the most interesting and challenging cases. The goal is for the audience to witness clinical experts present and discuss a case by phenomenology, syndromic classification and differential diagnosis.

This event is open to all registered delegates. For more information about the Challenging Case MDS-PAS Rounds, please go to www.pascongress2017.org or contact the MDS Secretariat at pascongress@movementdisorders.org.
MDS LEAP Interview: Mónica M. Kurtis

— Carlo Colosimo, MD, Santa Maria University Hospital, Terni, Italy; Moving Along Co-Editor

The LEAP Program was established by MDS to provide a leadership training program to support the career development and success of young movement disorder specialists. This issue leads a new series of brief interviews with “LEAPers”, starting with Dr. Mónica M. Kurtis, who was recognized in 2016.

Dr. Kurtis is currently the Movement Disorders Unit Director at the Neurology Department of Hospital Ruber Internacional in Madrid, Spain.

Mónica, is your family background a medical one?
I am the first doctor in my family. Not an easy role since whenever anyone (cousins of cousins included) gets sick, you can guess who they call! My father was a quiet tempered American businessman and my mother a teacher with a typically Spanish outgoing personality. They provided my brother and I with a bicultural background and a natural open mindedness that we both appreciate immensely.

Why did you choose neurology and then Movement Disorders?
During medical school at the University of Navarra, I joined Dr. Rosario Luquin’s lab, focusing on carotid sinus stem cell implants in the substantia nigra of mice models. I tried to keep an open mind to other specialties, but PD and movement disorders kept “winning”. After completing my neurology residency in Madrid, I continued my training with Dr. Stanley Fahn and Dr. Seth Pullman at Columbia University in New York. Fellowship convinced me that, in movement disorders, patients teach you daily and the complexity of pathogenic mechanisms would never cease to be fascinating.

What is the current focus of your research?
Currently, our research is focused on patient and caregiver quality of life as well as non-motor symptoms in PD and their role in PD subtyping. Our group is participating in several multicenter longitudinal epidemiological trials, studying non-pharmacological interventions in PD caregivers and patients, and investigating cognitive symptoms with their neuroimaging correlates (volumetric MRI and ultrasound).

What significant advancement will you foresee in the field in the next ten years?
I foresee a reliable series of biomarkers that in combination with clinical and genetic markers may identify at risk populations for PD. Research interventions at this prodromal stage of the disease may be key in developing disease modifying drugs. We will also advance in our subtyping of PD and hopefully see gene-specific treatments.

What would you have done if you had not studied medicine?
In Spain, you chose your degree at the end of high school. I did not feel ready to make that decision, because I liked most of my subjects and did not hate anything in particular, so I went to Princeton University in the USA, where I could get a broader education before having to decide on a career. That seems like a long time now, because, although I still have many interests, I can not think of another profession other than being a neurologist!
Special Interest Group Update: Health Professionals (Non-Physician)
— Victor McConvey, RN, MACN, Elwood, VIC, Australia; Chair, Health Professionals (Non-Physician) Special Interest Group (HP-SIG)

Observations from the World Parkinson’s Congress
Leaders of the MDS Health Professional (Non-Physician) Special Interest Group (HP-SIG) had the opportunity to attend the World Parkinson’s Congress (WPC), in Portland, OR, USA on September 20-23, 2016. An observation made by HP-SIG leaders was that many patients do not know where or how to locate allied Health Professionals dedicated to Parkinson’s disease.

Additionally, rarely do Health Professionals have the opportunity to sit down with colleagues of the same discipline to discuss issues in daily practice, in a sharing (non-lecture) atmosphere. This opportunity for sharing knowledge and reflective practice is of great interest to many.

HP-SIG Appoints New Leadership
The HP-SIG is pleased to announce the following individuals have been selected for Leadership Roles within the group:

- Maria Elisa Pimentel Piemonte, PT, PhD
  Chair, HP-SIG-Pan American Section
  Dr. Piemonte is a Professor at the University of São Paulo, Brazil.

- John Dean, MA, CCC-SLP
  Chair, HP-SIG-Web Editorial Board
  John is the Healthcare Strategy & Technology Director at the Davis Phinney Foundation in Boulder, CO, USA.

- Amy Lemen, LCSW
  Chair, HP-SIG-Education Group
  Amy is the Program Director at the Fresco Institute at New York University- Langone, NY, USA.

New Brazilian Network for Inter Professional Care in Parkinson’s Disease
As an important strategy and long-term goal to improve the inter-professional care of Parkinson’s disease (PD) in Brazil, the creation of the Brazilian network for inter professional care in PD (AMPARO) was proposed during the MDS Allied Health Team Training that took place in São Paulo, Brazil in 2016.

The Brazilian network is open to all individuals residing in Brazil, but may be of special interest to professionals whom speak Portuguese, residing in countries outside of Brazil.

About the AMPARO Initiative
Supported by the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), this initiative is part of the Research Center, Innovation and Diffusion in Neuromatemática (CEPID NeuroMat), and aims to promote improvement in the quality of life of people living with PD, and their families, in Brazil.

The AMPARO initiative aims to:
- Identify the main challenges of PD in Brazil;
- Discuss strategies to overcome challenges;
- Promote the inter professional care of PD;
- Offer an educational program for People with Parkinson’s (PwP), families and caregivers; and
- Offer an educational program / training for inter professional care of PwP.

Educational programs of the AMPARO initiative are offered in Portuguese by Movement Disorder specialists and will be available on the AMPARO website.

For further information about AMPARO network, please visit: https://amparo.numec.prp.usp.br/

For questions about the Brazilian AMPARO network, please contact Maria Elisa Pimentel Piemonte at elisapp@usp.br.

View New Content on the HP-SIG Webpage
HP-SIG related videos from the 20th International Congress are now available for viewing on the MDS website. Watch the multidisciplinary panel presentation given at the HP-SIG networking meeting at the International Congress, and check out Mariella Graziano’s interview of past-HP-SIG-Chair, Ruth Hagestuen.

Upcoming Virtual Meetings for the HP-SIG
The HP-SIG welcomes like-minded professionals to provide input and join the discussion during the group’s quarterly meetings via Basecamp. Meetings occur online over a 72-hour period to allow professionals from around the world an opportunity to shape the direction and initiatives of the MDS HP-SIG.

Please e-mail Samantha Surillo, ssurillo@movementdisorders.org, if you would like to be added to the HP-SIG Leadership Meetings via Basecamp.
Oral History Project Offers Insights into Members’ Personal and Professional Achievements

Every year at the MDS International Congress, members from around the world gather to share insights into their research as movement disorders professionals.

The 20th International Congress in Berlin was no exception. Close to 5,500 delegates attended the International Congress, representing a myriad of disciplines and levels of knowledge.

In an effort to get to know members a little better, and to share their expertise with others, the Archives Committee conducts Oral History interviews at the meeting. This project dates back to 2009 with the first set of interviews conducted at the International Congress in Paris.

Since then, the Society has added close to 50 video interviews with key members who share their backgrounds and experience in the field of neurosciences and movement disorders.

To view the video interviews, search “Archives Committee Oral History Project” on the MDS website.

We Want to Hear from You! Share Your News on MDS Website

Do you have ideas for things you’d like to see on the MDS website? Whether it’s a new research paper, upcoming conference, news from the field of Movement Disorders, a colleague’s accomplishments, or a simple update from your region of the world, send it our way and we will consider it for the Society website.

Visit the News section of the website for more information.

Social Media Networks Connect Colleagues and Friends Around the Globe

We want you to stay connected with your colleagues and friends who are members of the Society. Our social media channels have seen increasing growth over the years, and we want YOU to stay informed and connected with MDS. Like MDS on Facebook, follow MDS on Twitter (@movedisorder), or join other professionals in the MDS LinkedIn group.

You can post photos from courses you have attended, or share news about events or research going on in your corner of the world. Visit the Society’s new social media website for information on how to join your peers and stay informed and engaged with MDS!

www.movementdisorders.org/social-media
Letter from the MDS-AOS Chair  
— Nobutaka Hattori, MD, PhD, Chair, MDS-AOS

In 2016, one of the highlights for the MDS-AOS region was the 5th Asian and Oceanian Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders Congress (Chair: Raymond L. Rosales) in Manila, Philippines, March 11-13, 2016, with an attendance of 700 participants and faculty from around the world. Interesting topics on engagement in clinical trials, PD palliative care and neurorehabilitation, as well as Asian movement disorder perspectives and gaps were included. The plenary sessions on Basal Ganglia circuitry, genetics in dystonia and the unique ones in Asia definitely gathered an audience.

On the last day of the congress, at the same venue, 250 PD patients and caregivers came for the occasion of the 11th International Symposium of the Asian and Pacific Parkinsonism Association (APPA). Local and foreign faculty speakers were invited to discuss PD expectations, care and treatment. The APPA representatives had the opportunity to meet a day prior, in order to discuss how to reinforce the association and future meetings.

MDS-AOS also had a strong regional showing at the 20th International Congress in Berlin, Germany with 674 participants from 24 different AOS countries.

The MDS-AOS region has supported many Outreach Programs in 2016 throughout the region in the following countries:

- Colombo, Sri Lanka, Ambassador Program, February 12-13, 2016, Attendance: 100
- Mumbai, India, Ambassador Program, February 19-21, 2016, Attendance: 1200
- Jakarta, Indonesia, Ambassador Program, February 25-26, 2016, Attendance: 19
- Yangon, Myanmar, Developing World Education Program, July 7-8, 2016, Attendance: 100
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Ambassador Program, August 18-21, 2016, Attendance: 33

Outreach Courses

- Antipolo, Philippines, Developing World Education Program, September 11, 2016, Attendance: 133
- Shanghai, China, Developing World Education Program (shortform), September 29-October 1, 2016, Attendance: 256
- Georgetown, Malaysia, Visiting Professor Program, November 18, 2016, Attendance: 210 (This program also successfully included the first MDS-AOS Virtual Professor Program)

The following five Live Courses were held in the MDS-AOS region in 2016:

- Manila, Philippines – SYNERGIES, March 10, 2016 Attendance: 30
- Amman, Jordan – Middle East Continuing Education for Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders, May 19, 2016 Attendance: 12
- Amman, Jordan – Allied Health Course (Rehabilitation in Parkinson’s Disease), May 20, 2016 Attendance: 84
- Seoul, Korea – Deep Brain Stimulation of Movement Disorders, July 15-16, 2016 Attendance: 40
- Suzhou, China – Basic Scientist Summer School, August 4-6, 2016 Attendance: 69

The MDS-AOS has continued to focus on increasing the number of memberships for 2017 as we aim for growth of the MDS-AOS region. We are particularly encouraging the cultivation of younger members (40 and under) as well as adding members from countries with large populations such as China and India.

With best regards,

Nobutaka Hattori  
Chair, MDS-AOS
3rd MDS-AOS Basic Scientist Summer School – Suzhou, China, August 4–6, 2016
— Sheng Zhuang, Department of Neurology, 2nd Affiliated Hospital of Soochow University, Suzhou, Jiangsu, China

With the intention of sparking wisdom among young basic scientists and clinicians in the field of Parkinson’s disease and Movement Disorders, the 3rd MDS-AOS Basic Scientists Summer School was held on August 4-6, 2016 in Suzhou, Jiangsu, China. This course was organized by four Course Directors: Chunfeng Liu, MD, PhD, 2nd Affiliated Hospital of Soochow University; Huifang Shang, MD, West China Hospital of Sichuan University; Eng-King Tan, MD, Singapore General Hospital; and Pei Zhong, MD, PhD, 1st Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University.

This course provided various advances in pre-clinical disciplines as well as a valuable platform to exchange ideas. It covered aspects of Parkinson’s disease and movement disorders from pathogenesis, diagnosis, and management, as well as educational topics such as how to propose a project, and how to handle rejected papers.

The course attracted 69 participants including young neurologists, graduate students, post-doctoral and junior scientists from ten countries around the world. Despite being a short three-day course, it was composed of diverse methodologies, including morning lectures, attendees’ presentations and group discussions, cross-talk and collaboration as well as featured social programs of Suzhou.

Day 1
Day 1 focused on pathomechanisms, new diagnostic criteria of Parkinson’s disease, mechanisms of motor complications of Parkinson’s disease and therapeutic strategies to prevent motor complications, and non-motor symptoms of Parkinson’s disease and the role of pain for Parkinson’s disease. In the afternoon, six participants presented their research, and faculty members gave critiques and comments of their research projects.

Day 2
During Day 2, a wider range of lectures were given on Parkinson’s disease and other movement disorders, including:
• research on rapid eye movement disorder
• role of circadian clock
• update on deep brain stimulation and the study of TMS therapy
• current progress and future prospects for genetic research of Parkinson’s disease and movement disorders
• genetic features of Chinese Parkinson’s disease patients
• genetic background of sleep behavior phenotypes

The strategy of how to handle a rejected paper impressed the young neurologists and scientists. After the session, to provide an interactive educational experience, all the participants and faculty members were invited to pay a visit to the Institute of Neuroscience at Soochow University. A Chinese-style welcome dinner was then served afterward, which created a harmonious atmosphere.
Day 3
The last day of the course showcased creative perspectives on mitochondrial dysfunction in Parkinson's disease, hydrogen sulfide involvement in the autophagic degradation of α-synuclein, and cellular and animal models of Parkinson's disease. The cross talk in the afternoon had such active participation by the clinicians and scientists that the host had to break for the heated discussion. At the end of the course, three best projects were selected.
Overall, the course, as well as the beautiful city of Suzhou, received a highly positive evaluation from the participants and the faculty members. Attendees greatly appreciated the learning experience. It is promising that more effective and differing types of courses in movement disorders for young scientists and clinicians are being planned for the future. Last but not least, we would like to express our very sincere appreciation to all the faculty, staff and participants whose dedicated efforts made the MDS Basic Scientists Summer School such a success.

MDS Visiting Professor Program – China, November 2016
— Oscar S. Gershanik, MD, MDS President (2015-2017), Buenos Aires, Argentina

As part of our Society strategy to increase our presence in China and engage more colleagues from that part of the world, I was invited to visit China on a lecture tour that included the cities of Hangzhou and Beijing. Prof. Baorong Zhang was the host and convener. The majority of the senior leaders in the field were also present, including Prof. Shengdi Chen from Shanghai, and Profs. Piu Chan, Zhenxi Zhang, Su Wen and Liu Yiming from Beijing. Attendees included residents, fellows, PhD students and neurologists from different parts of the country that travelled to participate in the meetings.

It was a very enlightening, enjoyable and worthwhile experience as it gave me the chance to interact directly with our Chinese colleagues. I was very warmly received and the organization of the lecture tour was impeccable, including a visit to one of Hangzhou’s most important hospitals where I also gave a lecture to the staff of the Neurology Department. I was impressed by size of the institution, with five entire floors dedicated to Neurology, one of them for the exclusive use of the Movement Disorders Unit. The Hospital has all the technological resources, including a Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit, a PET unit and a modern and advanced basic research laboratory.

Our Chinese colleagues were very enthusiastic about the possibility of engaging in a more productive relationship with MDS, which is very much present in the minds of all of those interested in the field in that country. We had the opportunity of engaging in lively scientific and clinical discussions that provided evidence of their up to date knowledge in our field. Hopefully this will mark the beginning of an increased presence of this large and important country in our Society.
No “Orphan” Geographical Areas: A Task for All MDS–ES Members

Although not always obvious, Europe is a very heterogeneous continent concerning movement disorders training and facilities. It ranges from countries with networks of movement disorders centers and well-established training course programs to countries with no movement disorders experts at all. To this heterogeneity, we should add the geographical, cultural and language barriers.

As the MDS European Section, we have the mission to target all different realities and the ultimate goal to collaborate to improve movement disorders care across Europe.

Currently having a well-established and solid educational program, MDS-ES is at a stage to be able to improve its effectiveness, which means targeting the right professionals with the most effective educational tools. For this endeavor, all MDS-ES members are needed.

To expand the effort of reaching Allied Health Professionals, a new format for a Summer School for nurses will start in 2017, added to the already available neurology and physiotherapy schools.

Recently, MDS also added a Virtual Professor Program as an available educational option. This program will allow MDS Faculty to attend a live program or standalone program held in any country by virtually connecting from their home institute, through a web-based conferencing system. The intent of the program is to overcome any traveling or budgetary limitations and allow MDS “Professors” to actively participate in any course around the world.

These are just two potential projects to support the endeavor to eliminate “orphan” countries with no opportunities for movement disorders education and training. For this ambitious goal all of us are not enough!

Joaquim Ferreira, MD, PhD
Chair, MDS-ES
MDS–ES School for Young Neurologists – Lisbon, Portugal, July 15–17, 2016

The 9th annual MDS-ES Summer School for Young Neurologists was held in Lisbon, Portugal, on July 15-17, 2016. This course received over 150 applications for less than 50 available spaces. A total of 46 participants from 19 countries across the European Section attended. Four delegates from Sub-Saharan Africa were supported through funding from the Task Force on Africa, and additional travel grants were distributed to those residing in Northern Africa and Eastern Europe.

The course was held at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Lisbon in Portugal, and was directed by Prof. Joaquim Ferreira. Twelve additional faculty participated in the school: Angelo Antonini (Venice, Italy), Miguel Coehlo (Lisbon, Portugal), Carlo Colosimo (Terni, Italy), João Costa (Alges, Portugal), Davide Martino (London, UK), Wassilios Meissner (Bordeaux, France), Elena Moro (Grenoble, France), Sofia Reimão (Lisbon, Portugal), Mário Miguel Rosa (Lisbon, Portugal), Per Svenningsson (Stockholm, Sweden), Marie Vidalhiet (Paris, France), and Mario Zappia (Catania, Italy).

Day 1 of the course focused on parkinsonism and included lectures on the treatment of Parkinson’s disease and atypical parkinsonism. In the afternoon, students were divided into small groups participating in clinical rounds under the tutelage of the course faculty to perform hands on examination of movement disorders patients. This was followed by additional lectures on imaging and the neurophysiological evaluations in movement disorders.

Day 2 focused on hyperkinetic movement disorders and included lectures on dystonia, tremor, myoclonus, tics, and chorea. Students also participated in the “Bring Your Own Patient” session where they presented a video case of their own. In the afternoon, the students had a chance to see a new set of patients in additional clinical rounds. The day concluded with a lecture on botulinum toxin for dystonia and spasticity.

The second day of the course ended with a friendly soccer match between the students and faculty, in which the faculty “prevailed.” The organization of the Summer School was supported by a team of young neurologists and residents, some of whom had been participants at previous MDS-ES Summer Schools.

Day 3 addressed complex patient management issues and included lectures on gait and balance disorders, and sleep-related, drug-induced, and psychogenic movement disorders. In addition, faculty selected nine student case presentations from the previous day for presentation to all students and faculty. In the end, four presentations were selected by the students by vote. Winners were awarded complimentary registration to the 21st International Congress of Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

The winners were: Stephanie Hirschbichler, Bernadette Pinter, Ana Luisa Sousa, and Miguel Grunho.

The Summer School received positive feedback from the onsite evaluations, which cited appreciation for the small group dynamic of the skills workshops and clinical examinations.
MDS–ES Physiotherapy Summer School – Leuven, Belgium, September 8–10, 2016

The Physiotherapy Summer School was held in Leuven, Belgium, September 8–10, 2016. Thirty-nine participants from 19 countries across the European Section attended the course. Three delegates from Sub-Saharan Africa were supported through funding from the Task Force on Africa, and additional travel grants were distributed to those residing in Northern Africa and Europe.

The course was held at the Irish College and Faculty of Rehabilitation Sciences in Leuven, Belgium, and was directed by Alice Nieuwboer (Heverlee, Belgium) and Lynn Rochester (Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK).

Twelve additional faculty participated in the school: Josefa Domingos (Alhos Vedros, Portugal), Wim de Wilde (Gent, Belgium), Mariella Graziano (Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg), Elke Heremans (Heverlee, Belgium), Samyra Keus (Amsterdam, Netherlands), Fiona Lindop (Derby, UK), Rosie Morris (Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK), Liesbeth Münks (Heverlee, Belgium), Elisa Pelosin (Rapallo, Italy), Bhanu Ramaswamy (Sheffield, UK), Carolien Strouwen (Heverlee, Belgium), and Wim Vanderberghe (Leuven, Belgium).

On Day 1 of the course, faculty lectured on Parkinson’s disease and medical management success, limitations and implications for physiotherapy, the European guideline for Parkinson’s disease, setting the benchmark for rehabilitation and evidence for exercise and motor learning. In the afternoon, students and faculty walked to the Faculty of Rehabilitation Sciences where they were divided into small groups participating in three of six practical workshops under the tutelage of the course faculty learning how to assess patients with Parkinson’s disease and how to treat patients with Parkinson’s disease. This was followed by clinical reasoning from the therapists’ own practice.

On Day 2 of the course, faculty lectured on the role of cognition in gait, as well as the freezing of gait. Students rotated within their small groups, having the opportunity to attend the practical workshops they did not participate in on day one. Day 2 concluded with further discussion of clinical reasoning from the therapists’ own practice.

Day 3 of the course included lectures on Parkinson’s disease plus syndromes from a rehabilitation perspective, balance and falls, and the rehabilitation of musculoskeletal problems and specific postural problems, camptocormia and dystonia.

In addition to the lectures and expert guided practical workshops, the faculty hosted a dinner at the Faculty Club in Leuven, Belgium. The participants appreciated the opportunity to network.

The Physiotherapy Summer School received positive feedback from the onsite evaluations citing particular appreciation for the knowledge and experience of the presenters and both the lectures and small group sessions.
The Sleep in Movement Disorders course was held in Innsbruck, Austria on July 7-8, 2016. It was a day and a half long course, held at the Medical University of Innsbruck, concentrating on movement disorders, especially how they affect sleep.

This course was directed by Dr. Birgit Högl and Prof. Werner Poewe, both from Innsbruck, Austria and with the Medical University of Innsbruck, Department of Neurology. Prof. Poewe is the director of the Department of Neurology at Medical University of Innsbruck and Dr. Högl is the head of the Sleep Lab at the Department of Neurology at Innsbruck Medical University. They were joined by the following faculty members from the Medical University of Innsbruck: Elisabeth Brandauer, MD (Innsbruck, Austria), Atbin Djamshidian-Tehrani, MD (Innsbruck, Austria), Christoph Scherfler, MD (Innsbruck, Austria), Ambra Stefani, MD (Innsbruck, Austria). Well known and highly respected international faculty also joined the course: Luigi Ferini-Strambi (Milan, Italy), Alejandro Iranzo (Barcelona, Spain), and Joan Santamaria (Barcelona, Spain).

The course focused specifically on the full range of sleep disorders with a special focus on the occurrence, the differential diagnostic challenges, and the treatment of these specific sleep disorders in patients with certain movement disorders. The first day had sessions covering topics of taking a good sleep history, diagnostics in the sleep lab, insomnia, sleep apnea, narcolepsy, and other disorders of daytime sleepiness, parasomnias and RBD. Day two had sessions regarding RLS and its mimics in Parkinson disease, specific disorders of MSA and the new IgLON5 antibody related, highly characteristic sleep disorder and daytime movement disorders. On the second day, the participants were also given a tour of the sleep lab, and met with other staff from the lab to see the specific setup to record sleep in movement disorders.

The course had participants from nine different countries, including: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Israel, Germany, Spain, and Romania.

The evaluations showed great impact on the participants. The evaluations portrayed a change in understanding of learning objectives, 80% and above, and that 100% of the participants stated that the content of this program was relevant to their practice. The evaluations also showed a positive reaction to the faculty of the course.
Dear Colleagues,

The MDS-PAS has had a very productive and successful year. The success is due to the commitment and dedication of the MDS-PAS committees and membership for all of the support during the MDS-PAS activities and the continuing efforts on the strategic goals of the section. I share with you the end of the year report.

MDS-PAS Congress Update

The planning of the first MDS-PAS Congress, to be held in Miami, Florida, USA on February 24-26, 2017, continues to run smoothly. I am pleased to say that the scientific program will provide high quality education with many topics that are truly relevant to the section at large with a regional flare. The regional Congress theme is “Movement Disorders in the Americas: State of the Art.” We hope that you join us in our vision to cultivate a culture for the MDS-Pan American Section.

Visiting Trainee Grant Recipients

We are pleased to announce the first cycle of 2017 MDS-PAS Visiting Trainee Grant recipients:

Research Track:
Dra. Claudia Carricarte Naranjo from Havana, Cuba will train at the Movement Disorders Centre, Toronto Western Hospital, in Toronto, Canada for six months under the guidance of Dr. Lang.

Clinical Track:
Dr. Lais Machado de Oliveira from São Paulo, Brazil will train at the Movement Disorders Centre, University of Toronto, in Toronto, Canada for one year under the guidance of Dr. Munhoz.

Dr. Gustavo Andres De Prat from Buenos Aires, Argentina will train at the University of Cincinnati Ohio for three months under the guidance of Dr. Espay.

MDS-PAS Strategic Planning Meeting Update

Eight months ago we embarked on the first MDS-PAS Strategic Planning meeting to set the priorities, initiatives, and objectives for the section for the next four years, which are in line with the overall MDS Strategic Plan. Some of the goals are short term goals and some are long term goals, which we will continue to work on.

Highlights of Goals in Progress:

• Increase partnership between North America and Latin America
• The newly established Central American Movement Disorders Work Group (CAMDWG), which recently became an MDS Affiliate Member Society, received an MDS Supported Meeting grant to hold its second CAMDWG meeting in Costa Rica. The group continues its efforts to unify neurologists and increase movement disorder education with the goal of increasing movement disorder specialists in Central America. MDS-PAS is very pleased with this partnership.
• The Colombian Neurological Society (ACN) also became an MDS Affiliate Member Society this year and will be hosting a course in 2017.

• Continue to develop thoughtful movement disorder education that will lead to increased knowledge and skills/management in order to provide better patient care

There are fifteen educational courses in the Pan American Section projected for 2017, with activities in three countries that we have never been to before: Lima, Peru; Cartagena, Colombia; and Montevideo, Uruguay.

We will keep you informed on the progress of other goals.

Outreach Programs Update

Dr. Oscar Gershanik, from Buenos Aires, Argentina and Dr. Alberto Espay, from Cincinnati, Ohio, were the MDS-PAS Ambassadors for the XXV Peruvian Neurological Congress held in Lima, Peru on July 8-10, 2016, hosted by Dr. Carlos Cosentino. Dr. Gershanik delivered lectures on Parkinson’s disease; diagnosis and treatment, Levodopa-induced dyskinesia and Atypical Parkinsonism, and Dr. Espay provided lectures on revisiting the identity of Parkinson disease, Functional movement disorders and movement disorders emergencies.

Myself and Dr. Gershanik were MDS-PAS Ambassadors for the 40th Mexican Academy of Neurology (AMN) Annual Meeting and the XIV Pan-American Congress of Neurology that took place in Cancún, Mexico, October 29-November 4, 2016. The program included talks on alpha-synuclein and genetics of hyperkinesias as well as participation as commentators of a panel of discussion of controversial issues in Parkinson’s disease. We were pleased to see that the movement disorders community in Mexico is thriving and highly engaged with MDS.

We are pleased that we can continue to provide outreach program funding for MDS-PAS keynote speakers to lecture at regional conferences to enhance education in the field of Parkinson’s disease and Movement Disorders.

All my best wishes,

Francisco Cardoso
Chair, MDS-PAS

The 2016 Aspen Course, A Comprehensive Review of Movement Disorders for the Clinical Practitioner, was held in Aspen, Colorado, USA, on July 31-August 4, 2016. This course was attended by 212 participants from 18 countries. Five delegates from Waived Dues eligible countries in the Pan American Section (PAS) were supported through travel grants, and 23 fellow scholarships were given to select institutions throughout the PAS.

The course was held at the St. Regis Aspen Hotel in Aspen, and was directed by Cynthia Comella and Irene Litvan. Six additional faculty participated in the Aspen Course: Stanley Fahn (New York, NY, USA), Jennifer Goldman (Chicago, IL, USA), Mark Hallett (Bethesda, MD, USA), Joseph Jankovic (Houston, TX, USA), Michael Okun (Gainesville, FL, USA), and Kapil Sethi (Augusta, GA, USA).

Day one of the course began with an overview of the phenomenology of hypokinetic movement disorders. Lectures were given on the physiology and pathophysiology of movement, functional neuroanatomy of the basal ganglia, and the clinical features, differential diagnosis and prodromal features of Parkinson’s disease. The first day of the course concluded with a welcome reception for all course participants and dinner for the fellows.

Day two continued with the etiology and pathogenesis of Parkinson’s disease, the medical treatment of motor and non-motor symptoms of Parkinson’s disease, as well as the surgical treatment of Parkinson’s disease. The day concluded with a lecture on restless leg syndrome and peripheral movement disorders.

Day three addressed atypical Parkinsonism in two parts: Parkinsonism with synuclein and Parkinsonism with tau, continuing with part two of an overview of the phenomenology of hyperkinetic movement disorders, ataxia, chorea, ballism, athetosis, and Huntington’s disease.
Day four began with lectures on dystonia, myoclonus, tics and Tourette syndrome, ending with a lecture on rare and urgent diagnoses. On the evening of day four, participants were encouraged to bring interesting video case studies of their own for presentation and discussion during the Night Video Rounds. The final day of the course ended with lectures on gait disorders, stiffness and stiff-people, a two-part series on psychogenic movement disorders, tremor, deep brain stimulation for hyperkinetic disorders, and paroxysmal movement disorders.

In addition to the informative lectures given by the esteemed faculty and video cases presented by the course participants, the Fellow Scholars were invited to participate in a luncheon sponsored by the National Parkinson Foundation (NPF). During the luncheon, Dr. Okun presented on the importance of building an interdisciplinary team, and offered career advice. Following the presentation, a panel of faculty offered additional career insight and discussed their career paths.

The Aspen Course received positive feedback from the onsite evaluations citing particular appreciation for the videos and excellent lectures by the faculty.
2017 MDS Education Calendar

Dates and Locations are subject to change. For a complete up-to-date list of courses, visit www.movementdisorders.org/education
21st International Congress of Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders

SAVE THE DATE
June 4–8, 2017

VANCOUVER
British Columbia, Canada

www.mdscongress2017.org

Important Dates:
Early Registration Deadline April 3, 2017
Final Pre-Registration Deadline May 2, 2017