



Parkinson's Disease in Sub-Saharan Africa

—Richard Walker, MD, Chair, MDS Task Force on Africa, North Shields, United Kingdom

With the demographic transition, more people in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) are surviving to old age and there has been a dramatic increase in the contribution of non-communicable disease (NCD) to both mortality and morbidity. Neurodegenerative conditions, such as Parkinson's disease (PD), are becoming more common but knowledge about such conditions in this area is very limited (Okubadejo et al 2006).

It had been thought that PD was rare in SSA; but recent research from Tanzania has demonstrated higher rates of age-adjusted prevalence than previously described, though not as high as in western countries (Dotchin et al 2008). Most of the individuals identified in this house-to-house prevalence study had not been diagnosed and were not even aware of PD as a medical condition. Lack of diagnosis, and therefore treatment, is likely to have led to earlier mortality which is likely to be the main reason for the lower prevalence rates. However, it was demonstrated that individuals with no knowledge of PD could be identified from a survey including six questions (in fact 2 would have identified most). This cohort has subsequently been successfully treated with physiotherapy cueing techniques (Rochester et al 2010) and then with levodopa (Dotchin et al 2011), and in some individuals this has been "life changing".

We estimate from our figures that, taking into account other low and middle income countries, up to half the people in the world with PD are not diagnosed, and therefore not treated. There is a great lack of awareness about PD among the public, and also among healthcare professionals and a lot of the features are felt to be "due to old age" (Mshana et al 2011). Even if people are diagnosed there is still a major issue about the availability, affordability and sustainability of drug treatment.

The SSA interest group of the MDS was established in January 2009, and in June 2012 the Task Force on Africa was created. Our main aims are to increase awareness, and training, in relation to PD in Africa, and promote the availability of affordable, and sustainable, drug treatment.

Nurse Specialist Course in Tanzania

Previous movement disorder courses have been held in South Africa and Mali, supported by MDS. In December 2012, a PD nurse specialist (PDNS) course (see p. 12) was held for east Africa in Moshi, northern Tanzania. This was jointly funded by MDS and the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) and included over 20 participants from east Africa including Ethiopia (2), Rwanda (3), Uganda (1), Kenya (4) and Tanzania. The Tanzanian attendees also included occupational therapists (OTs) and physiotherapists (PTs) and two nurses from Nigeria. The one week course was very successful and all of those who attended the course have been given a PDNS mentor from the UK who will maintain email contact and be available for any questions. Individuals selected to attend the course were mainly from neurology departments whereby they would be assured of looking after PD patients on their return. They will also write a report about the numbers of patients, and their treatment, after six months. (Please read more about this course on p. 12.) Based on the success of



the east African course the Task Force is planning to run a course for Anglophone west Africa in Accra, Ghana in September 2013 and plans to run further regional courses in Francophone west Africa, central Africa and southern Africa in the future.

There is a great lack of trained neurologists in many countries in SSA (Bower et al 2005). At the same time as the PDNS course in Accra, there will also be a three-day course for non-specialist doctors, mainly from Ghana, but also from other Anglophone west African countries. Again, if this course is successful the Task Force plans to run it in other African regions.

To back up education for health professionals and also patients and carers, we will be modifying information about PD to make it appropriate for people in SSA. Parkinson's UK have agreed for any of their supporting information to be used as necessary. Initially, the information will be produced in English but will subsequently be translated into local languages, eg Swahili, as necessary. MDS is also supporting this provision of information which we hope will have a major impact with the increasing availability of reliable Internet throughout Africa.

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Welcome to the Spring 2013 edition of *Moving Along*. We are delighted to share the progress and information of the MDS in year 14 of this publication, and our fifth year as co-editors. During these last years, the Society leadership has placed high priority and much effort in establishing a truly global network for research, education and academic interaction. A brief glance at the issue finds reports from Argentina, Australia, Cameroon, Chile, Estonia, Italy, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Sweden, Tanzania, and Thailand.



Carlo Colosimo, MD

In our cover story, Dr. Richard Walker describes the increasing recognition of Parkinson's disease in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the education programs that target Nurse Specialists to improve recognition and treatment of this disorder. Below this column you will find information and, hopefully encouragement, to submit an article for publication to *Moving Along*. Professor Günther Deuschl, reviews the many successes and a task force yet to be organized in his review of a most energetic term as the President of MDS. We have all benefited from his vision, encouragement and enthusiasm. As editors of this newsletter, we are pleased to thank him personally for his leadership, kindness and support during the last two years. We also provide messages from MDS regional society chairs: Dr. Werner Poewe, European Section; Prof. Ruey-Meei (Robin) Wu, Asia and Oceanian Section; and Dr. Jorge Juncos, Pan American Section.



Mark Stacy, MD

On page four Dr. Stewart Factor, a former fellow and long-time friend, and Dr. Steven Reich, a faculty colleague, remember the life of Dr. William J. Wiener, who passed away late last year. We thank them for capturing the essence and importance of this giant to our society. We wish to add our condolences to his wife, Dr. Lisa Schulman, and that we all wish her strength and hope during her difficult moments.

My Generation features Dr. Alfonso Fasano, most recently relocated to the University of Toronto, and his mentor, Professor Günther Deuschl, where we learn, among many things, that our protagonists, do not thrive in conditions higher than 30°C. This may be an important point for potential competitors to remember, if they are ever paired in the annual Video Games at the International Congress. Dr. Fasano's description of a "secret society" bodes well for the future of our organization, particularly as he bicycles to new friends and colleagues.

This issue also summarizes the numerous opportunities to collaborate, interact and attend courses all over the world. We urge all to encourage colleagues and friends to take advantages of these opportunities.

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.

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The *Movement* Disorder Society



Dear MDS Members,

I would like to summarize briefly what the Officers and various MDS committees and task forces have accomplished over the course of the past two years, during which time I have had the pleasure of leading this wonderful Society. Our Society is constantly growing, not only in terms of membership, but more importantly in terms of world-wide influence to develop the field of Movement Disorders scientifically, and ultimately to improve the care and treatment for our patients. MDS is the leading force setting the pace for Parkinson's disease, both scientifically among physicians and researchers, and also in the international public. Therefore, we propose to broaden the visibility by a name change for the Society, which, if approved by the membership, will be the 'International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society'.

The Society recently established MDS Study Groups, a program designed to directly foster research. The intent is to bring researchers together within the Society to focus on specific topics that interest them. Our field is constantly expanding, and even more success for our patients can be achieved by bringing all the relevant researchers together to work on key areas within the field. The program is designed to support projects that have a particular value through international collaboration, which is the strength of our Society. We now have five study groups; Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, led by Günter Höglinger; Multiple System Atrophy, led by Gregor Wenning; Dementia in Parkinson's Disease, led by Gert J. Geurtsen; Non-motor symptoms, led by Ray Chaudhuri; and Pedunculo-pontine nucleus-surgery, led by Elena Moro and Joachim Krauss.

Other developments during my tenure as President have been the creation of new MDS Task Forces, including the Task Force on the Definition of Parkinson's Disease, headed by Daniela Berg and Ron Postuma. The question for a new definition is becoming important particularly because of the advancements in presymptomatic Parkinson's disease. The Task Force on Tremor, headed by Rodger Elble, will update the definitions of tremor and will review the state-of-the-art of tremor treatments.

MDS also launched a program to develop rating scales which are needed for observational studies, as well as therapeutic trials. Studies need to reflect the real life of patients and changes over time in their overall quality of life. This can only be achieved if we have sound and biometrically valid instruments. It is a task for the Society to develop these scales and to install educa-

tional programs. This has been achieved with the help of the MDS Committee on Rating Scales in Parkinson's disease, under the guidance of Anette Schrag and a most important person in this respect is my colleague among the MDS Officers, Chris Goetz. This new structure will not only be a core feature to develop the scientific tools for our Society, but it will also be a source of future income for the Society through licensing. This will be a transformation for the Society, as we now are developing a business branch.

Another major effort during the past two years has been the development of a new online-based journal, *Movement Disorders-Clinical Practice*, which will officially launch in January 2014. This journal became necessary due to the growing group of researchers in the field who need a forum to discuss new developments, particularly in the area of clinical practice.

A Society like ours needs to adapt to international developments in terms of operational procedures as an organization. Particularly, the relations to partners needs written rules, and therefore the Society is now proposing a 'Code of Conduct with Industry', customized to MDS, which has been made available on the MDS Members Only website for comments. So far, many of our senior members have contributed to the development of this present version which was drafted by our Past-President, Philip Thompson. In addition, we are developing a new associate membership category under the guidance of President-Elect, Matt Stern. This limited-trial membership will be given to participants in various MDS education programs, and will enable them to determine whether MDS membership will fulfill their professional needs.

Not all projects that we initiated were as successful as the ones I have cited. There were serious attempts to join with another group dealing with movement disorders, the Association for Parkinsonism and Related Disorders. MDS offered a meaningful and fair plan to join with them, but unfortunately this was turned down by the majority of their voters. This is particularly regrettable, as unifying forces in our fight against the diseases we treat would have made us more efficient and provided the global community with a single society. But certainly, our Society remains open for all of their members to join. On the other hand, the relations of MDS with important organizations like the World Federation of Neurology are blooming and we are developing joint programs in Africa, a priority of the MDS Education Committee, the MDS European Section and for the Officers. With my colleagues leading the MDS, I have had the pleasure to steer our Society in developing the arena of education and research for physicians and their

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17th International Congress

We hope you will join us for The *Movement* Disorder Society's 17th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders, to be held June 16-20, 2013 in Sydney, Australia.

2013 Theme: "Clinicopathological Correlations in Movement Disorders – From Bench to Bedside"

At each annual International Congress, the Congress Scientific Program Committee selects a theme that is highlighted throughout the meeting. This year's theme, "Clinicopathological Correlations in Movement Disorders – From Bench to Bedside" will be showcased in two Plenary Sessions, eight Parallel Sessions, one Skills Workshop, one Teaching Course, and one Video Session. International experts will serve as faculty, and the meeting participants can elect to attend any or all of the sessions.

Scientific Sessions

The 2013 Scientific Program will incorporate Therapeutic Plenary Sessions, Plenary and Parallel Sessions, Teaching Courses, Video Sessions, Skills Workshops, Guided Poster Tours and Blue Ribbon Highlights.

Sessions will focus on the latest developments in:

- Genetics in Movement Disorders
- Movement Disorder topics, including, but not limited to, ataxia, chorea, dystonia, myoclonus, Parkinson's disease, restless legs syndrome, spasticity, stereotypies, tics and tremors
- Basic Science issues, including, but not limited to, genetics, neuroimaging, neuropharmacology, surgical therapy and transplantation
- Other less common clinical conditions

Events

Welcome Ceremony

All International Congress attendees are warmly invited to meet friends and colleagues during the traditional International Congress Welcome Ceremony at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre. This event is open to all registered delegates. Guests are welcome to purchase a Welcome Ceremony Pass during the registration process that will allow them admission to this event.

MDS Video Challenge

Please join Masters of Ceremony Anthony Lang and Kapil Sethi as they host a world-renowned panel of Movement Disorders experts in guiding participants through unique Movement Disorder cases. The cases will be presented by representatives from Movement Disorder Centers around the world and discussed by the Panel of Experts. Awards will be given for the most interesting and challenging cases. Country pride will add an enjoyable spirit of competition to this event. The goal of this session is for attendees to learn from a series of unusual, very interesting patients and see how senior experts approach these types of challenging cases.

The Panel of Experts are:

Kailash Bhatia, *London, United Kingdom*
 Marina De Koning-Tijssen, *Groningen, Netherlands*
 Werner Poewe, *Innsbruck, Austria*
 Rick Stell, *Perth, Australia*
 EK Tan, *Singapore*

Following the International Congress, the cases presented could be developed further for publication in the Journal or presentation on the Society's website. This social event is open to all registered delegates. For more information about the MDS Video Challenge, please contact Sarah Smith at ssmith@movementdisorders.org.

2014 IMPORTANT DATES - SOTCKHOLM, SWEDEN

OCTOBER 1, 2013 Abstract Submission Opens
DECEMBER 2, 2013 Registration Opens
JANUARY 2014 Preliminary Program Available
JANUARY 6, 2014 Abstract Submission Deadline
MAY 9, 2014 Final Pre-Registration Deadline
JUNE 8-12, 2014 18th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders

President's Letter

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patients. The Society already has Regional Sections, special interest groups, numerous very important committees and task forces which are productively developing the field, and countless colleagues who dedicate an enormous amount of time to the Society's initiatives. I cannot give a full overview of these activities in this brief column, but they represent the vivid life of MDS and are the key elements for progress in our field. Our publication organs, *Movement Disorders*, led by Jose Obeso and C. Warren Olanow, the MDS website, led by Hubert Fernandez and Marcelo Merello, *Moving Along*, led by Carlo Colosimo and Mark Stacy and, in the future, *Movement Disorders-Clinical Practice*, (*editors to be named*) are crystallizing these efforts. It is because of this collegial collaboration within this Society that we are so successful. We would like to include even more members in this process and the Society tries to engage every member with the project that is closest to its ambitions.

For me, it has been an outstanding experience to work with the 2011-2013 MDS Officers, Drs. Cindy Comella, Francisco Cardoso, Nir Giladi, Chris Goetz, Matt Stern, Philip Thompson and our productive secretariat, headed by Anne McGhiey. I deeply thank them for dedicating so much expertise, time and energy to the Society and for their warm friendship. This period will truly remain one of the highlights of my career, and I will be happy to hand over the gavel in Sydney to Matt Stern, who will energetically continue to develop MDS. The future of this Society is sparkling based on its democratic and inclusive philosophy.



Günther Deuschl, MD
 MDS President, 2011-2013

In Memoriam: William J. Weiner, MD: June 28, 1945 - December 29, 2012

—Stewart A. Factor, DO, Emory University School of Medicine, Department of Neurology; and Stephen G. Reich, MD, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Department of Neurology



William J. Weiner, MD

William (Bill) Weiner died on December 29, 2012 from multiple myeloma. He was 67. His wife, Dr. Lisa Shulman, and his daughters, Dr. Monica Weiner and Miriam Weiner were at his side. He also leaves two siblings and two grandsons. Bill had a powerful influence on the field of Movement Disorders, where he was highly respected as a clinician, investigator, opinion leader, and mentor, and he was a beloved friend to many. On December 20, the University Of Maryland School Of Medicine,

the Department of Neurology, and the University of Maryland Medical System honored Bill by naming the general neurology inpatient service *The William J. Weiner, MD Neurology Service*. The plaque to mark this dedication reads:

*In Recognition of his Maintaining and Promoting
the Highest Ideals of our Profession;*

*For His Dedication and many Important Contributions
to Patient Care, Research, and Education;*

*For being an Internationally Renowned Expert
in Movement Disorders;*

For serving as a Role Model and Mentor;

*For being a Respected Chairman who Championed
the Department of Neurology;*

For being a Good Friend to Many.

Bill was born and raised from a modest background in Chicago and never lost his distinctive accent. As a boy, he helped clean the stands at Wrigley Field in exchange for passes to Cubs games. Bill's parents died at young ages; his father, an educator, from Huntington's disease, and this clearly played a significant role in Bill's career choice. In high school, Bill played football and basketball and was prom king twice. He received his bachelors and medical degrees from the University of Illinois. Bill's early interest in Movement Disorders and research resulted in two papers in the field during medical school. He completed training in 1973 at Rush University. After two years in the Navy, where he served as Chief of Neurology Service, Memphis Naval Hospital, he joined the faculty at Rush and worked with Dr. Harold Klawans, concentrating on Movement Disorders before the specialty even had the name. He also directed the Parkinson's disease and Movement Clinic at Michael Reese Hospital. His initial research interests included the pharmacology of animal models of movement disorders as well as clinical phenomenology. In 1983, he became Professor and Director of movement disorders at the University of Miami where his research interests expanded to include experimental therapeutics. In 2000, he moved to the University of Maryland and was named Chairman in 2001. His fellowship training program at all institutions resulted in a remarkable pedigree of movement disorder specialists whose contributions and success were a source of great pride to Bill.

Bill had over 300 peer reviewed publications, including seven AAN practice parameters in movement disorders, and over 100 chapters. He also wrote or edited 24 textbooks including *Movement Disorders – A Comprehensive Survey* written in its entirety by Bill and Dr. Tony Lang and considered a classic. His *Neurology for the Non-Neurologist*, with Chris Goetz, first published in 1981, is in its sixth edition. His text for patients with PD and their families, written with Drs. Tony Lang and Lisa Shulman (*Parkinson's Disease: A Complete Guide for Patients and Families*) is in its second edition. His latest book, with Dr. Eduardo Tolosa, was *Handbook of Neurology: Hyperkinetic Movement Disorders*, published in 2011. Bill made significant contributions to several organizations including the AAN and MDS. He most recently served as Chair of the Archives Committee for MDS, whose primary task is to record interviews with senior members of our society about their careers and insights. These Oral Histories interviews can be viewed on the MDS website. At the committee meeting in Ireland, Bill was selected as an interviewee but unfortunately this never materialized, a lost opportunity. He was a founding member of the Parkinson Study Group and served on the executive committee and he was a member of the Huntington Study Group. Bill served on several editorial boards including *Movement Disorders*, where he also served as the Clinical Review editor, as well as Parkinsonism and Related Disorders, and he was editor of *Current Treatment Options in Neurology*.

Bill had a reputation for being an independent and critical thinker. He held strong opinions on many issues and had the courage to express them and openly question dogma. Bill never shied away from pointing out that "the emperor has no clothes." His opinions were often expressed as letters, publishing over 50, the most recent in what was to be the last month of his life (*Neurology Clinical Practice*

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Dr. Lisa Shulman and her husband, Bill Weiner

In Memoriam: William J. Weiner, MD: June 28, 1945 - December 29, 2012 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

2012; 2:265.). Bill was a frequently sought out speaker for the controversies sessions at the MDS international congress, nearly always taking the unpopular side. The same was true for several journals as well. While Bill's opinions drew some detractors, they more often earned respect and admiration from colleagues and it is for this and his many other contributions that his loss leaves a large void in our specialty and in the hearts of his many friends.

Bill was a wonderful mentor and role model. He made residents, fellows, and junior colleagues work hard but in doing so instilled self-confidence. He had an open door policy that continued past training where he was an always willing and trusted advisor. Bill's love of writing was contagious. He was a devoted clinician and working with him demonstrated how to be a good observer, have compassion, and never be defeatist. And he taught us to question. Bill was unselfish and enjoyed seeing others succeed and this was

particularly true when he became department Chairman. Being around Bill it was easy to see that he loved his work, thought it was fun, and that too was contagious.

Beyond academics Bill had many and varied interests: history, politics, literature, Judaism, baseball, travel, cooking, art, architecture, and he loved to partake in adventurous dining and drinking. Being with Bill was good fun. He had great love for his family and relished being a grandfather. As great a loss as Bill's is for us individually and to the MDS, it cannot compare to the loss felt by his wife, Lisa, friend and colleague to so many, and to her we offer our most heartfelt condolence and support. We close with a message from Bill when one of us lost a loved one: "With the loss of a loved one no matter how old or ill, or how full their lives have been, we are never prepared to say good-bye. Because simply put, we wish time spent with those we love could last forever." That was never truer.



The *Movement* Disorder Society

Parkinson and Movement Disorders Course



APPLICATIONS FOR USE ARE AVAILABLE ON THE MDS WEBSITE.

The Parkinson and Movement Disorders (PMD) Course is an overview of movement disorders and a clinical approach to the evaluation and management of common movement disorders. The Course is specially developed for trainees, internists, general neurologists and other clinicians.

Through videos, slide sets, and syllabi, the course covers topics like dystonia, management of advanced PD, and up to 14 other foundational topics.

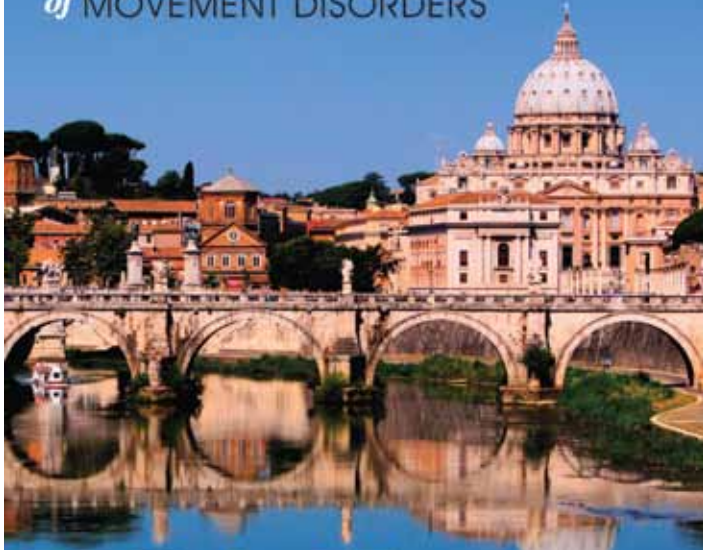
APPLY ONLINE Interested organizations or institutions can apply here: http://www.movementdisorders.org/education/pmd_curriculum/.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: education@movementdisorders.org

The *Movement Disorder Society* • *European Society*

Uncommon Causes of MOVEMENT DISORDERS



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My Generation: Dr. Alfonso Fasano

—Alfonso Fasano, MD, PhD, Toronto Western Hospital, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada; and Günther Deuschl, MD, Kiel, Germany



Dr. Alfonso Fasano tells us about his family, education and early medical career:

Dr. Fasano: I was born in Campania (southern Italy), but I grew up in several other places because, as my father was an official of the Italian army, we had to move very often. The history of my family mirrors my inclination to move and know people. I do not exactly know why I decided to become a physician. Actually,

I loved humanistic studies, like ancient Greek or Latin literature. I used to say that medicine was the only chance to keep studying humanities since the human being is its only object of investigation. However, the truth is somehow different: since I was a child, my father wanted me to be a soldier, but in his opinion I was not brave or strong enough for it. He thought that I could be enrolled as a medical doctor in the army, at least. Thank God, when I was eighteen the military academy for doctors was temporarily closed and I started a different career.

The reason why I choose neurology is much clearer in my mind: when I studied the neuron for the first time I was shocked, I thought: “Wow! This is matter being conscious of itself, a unique event in nature”. I never regretted this choice. I studied in Rome, but I never liked the city too much. Obviously, it is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, but when you are young you would like to feel a different atmosphere... I was particularly inspired by cities like New York or Berlin. I also learned a lot when I was in Spain for the Erasmus. I went to Salamanca, a beautiful and vibrant city where people from everywhere convene to learn Spanish. However, rather than the Spanish language, the principal lesson came from the interaction with those people. I was particularly impressed by German students. Not surprisingly, when the time to move for my PhD came, I went to Germany. Kiel was a great experience, I loved everything: the people, the beer and the weather! My German colleagues used to tell me that I was an ‘atypical’ Italian, because I did not complain about the weather or the lack of pasta or espresso. At that time, I only wanted to understand why my DBS patients in Italy suffered from so many gait problems. Professor Deuschl was a great mentor: I will never forget our first glass of red wine celebrating the prevention of essential tremor!

Prof. Deuschl: When Alfonso approached me to come to Kiel for a fellowship at my department, he was already in an advanced stage of his career. It was clear after a few words that this man has ambition and dedication. His mentors in Italy, namely Profs. Bentivoglio, Albanese and Berardelli, were very proud of him. He came to study

gait and deep brain stimulation. I was particularly pleased that he was not only interested in phenomenology but wanted to understand the mechanisms behind. He performed extremely well and completed an admirable amount of studies during his time in Kiel. He does combine the hard working habits of nowadays Italian neurologists with a charming personality. He is an excellent and very productive writer. Lab meetings or red wine meetings in the evening were always highlights for both of us. I was expecting him to suffer from the fresh wind in Kiel, but the contrary was the case. We both share difficulties with cognitive operations at room temperatures above 30 deg C. He is also a talented piano player and if we can no longer afford professional musicians during the congress opening he is already on the official list of MDS-musicians to replace them!

Dr. Fasano: When in Germany, I was aware I had left great teachers in Italy and a year and half later, I wanted to join them again. In my country, I had the privilege to grow up with many colleagues, which became good friends over years. We started several scientific collaborations, organized congresses and study groups. This brought us towards the foundation of a ‘secret society’ called ‘subcortical avant-garde’. An important companion was Francesca Morgante. We met soon after her fellowship with Tony Lang in Toronto, and few months later she introduced me Alberto Espay, known during her stay in Toronto. Francesca also introduced me to Davide Martino a few months before his move from Italy to the UK. The four of us established a sincere friendship and we currently spend a lot of time together, always being very funny.

The story had a twist when – few months ago – I got a phone call from Tony Lang. He was about to go play tennis, but he wanted to know whether I was interested in joining him and his staff at Toronto Western! This was by far the hardest decision I had to make and actually I could not sleep for months. At the end, I decided to go (and I started sleeping again). As many people may know, these are hard times for young people in Italy because of a cultural (rather than economical) crisis. However, I am not leaving my country because of that. I always found the support of my mentors, colleagues, and even patients. However, several times I heard about Toronto and Lang’s department from Francesca and Alberto, and when the opportunity to move came, I already had the feeling of something familiar. I also felt that moving to such a great place was going to be a great opportunity for my personal and professional growth. This is something that everybody in my age should consider at least once in life. Yes, I love to say that life is like riding a bicycle: to keep your balance you must keep moving.

New website features debut in 2013

—By Hubert Fernandez, MD, Head, Movement Disorders, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio, USA; and Marcelo Merello, MD, PhD, Head, Movement Disorders, FLENI, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Spotlight on Movement Disorders Journal Articles, Videos and Clinical Vignettes

We are pleased to now offer select papers chosen together by the Journal and MDS Website Editors to be highlighted on the MDS website. In addition, you now can comment on Journal articles on the MDS website and discuss the latest research and findings in movement disorders with others in the field.

'Society Snapshots' Video Presentations

Get to know your fellow members and what they do in the Society. Several Society members give visitors an inside peek at the activities of the Society and ways to get involved. Be sure to check out the videos the next time you visit the MDS website.

Topics include: Welcome Message from the President, benefits of membership, activities in the Regional Sections, the MDS-UPDRS Training Program & Exercise, MDS' Social Media communities, *Moving Along*, the *Movement Disorders Journal*, and *Coffee Break CME*. More video snapshots are planned with other members, so stay tuned!

Movement Disorders Book Reviews

The Society is pleased to now offer book reviews of movement disorders publications on the MDS website. In the coming months, look for more reviews on the homepage. Be sure to visit the MDS book section to browse or purchase movement disorders books. Each purchase from our website benefits MDS and helps further the mission of the Society.



Scan to go directly to our website!

Connect with colleagues at the 17th International Congress

The 17th International Congress is just around the corner and takes place in beautiful Sydney, Australia. Your Society makes it easier than ever to connect with colleagues and share your insights about the meeting, speakers, events, and more while you are visiting the “land down under.”



Take advantage of free WiFi at The Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre! Browse the MDS website or connect with others on Facebook and Twitter during breaks or after sessions let out. Or visit the Society's Internet Café which will be open throughout the duration of the Congress.

Facebook

MDS' Facebook community is growing and has close to 800 members. Before you head to the Congress, search The *Movement Disorder Society* group on Facebook and join up! You will find a community of like-minded professionals who want to connect with you too. Chat with peers and friends around the world by posting your photos, ideas and comments and connect with the global MDS community.

Twitter

Do you use Twitter? If so, then follow MDS! MDS' Twitter “handle” is @movedisorder. Use @movedisorder to mention us in your posts or simply follow the Society's updates. The MDS Congress 2013 hashtag is #MDSCongress2013. Use this hashtag after every message you tweet to search for and stay connected to conversations specifically related to the Congress.

What do you tweet about at Congress? You can tweet anything newsy or related to the meeting. Is there something you're particularly looking forward to at the International Congress? Did you stumble upon an interesting topic? Do you want to recommend a session or speaker? Do you have questions about the evening social activities? Whether you are a delegate or presenter, share your experience with others and get the conversation going!

NOTICE TO MEMBERS!

2013 MDS Bylaws Amendment

All voting members of The *Movement Disorder Society* (MDS) will be given the opportunity to vote on amendments to the Society's Bylaws at the Annual MDS Business Meeting to be held during the 17th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders, at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre on June 18, 2013. A notice detailing the amendment and a proxy ballot will be sent to the membership in the weeks prior to the International Congress. For more information, please contact the International Secretariat at info@movementdisorders.org, or +1-414-276-2145.

Health Professionals (Non-Physician) Membership Growing; Physiotherapists Summer School Planned for July 2013

—Meg Morris, PhD, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia; and Ruth Hagestuen, RN, MA, Struthers Parkinson's Center, Minneapolis, MN USA

The number of MDS Health Professionals in the Society has now surpassed 200 and includes nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists, neuropsychologists, occupational therapists, and other specialties. Membership continues to grow as more people learn of the networking opportunities and myriad resources available to them through the Society.

Health Professionals (Non-Physician) can take advantage of a joining fee of just \$100/\$175 USD which includes the print subscription to the *Movement Disorders Journal*; select sessions at the annual International Congress; opportunities to participate in workshops and courses; and a wealth of information on the MDS website, including feature article reviews, links to related organizations and topics, and news about activities happening around the world (*Read Webpage Editor Mariella Graziano's update in this article*).

Core members of the Special Interest Group (SIG) are actively working to bring the first Summer School for Physiotherapists to the European Section. As of this printing, the Summer School is being planned for July 4-6, 2013 in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. We hope that the program eventually expands to include other disciplines such as nurses, psychologists, speech therapists, occupational therapists and social workers. The intention is to bring in participants from multiple European countries who will then become ambassadors for the Society.

The Summer School is a joint effort between the MDS European Section, ParkinsonNet and the Health Professionals (Non-Physician) Special Interest Group. The SIG involvement in this project is laying the groundwork for planning of future Summer Schools for multiple disciplines and to be offered in different sections of the Society's membership.

Call for 2014 Supported Meeting Applications! — New Application Deadlines

The *Movement Disorder Society* is currently accepting applications from meeting organizers who wish to receive financial support for scientific meetings in the year 2014. MDS will be offering a total amount of \$70,000 USD to support scientific meetings in 2014, with an additional \$30,000 USD in funding available for request only by meeting organizers who belong to a group with MDS Affiliate Member status.

To apply, meeting organizers must submit a proposed program, including lecture topics, faculty, and a detailed budget for the meeting along with the completed Supported Meetings application which is available on the MDS website: http://www.movementdisorders.org/announcements/supported_and_endorsed/

****Beginning with the 2014 Supported Meeting program, applications will be reviewed by the Officers cumulatively on a bi-annual basis during their in-person meetings. The deadline for both completed Supported Meeting and Affiliate Member Supported Meeting applications to be received by the Secretariat is December 1 and May 1 of each year.****

The goal of the Supported Meetings program is to support new and novel meetings rather than repeated occurrences of previous meetings, however support for general Movement Disorders meetings will be considered when there is a clear educational need and high likelihood that obtaining funding would be difficult, as in developing countries for example.

In addition to the grant monies, MDS will promote all Supported Meetings on the Society's website and in the monthly e-newsletter. In return, meeting organizers who receive grants must agree to:

1. Credit The *Movement Disorder Society* for its support of the meeting in all meeting publications and announcements, includ-

ing promotional brochures, Web site, and in newsletters when applicable.

2. Provide MDS with copies of all meeting literature including program, abstracts, proceedings and promotional materials as well as a list of recent meeting attendees including both mailing and e-mail addresses when available.
3. Provide complimentary space for The *Movement Disorder Society* to display the MDS exhibit booth and literature during the meeting.
4. Provide one complimentary page in the meeting program for an advertisement provided by The *Movement Disorder Society* and include International Congress promotional material in the meeting registration bag
5. Submit a final report including attendance numbers and reconciled budget within 60 days of completion of the meeting.
6. In the case of excess revenues being realized, the meeting organizers will arrange repayment of the seed grant to MDS.
7. The *Movement Disorder Society* will have the right to review scientific content of the meeting and make suggestions if necessary. Organizers agree to provide any information requested by The *Movement Disorder Society*.

For further information regarding Supported Meetings or to request an application form, please contact:

The *Movement Disorder Society* (MDS)
 Attn: Supported Meetings Program
 555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100
 Milwaukee, WI 53202-3823 USA
 Tel: +1 414-276-2145
 Fax: +1 414-276-3349
 E-mail: pfierst@movementdisorders.org



Werner Poewe, MD

Chair, MDS-ES

Since the publication of the last issue of *Moving Along*, the MDS European Section has been quite busy, beginning with the 16th EFNS Congress in September 2012 in Stockholm.

The MDS-ES Movement Disorders Teaching

Courses were again the highest attended of the EFNS Congress, with 188 participants in the Basic Course and 166 participants in the Advanced Course. This Congress also marked the end of a decade of successful collaboration between the EFNS and MDS-ES, as the EFNS will merge with the European Neurological Society (ENS) and both will become the European Academy of Neurology. The two Societies (EFNS and ENS) will hold their first joint Congress at Istanbul in 2014. However, I am pleased to report that the MDS-ES will continue its involvement in the planning and implementation of movement disorders content for that Congress. MDS-ES and its Education Committee have worked together with the ENS sub-Committee for Movement Disorders (chaired by Kailash Bhatia) to submit a program for a Symposium, Teaching Course and Focused Workshop for the 2014 Istanbul Congress and I am pleased to report that MDS-ES will also be able to stage the traditional European Basal Ganglia Club on that occasion. Faculty has been invited, acceptances are coming in rapidly, and we eagerly and with great interest move into this new chapter of the collaboration.

At the end of 2012, for the first time, the MDS-ES opened the call for Movement Disorder Fellowships for young neurologists covering 6 weeks of hospitation and training in a variety of European Movement Disorders Centers that have offered to host such fellows. I am proud to say that our Section has been successful in obtaining co-funding for this initiative from the World Federation of Neurology (WFN). The specific interest of the WFN is for us to include countries from the African Continent in this Fellowship Program. After diligent and exhaustive review of nine applications from very well-qualified applicants, the MDS-ES chose four to whom to award the fellowships. These four Fellows, representing Albania, Armenia, Nigeria and Ukraine, have begun to work with their host institutions to arrange a starting date and we wish them the best success. It has already been announced that a new call for applicants will take place in September.

Members of the MDS-ES have been responsible, as well, for the recent position papers published or en route to publication jointly produced by the MDS-ES and the EFNS Scientists Panel. These papers include "Guidelines on Diagnosis and Treatment of Primary Dystonias," (led by Alberto Albanese) "Recommendations on Parkinson's Disease (Early/Late)" (led by Alfredo Berardelli, Joaquim Ferreira, Regina Katzenschlager, and Wolfgang Oertel), and "Parkinson's Disease Diagnosis" (led by Alfredo Berardelli and Gregor Wenning).

Through its Education Committee, the MDS-ES developed and implemented five highly successful educational programs since the publication of the last issue of *Moving Along*. Immediately follow-

ing the EFNS Congress in Stockholm, a course on "Neuroimaging for Movement Disorders" was held under the direction of Per Svenningsson, attracting 25 participants. Just a few weeks later, Amsterdam served as the location for a "Deep Brain Stimulation for Movement Disorders" under the direction of Rob de Bie. Forty-four participants from 15 countries attended this course, held at the Academisch Medisch Centrum. Another workshop, "Botulinum Toxin Training for Neurological Diseases," was held at La Sapienza University in Rome under the direction of Carlo Colosimo in November, with 40 attendees. 2013 began with "Evidence Based Medicine Update on Treatments for Parkinson's Disease" held in Innsbruck, Austria, under the direction of Klaus Seppi and Susan Fox, with 30 attendees. Most recently, the MDS-ES saw its second annual Winter School for Young Neurologists come to fruition. This course was held in Tartu, Estonia, in early March under the direction of Pille Taba. Forty-eight participants attended, representing countries from Albania to Uzbekistan. The 6th Annual MDS-ES Summer School for young neurologists will be held in London in July 2013 under the direction of Kailash Bhatia and nearly 170 applications were received for 48 positions.

With the help of its Education Committee, MDS-ES has also been able to initiate two novel Educational Programs in 2013: one is the first offering in the frame work of our strategic priority in underserved areas of North Africa. MDS-ES held a course in Fez, Morocco under the direction of Ouafae Messouak on April 20 with 90 participants. In addition there will be the very first Allied Health Professional School organized by MDS-ES to take place in Nijmegen, Netherlands in July 2013 under the directorship of Bas Bloem, Samyra Keus, and Martin Munneke as a joint activity of MDS-ES and the Dutch collaborative physiotherapy network ParkinsonNet. For all of our educational initiatives, evaluations have been incredibly positive, highlighting both the expertise of the faculty and the change in learning of the participants. Many thanks to the hard working course directors and faculty members who have given so much of their time to provide such far reaching and exciting programming!

Last November, the ES Nominating Committee, chaired by Alfredo Berardelli, selected the following nominees to serve on the 2013-2015 ES Executive Committee: Joaquim Ferreira (Chair Elect); Pille Taba (Secretary Elect); Carlo Colosimo (Treasurer Elect); Oleg Levin (Russia), Pablo Mir (Spain), Hugh Morris (United Kingdom), Klaus Seppi (Austria) (at-large Members). Congratulations to these formidably talented individuals!

On a somber note, this edition of *Moving Along* marks my last update as Chair of the European Section. Over the past two years, I have immensely enjoyed serving you as Chair of the MDS European Section and look forward to many more years of growth for the MDS-ES. I look forward to seeing you all in Sydney!

With best regards,

Werner Poewe, MD
Chair, MDS-ES

Neuroimaging in Movement Disorders: Focus on PD — Stockholm, Sweden, September 13, 2012

—Per Svenningsson, MD, PhD, Professor of Neurology, Karolinska University Hospital

On September 13, 30 neurologists, neuroradiologists and researchers from several different European countries gathered at the Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm to attend a course in neuroimaging hosted by the European Section of The Movement Disorders Society.

After an introduction about diagnostic challenges in movement disorders by Professor Per Svenningsson, the course was entirely devoted to neuroimaging methodologies. The course intended to introduce the participants to the potential of nuclear medicine approaches to measure the dopamine transporter, dopamine



receptors and protein aggregation in distinct variants of parkinsonism and other neurodegenerative disorders. Excellent lectures on these topics were held by the co-organiser Associate Professor Andrea Varrone and Professor Lars Farde. The course also included lectures on the utility of MRI-based approaches to answer questions posed by clinicians and researchers about the status and progress of distinct variants of parkinsonism. Associate Professor Mikael Skorpil gave a technical introduction to various MRI-based approaches. His lecture was followed by a spectacular and forward-looking lecture by Professor Stephane Lehericy on MRI-based approaches as diagnostic and prognostic tools to assess variants of parkinsonism.

In addition to lectures, Dr. Eric Westman and the faculty arranged small group workshops on patient selection, imaging set-up, imaging analysis and quantification. Dr. Martin Paucar gave an appreciated presentation of illustrative case studies with patients suffering from corticobasal degeneration, progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple system atrophy, Huntington's disease and ataxias.

Although the course was small, there were good discussions among the lecturers and participants on distinct aspects of neuroimaging in movement disorders. The course evaluation showed that the participants were very satisfied with the course.

Deep Brain Stimulation for Movement Disorders — Amsterdam, The Netherlands, October 1-2, 2012

—Rob de Bie, MD, PhD, Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; and Jens Volkmann, MD, PhD, University Hospital of Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany

The second deep brain stimulation (DBS) for movement disorders course, which hosted by the European Section of The Movement Disorder Society, was held in Amsterdam October 1 and 2, 2012. The course was attended by 44 participants from 15 countries in Europe and the Middle East. The international faculty consisted of Patricia Limousin (United Kingdom), Rick Schuurman (Netherlands), Karen Østergaard (Denmark), Jens Volkmann (Germany), and Rob de Bie (Netherlands).

More than 60,000 patients worldwide have been treated by DBS for a drug refractory movement disorder. General neurologists will increasingly be confronted with the management of these patients, who suffer from chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, requiring lifelong care. The aim of the course was to instruct general neurologists regarding the selection criteria for surgery, which is necessary to consult appropriate candidates and to refer these patients to surgical centers, and how to identify the cause of clinical problems in DBS-treated

patients which result from either the underlying disease, inappropriate adjustment of medication and stimulation, or stimulation itself.

The first day started with a general introduction of DBS, including the physiological background, hardware, and electrical parameters. Subsequently, tremor, dystonia, and Parkinson's disease were discussed and for each of these the selection process of candidates for DBS, the efficacy of the procedures, and the associated risks for DBS were considered.

The second day was dedicated to the surgical aspects, the actual programming, and the postoperative management, including issues related to long-term follow-up. The day ended with small group sessions with 4 DBS patients. The treatment course, postoperative management problems, and stimulation settings were discussed.

The learning experience was greatly appreciated by the participants as indicated by a very positive course evaluation.

First East African Parkinson's disease nurse specialist (PDNS) course, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College, Moshi, Tanzania, December 10-14, 2012

—Richard Walker, MD, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, North Shields, United Kingdom, Chair of the Task Force on Africa

This course was jointly funded by The *Movement* Disorder Society (MDS) and the World Federation of Neurology. Participants were invited from throughout East Africa, with the prerequisite that they would return to work in neurology departments in their own country, and would have access to the care of people with Parkinson's disease (PD). We had participants from Rwanda (3), Uganda (1), Ethiopia (2), Kenya (4), with two also invited from Nigeria and the remaining 10 from Tanzania, including two occupational therapists and three physiotherapists.

The international faculty comprised of Professor Richard Walker, Dr. Catherine Dotchin, Louise Ebenezer, Lynda Hind (all from UK) and Dr. Juzar Hooker (Nairobi, Kenya). Local contributions were also provided by Victor Minde (physiotherapy) and Oliva Msuya (PDNS).

The course was run in English and included diagnosis, drug treatment, motor symptoms, non-motor symptoms, physiotherapy and information provision (plan to develop appropriate information for sub-Saharan Africa). On one afternoon, two local PD patients attended to tell the participants what it was like to live with PD, and this also allowed demonstration of physical signs.

Useful websites, including MDS and Parkinson's UK, were demonstrated. Each participant has been given a UK PDNS as an email mentor and will produce a report after six months

giving details of the numbers of patients with PD, and the clinical spectrum, as well as the challenges where they work.

Despite many challenges, not least getting the participants to Moshi, the course was a great success in large part due to the excellent hosting by the Nursing School. The group as a whole bonded very well as the week went by and the course was very interactive. They are keen to provide ongoing mutual support. Despite the many other challenges to the care for PD patients in SSA, such as access to affordable and sustainable drug treatment, we have raised awareness and established a cohort of interested and educated health professionals to help take on the challenge. Evaluation was very positive and we hope to run similar courses in other regions of Africa in the future.



The 2nd Joint International Symposium on Neuroacanthocytosis and Neurodegeneration with Brain Iron Accumulation: New Breakthroughs in NA/NBIA — Ede, Netherlands, October 26-27, 2012

—Ruth Walker, MB, ChB, PhD, Associate Professor; and James J. Peters VA Medical Center, Bronx, NY, USA

The 2nd Joint International Symposium on Neuroacanthocytosis and Neurodegeneration with Brain Iron Accumulation: New Breakthroughs in NA/NBIA took place on Oct 26th and 27th 2012, in Ede, The Netherlands. The meeting was organized by Ody Sibon, PhD, from Groningen, and Giel Bosman, PhD, from Nijmegen, and continues the formal collaboration developed at the first joint meeting in Bethesda in 2010. The current meeting brought together an international group of clinicians and basic scientists from a wide variety of disciplines to focus upon these two groups of very rare, genetic, neurodegenerative disorders, and was attended by over 70 participants from 12 countries. Patient group representatives, family members, and affected patients from different countries also met in parallel and participated in a joint session. The meeting was generously supported by The *Movement* Disorder Society, Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen, ZonMw, Dutch organization for Health Research and Development, Hoffnungsbaum e.V (Germany), Advocacy for Neuroacanthocytosis Patients (UK), NBIA Disorders Association (US).

The meeting focused on advances in the understanding of two groups of rare diseases primarily affecting the basal ganglia - neuroacanthocytosis (NA) syndromes and neurodegeneration with brain iron accumulation (NBIA). Topics addressed included clinical and molecular aspects of several of the new NBIA genes that have been identified since the first joint symposium in 2010. In addition, there was new work regarding the properties of red cell membranes which form acanthocytes, and insights into functions of *VPS13A*, mutations of which cause chorea-acanthocytosis. Four early-career investigators were awarded scholarships to attend, to foster collaboration with more senior scientists in the field, and to support their continued contributions to the field. A highlight of the meeting was a group trip to the nearby Kröller-Müller Museum which houses an outstanding collection of artworks, including a number of Vincent Van Gogh.



Figure legend:

Back row: Gabriel Miltenberger-Miltenyi, MD; Emile van den Akker, PhD; Luis Guidi, PhD; Holger Prokisch, PhD; Mareike von Lindern, PhD; Alie Nagel; Rikkert Nagel; Nils Rother; Liza Lahaye; Wondwossen Melaku Yeshaw; (unidentified); Monika Hartig, PhD; Adrian Danek, MD; (unidentified); Fulvio Reggiori, PhD; Nikola Grzeschik, PhD; Roald Lambrechts; Andrey Moiseenok, PhD; Aaron Neiman, PhD; Angelika Klucken; Balaji Srinivasan, BSc; Ivan Gout, PhD; Onno Schaap, PhD; Jan Vonk, MS; Maayke van Schijndel; Rainer Probaska, PhD; William Arends; Lucia de Franceschi, MD, PhD.

3rd row: Mario Mairhofer, PhD; Jean Loup Vasseur, PhD; Antonio Lopez; Benedikt Bader, MD; Dario Finazzi, MD; Merel Adjobo-Hermans, PhD; Madina Baratashvili; Ruth Walker, MB, ChB, PhD; Thomas Klopstock, MD; Nina Kanunnikova, PhD; Shima Mehrabian, MD; Bart Kanon, PhD; Hans Jung, MD.

2nd row: Andreas Hermann, MD; Suzanne Jackowski, PhD; Sonia Levi, PhD; Patty Wood; Valeria Tiranti, PhD; Ody Sibon, PhD; Alex Irvine; Glenn Irvine.

Front row: Antonio Velayos Baeza, PhD; Arcangela Iuso, PhD; Penny Hogarth, MD; Barbara Garavaglia, PhD; Tobias Haack, MD; Claudia Siegl-Roos, PhD; Susan Hayflick, MD.

2nd Annual European Section Winter School for Young Neurologists — Tartu, Estonia, March 1-3, 2013

—Pille Taba, MD, PhD, Tartu University, Tartu, Estonia

The second MDS-ES Winter School for Young Neurologists was held in the beginning of March in Tartu, Estonia, at the Hospital of Tartu University, one of the oldest universities in the Nordic countries. Tartu welcomed the participants with moody winter weather including sunshine in a bright frost followed by scenic snowfall.

The course format followed the previous Winter and Summer Schools, including lectures and practical patient demonstrations but additionally, an innovative session on neuropathology. Lectures on the first day focused on parkinsonism, on the second day – hyperkinetic disorders, and the third day featured complex issues in movement disorders such as gait, sleep disorders, and psychogenic movement disorders. On each day, there were practical patient examinations in groups, providing the opportunity to see patients with conventional movement disorders but also with rare diseases. On the second day, there was a session on neuropathology that started with a lecture, followed by practical sessions of brain sectioning performed by Professor Tamas Revesz from the Queen Square Brain Bank in London.

At the end of the first day, there was a video dinner chaired by Professors Niall Quinn and Kailash Bhatia, with a demonstration of cases by the faculty. Young neurologists had an opportunity to demonstrate their cases in the “Bring your own case” session, with the best ones selected for the final session of the course. At this point, winners were selected by vote and awarded with free registration to the 18th Congress of Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders in 2014 in Stockholm. The best cases were presented by Hanene Benrhouma-Hafdhellaoui (Tunisia), Kamila Peterova (Czech Republic) and Ana Castro Caldas (Portugal).

The faculty included European top experts on movement disorders: Joaquim Ferreira (Lisbon, Portugal), Marie Vidailhet (Paris, France), Andrew Lees (London, UK), Susanne Schneider (Kiel, Germany), Eduardo Tolosa (Barcelona, Spain), Paolo Barone (Naples, Italy), Toomas Asser (Tartu, Estonia); Vladimir Kostic (Belgrade, Serbia), Carlo Colosimo (Rome, Italy), Angelo Antonini (Milan, Italy), Tamas Revesz (London, UK), Evzen Ruzicka (Prague, Czech Republic), Kailash Bhatia (London, UK), Niall Quinn (London, UK), Markku Partinen (Helsinki, Finland), and Pille Taba (Tartu, Estonia). During patient examination and brain section sessions, they were assisted by the team of fellows guided by Karin Rallmann and Kati Toom.

The Winter School in Tartu was a great success, and we look forward to the next Summer School in London in 2014 (course directors Kailash Bhatia, Werner Poewe and Niall Quinn).

Participant Recap: ‘Hot’ Education in Winter School

—Yury Seliverstov, MD, Research Center of Neurology, Moscow, Russia

Despite the arrival of March, it was still winter in the streets of Tartu ... a true Winter School.

Tartu welcomed young neurologists from different European countries and also from Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Tunisia. Even though there were only three days to cover the course program, each day was quite eventful. The format of this Winter School included not only lectures by distinguished professors from different European universities, but also seeing patients with various types of movement disorders with the possibility of assessing them, defining main clinical features, and proposing a probable diagnosis. That aspect was particularly important in terms of getting clinical experience directly from our course tutors. During the lectures, we also learned some neuroimaging aspects of movement disorders.

What is also significant is that we watched a good number of video case presentations made by both lecturers and Winter School participants. Most of the video cases were presented during a “video dinner.” Thanks to that, we’ve learned clinical features of various movement disorders, e.g. in patients with various toxic conditions, hereditary, and neurodegenerative diseases. That multimodel approach to the educational process thereby allowed us to become much more familiar with the nuances of various movement disorders. It was extremely helpful for the study process, which was accompanied by a warm and cheerful dinner at the end of each day.

There is no doubt that those three days were crucial in terms of upgrading our knowledge on movement disorders and improving quality of our professional work. On behalf of the students, I would like to really thank our dear faculty, and in particular professors Pille Taba, Joaquim Ferreira, and Marie Vidailhet, for hosting and organizing such a fruitful and exciting MDS Winter School for young neurologists this year!



Botulinum Toxin Training in Neurological Practice, November 29-30, 2012 - Sapienza University, Rome, Italy

—Carlo Colosimo, MD, Rome, Italy, Course Director

Despite increasingly widespread use of botulinum toxins for rehabilitation and neurological and other disorders, there is no recognized or regularly available training scheme in most European countries. Several European guidelines recommend formal training, but available training is haphazard and is rarely organized by non-pharmaceutical entities. This course was developed by the MDS European Section to address that gap, and is now held on a yearly basis in a different European country each time.

A total of 30 attendees from 12 European countries with a primary area of expertise in neurology, and primary role as a clinician, registered to attend the second European Botulinum Toxin Training course. They were joined by 15 local attendees (residents and fellows in neurology) from Rome. Faculty included Prof. Pirtosek, Berardelli, Colosimo, Dressler, Fabbrini, Bentivoglio, Suppa, and Wissel.

Participant Recap

—*Alsadik K. Hamza Jaly, MBChB, MSC, MRCP, MRCPI, Belfast City and the Royal Victoria Hospitals, Dublin, Ireland – Participant*

Continued education for physicians with interest in this science is of a paramount importance to optimize the use of these formulations in different medical applications. In neurology, the use of botulinum toxin has been widely recognised in the treatment of a spectrum of neurological conditions, including the various types of dystonia, spasticity, cerebral palsy, migraine, etc. Unfortunately, training in this area has been lacking. Apart from a few courses (which are largely organised by pharmaceutical companies), no specialised bodies have taken such an initiative. The course titled Botulinum Toxin Training Course for Neurological Practice, organised by The Movement Disorder Society and held in the Department of Neurology, Sapienza University in Rome, is a considerable step by MDS to fill the gap created by the lack of organised training and the increasing number of physicians with such an interest. Apart from the lecture on



The goal of the Botulinum Toxin Training course was to provide medical practitioners relevant training in botulinum toxin treatments in their clinical practice. Ninety-three percent of attendees agreed or strongly agreed that the program was relevant to their practice. Overwhelming positive evaluative results in learning during the course indicate that the Botulinum Toxin Training in Neurological Practice was a highly successful educational effort.



spasticity by Professor Wissel, the two day course, including the practical sessions, focused mainly on the treatment of the various types of dystonia.

The lectures emphasized that the use of EMG and the emerging role of ultrasound would aid in the accurate application of this therapeutic agent. Despite the short duration, the course has been very useful. The challenge for trainees is maintaining their expertise, and perhaps organising training in their localities. It may be a role for MDS to ensure that the level of those taking such courses continue to meet the standard required to provide better care for patients needing such treatment.

Being in Rome was also a chance to explore an old culture and history, such as visiting the Coliseum and the Vatican, and trying the Mediterranean cuisine during the official workshop dinner. Also, such gatherings can help create new friendships between participants, which in turn will facilitate in sharing experiences in the future.

MDS was well represented by Megan Daniels and Kirk Terry. They provided great support to all participants. A big thank you goes to them and to all those involved in the organisation of this useful course. We should not forget to thank those wonderful patients who kindly accepted and participated for the day.

Overall, my participation in the course was a wonderful experience and I would encourage my colleagues with interest in this area to book their places for the forthcoming courses.



Ruey-Meei (Robin) Wu, MD, PhD

Chair, MDS-AOS

The AOS section had a very successful 2012. There were a number of Outreach Education Programs in India, Myanmar, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka, in which over 1,000 participants gained further knowledge in movement disorders. There was also a highly successful Botulinum Toxin Course in Manila, Philippines, directed by Prof. Raymond Rosales.

2013 is off to a great start with many educational programs in their planning stages, including a Visiting Professor Program in Vietnam and a Developing World Education Program in Malaysia. In February 2013, there was a Developing World Education Program in Thailand. Planning for the 2014 AOPMC in Thailand is ongoing. Please plan to attend.

Another exciting educational opportunity is the AOS Training Fellowship Program. This program enables education, training and experience in movement disorders across the region and will foster long term links between medical training and research sites within the AOS. The 2013 AOS Training Fellowship Program submission period closed in February. A subcommittee consisting of AOS leadership reviewed the applications and presented their suggestions to the AOS Executive Committee. This year we have two recipients of the AOS Training Fellowship, Dr. Helen Chiang from Taipei and Dr. Asha Prerna from Singapore. The 2012 AOS Training Fellowship recipient, Dr. Tai Ngoc Tran from Ho Chi Minh City, will begin his fellowship in February at The University of Queensland and St. Andrew's War Memorial Hospital in Brisbane. Please look forward to information regarding the 2014 AOS Training Fellowship Program.

I am also happy to announce the 2013-2015 AOS Election candidates. These candidates were chosen by the AOS Nominat-

ing Committee and approved by the AOS Executive Committee. They reside in a variety of different countries to help ensure representation from the entire AOS region. The candidates include Prof. Nobutaka Hattori for Chair-Elect, Prof. Raymond Rosales for Secretary-Elect, and Prof. Carolyn Sue for Treasurer-Elect. Executive Committee Member nominations include Dr. Mandy Au-Yeung, Dr. Jou-Hsien Chen, Dr. Hee Tae Kim, Dr. Miho Murata, and Prof. Baorong Zhang.

AOS membership continues to greatly increase, with large increases in Indian and Chinese membership. AOS membership currently comprises 27% of overall MDS membership, with over 1,000 AOS members. It is a goal of the AOS leadership for AOS membership to eventually reach 30%. The many AOS education programs have had a positive effect on membership, as well as individual promotion from AOS Members. Thank you all for your efforts and please continue to promote MDS membership within your institutions and national societies.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the 17th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders in Sydney, Australia, June 16-20. The 2013 MDS Congress is an exciting opportunity for the AOS region and I hope all of you can attend. I am looking forward to a productive 2013 and I wish you all peace and success in the New Year!

Best regards,

Ruey-Meei (Robin) Wu, MD, PhD
Chair, MDS-AOS

Movement Disorders Teaching Course in Myanmar, Supported by the MDS Developing World Education Program (DWEP) — Mandalay, December 26, 2012

—Lim Shen-Yang, MBBS, MD, FRACP, University of Malaya

A one-day teaching course on movement disorders was held in Mandalay, Myanmar on December 26, 2012, under the auspices of the Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Neurological Association, ASEAN Neurological Association and the *Movement Disorder Society* (MDS). The event was coordinated by Prof. Tin Htar Nwe (local organizing chairperson) and Dr. Lim Shen-Yang (course director), and supported by MDS under the Developing World Education Program (DWEP).

A total of 170 people, including senior and junior Myanmar neurologists, general physicians, students from various postgraduate programs (Doctorate in Neurology, Master in Internal Medicine, Master in Paediatrics and Master in Psychiatry), general practitioners and other enthusiastic young doctors, attended the course. Faculty members comprised of movement disorders experts from the ASEAN region: Dr. Apichart Pisarnpong (Thailand), Dr. Lim Shen-Yang (Malaysia), Dr. Lim Thien Thien (Malaysia) and Dr. Prakash Kumar (Singapore). Members of the local neurology community also contributed presentations.

Lecture topics, covered in half-hour sessions, included: “Parkinson’s disease - Early stage”, “Advanced Parkinson’s disease”, “Atypical parkinsonism”, “Dystonia”, “Athetosis, hemiballismus & chorea”, “Tremor” and “Interesting/Unusual movement disorders”. Many videos were shown and there was good participation from the audience.

The event was a great success and helped to improve participants’ knowledge and skills in movement disorders in a region currently still facing limited access to subspecialty resources. The organizers are grateful to the speakers for their time and efforts, and to MDS and industry partners for financial and logistical support. The speakers received very generous hospitality from the local hosts and would like to record sincere thanks to their Myanmar friends and colleagues.



The Basic Movement Disorder Course — Chiang Mai, Thailand, February 8, 2013

—Roongroj Bhidayasiri, MD, FRCP President, Thai Parkinson's Disease & Movement Disorders Society

Although the Planning Committee for the Basic Movement Disorder Course expected about 100 participants, 230 health professionals registered for the one-day course at the Maharaj Nakhon Chiang Mai Hospital on 8 February 2013. The day was structured around the core syllabus of MDS to cover the basic issues faced by medical doctors as they respond to the needs of their patients with unusual and pathological patterns of movement disorders.

Fortunately, the Planning Committee was prepared for success and 200 registration packets were available for distribution. The registration packets included: The Program; The MDS Basic Movement Disorders Syllabus; The Post Meeting Evaluation Form; The Educational Needs Survey of The *Movement Disorders Society – Asian and Oceanian Section*; the Thai PD MDS membership registration form, MDS brochure; A compact disk, “Clinical Practice Guidelines for Diagnosis and Management of Parkinson's Disease”; the Program-at-a-glance of the 17th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders in Sydney, Australia, 16-20 June, 2013; a Knowledge of PD Survey and a pen and notebook.

The Opening Session included words of welcome from Dr. Roongroj Bhidayasiri as the president of the Thai PD MDS, Dr. Nima Asgari-Jirhandeh of the World Health Organization, a co-sponsor, Dr. Ruey-Meei Wu as the chair of the AOS-MDS executive committee, and Dr. Siwaporn Chankrachang on behalf of the local host. In addition to presentations by experts in their respective areas of specialty from Thailand, those attending heard presentations by Dr. Ruey-Meei Wu of Taipei on the Etiology and Diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease and by Dr. Louis C.S. Tan from Singapore on Tremor. Each of the eight presentations was followed by a question-and-answer period which proved to be lively features of the day and demonstrated the high level of interest in the topics.

The highlight of the day for many was the VDO Movement

Disorder Quiz which presented a video of a typical patient with a specific movement disorder and a range of options from which to select the correct diagnosis. The responses indicated a high level of awareness of the diagnostic criteria and the complexity of achieving an accurate differential diagnosis.

This was a significant event for several reasons: It was the first regional training event that focused exclusively on movement disorders. The 215 participants from Thailand were joined by six doctors from Myanmar and nine from Lao P.D.R., making this a truly regional event. The level of interest demonstrated by the unexpectedly high attendance and active participation in the meeting encouraged planning for the development of a regional network of medical staff interested in additional training resources on movement disorders. So this meeting has the potential to become the beginning of an on-going regional effort to improve the diagnosis and treatment of movement disorders. As part of this strategy, copies of *Movement Disorders: A Video Atlas* were distributed as a resource for continuing education and a survey was conducted to assess areas of particular interest for future training initiatives.

At the conclusion of the course, Dr. Roongroj Bhidayasiri, President of the Thai Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorder Society noted that this one-day course was the beginning of a regional network of movement disorder clinicians and helped prepare for the Asia and Oceania Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Congress (AOPMC) to be held in Thailand in 2014.

Co-sponsored by MDS, WHO, the Northern Neuroscience Center and the Thai Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorder Society, additional support was provided by pharmaceutical companies in Thailand, including B.L. Hua & Co., Ltd.; STADA Asiatic Co. Ltd.; Roche Thailand Ltd.; GlaxoSmithKline (Thailand) Limited; Diethelm Company Limited; Medtronic (Thailand) Limited; Abbott Laboratories Ltd.; Boehringer Ingelheim (Thai) Ltd.; and Novartis (Thailand) Co. Ltd.





Jorge L. Juncos, MD

Chair, MDS-PAS Organizing Committee

Last year, the PAS Nominating Committee, headed by Dr. Anthony Lang, worked diligently to formulate a slate of candidates for PAS Officers and Executive Committee Members to transition the PAS from the current Organizing Committee to a fully elected Executive Committee. The proposed candidates have been approved by the MDS International Executive Committee (IEC), and the candidate ballots have been distributed to the membership for a vote. Elections results will be announced after the Congress in Sydney, at which time the new officers will take over PAS.

During the 2013 Congress, we will bid farewell to some members of the Organizing Committee who were responsible for helping coalesce PAS as an initiative of the MDS IEC. We would like to thank them for their enthusiasm and dedication which has contributed to the success of the PAS. We look forward to their continued support in the future.

The mandate of the original Organizing committee was to broaden and strengthen MDS representation in Central America, South America and the Caribbean, while maintaining the strong presence it has always had in the U.S. and Canada. As we move forward, the aim of the new Executive Committee will be to continue to strengthen the bonds among this expanded MDS community. Through the electoral process, we continue to strive for a balanced and unified representation of all regions. In this regard we would like to thank all members of the PAS Nominating Committee for their input in selecting candidates, and the PAS Organizing Committee members for their comments and ideas during nomination process.

Dr. Litvan and I will remain as leaders of the PAS Executive and Education Committees through 2015. The proposed new Officers and Executive Committee Members for the region are from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico, Peru and the US. The candidates for Secretary and Treasurer through 2015 are Dr. Kathleen Shannon and Dr. Vitor Tumas. The elect position candidates for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are Prof. Francisco Cardoso, Dr. Emilia Gatto, and Dr. Janis Miyasaki. The candidates for Executive Committee Members are Dr. Alberto Espay, Dr. Rachel Saunders-Pullman, Dr. Carlos Singer, Dr. Ron Postuma, Dr. David Riley, Dr. Pedro Chana-Cuevas, Dr. Carlos Cosentino, Dr. Tomoko Arakaki, Dr. Anabel Chade and Dr. Ulises Rodriguez.

Further, in order to facilitate the transition, two of the current members of the Organizing Committee will remain members of the Executive Committee Through 2015. These members are Doctors Vanderci Borges and Roberto Weiser.

In addition to the organization of the upcoming elections, the PAS and its Education Committee continue to develop educational opportunities across the region. The PAS hosted a School for Young Neurologists in Santiago, Chile, April 5-7, 2013 following the format used by MDS in Europe. During the two and a half day course, Doctors Pedro Chana Cuevas and Olga Benavides hosted 40 students from 11 different countries in the region. You may read more about the course on page 22. Also in April, the PAS sponsored a Visiting Professor Program, *Educational Course on Biomarkers in Parkinson's Disease: Focus on Neuroimaging and PET Studies*, hosted by Dr. María Cecilia Peralta in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Further ahead on October 19-20, 2013, MDS will be providing support for a course in Boston hosted by Dr. Joseph Friedman called *Psychiatry in Movement Disorders*.

The PAS Education Committee has continued to make other educational resources accessible on a greater scale through an ongoing effort to translate educational materials into Spanish. The MDS "Diagnosis of Movement Disorders" slide sets have been translated and posted to the Members-only section of the website in Spanish. Translations of the Parkinson and Movement Disorders Course Slides are projected to be translated soon. Members of the PAS region have also assisted the authors of the recently published TETRAS tremor scale in creating Spanish translations.

We look forward to your participation in many more MDS-PAS activity and will welcome your input into improving these events. We are especially interested in your participation in the PAS electoral process and in the Sydney Congress.

Kind regards and see you in Sydney,

Jorge L. Juncos, MD
Chair, MDS-PAS Organizing Committee

MDS Ambassador Program - II International Symposium on Movement Disorders — Mendoza, Argentina, October 11-13, 2012

—Federico Micheli, MD, Hospital De Clinicas, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Since 2010, the Parkinson and Movement Disorders Program of Hospital de Clínicas José de San Martín, depending on the University of Buenos Aires, has been seeking to foster knowledge about prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and new therapeutic perspectives of movement disorders in regions of Argentina where the development of this specialty is currently scarce. This initiative to promote the training of human resources in this subspecialty was started with a successful experience in the province of Santiago del Estero in 2011.

This year, Mendoza was the chosen venue for the II International Symposium on Movement Disorders, sponsored by the Ambassador Program of the Pan-American section of the Movement Disorder Society. The MDS Ambassadors were Dr. Peter A. LeWitt and Dr. María del Rosario Luquín, who gave conferences for a large number of neurologists and neurosurgeons (150) about Biomarkers in Parkinson's Disease and New Perspectives of Cell and Gene Therapy for PD, respectively.

The academic body in charge of giving this symposium was made up by 50 renowned neurology and neurosurgery professors from Latin America, Europe and the United States, outstanding among which are:

FROM ARGENTINA: Dr. María Alejandra Carrasco, Dr. Cristina Pecci, Dr. Jorge Bajuk, Dr. Liliana Barg, Dr. María Elena Giuntini, Dr. Leticia López, Dr. Adriana Ziliotto, Dr. Guillermo Zeppa, Dr. Jorge Mandolesi, Dr. Rolando Giannula, Dra. Graciela Cersósimo, Dr. Fabián Cremaschi, Dr. Roberto Iérmoli, Dr. Claudia Uribe Roca, Dr. Gabriela B. Rayna, Dr. Diana Muzio, Dr. Alejandro Pellene, Dr. Juan Carlos Giugni, Dr. Cristian Calandra, Dr. Ricardo Maiola, Dr. Mariana Moreno, Dr. Daniela Calvo, Dr. Eugenia Randich Montaldi, Dr. Sebastián Casas, Dr. Sebastián Rauek, Dr. Claudia Perandones and Dr. Federico Micheli

FROM BRAZIL: Dr. Denise Hack Nicaretta, Dr. Vanderci Borges, Dr. Ana Rosso, Dr. Mauro Gómez de Araujo

FROM CHILE: Dr. Carlos Juri

FROM FRANCE: Prof. Dr. Frederic Sedel

FROM GERMANY: Prof. Dr. Bernhard Landwehrmeyer

FROM ITALY: Prof. Dr. Lucrecia Vega Gramunt

FROM MEXICO: Dr. Carlos Zuñiga Ramírez, Dr. José Damián Carrillo Ruiz

FROM PARAGUAY: Dr. José Cortti

FROM PERÚ: Dr. Luis Torres, Dr. Pilar Mazetti, Dr. Miriam Velez, Dr. Nicanor Mori

FROM SPAIN: Prof. Dr. María Trinidad Herrero Ezquerro, Prof. Dr. María del Rosario Luquín

FROM UK: Charles Sabine

FROM URUGUAY: Dr. Elena Dieguez



FROM USA: Dr. Peter A. LeWitt, Dr. Ignacio Fernández Mata, Dr. Cristina Sampaio, Dr. Ignacio Muñoz-SanJuan, Dr. María Beconi

FROM VENEZUELA: Dr. Ernesto Solís Añez

The topics discussed during the symposium included a complete, thorough description of diagnostic criteria and therapy updates for all pathologies related to movement disorders, such as: Parkinson's Disease, Parkinsonisms, primary and secondary dystonias, tics, myoclonus, drug-induced movement disorders, psychogenic movement disorders, choreas, movement disorders secondary to metabolic diseases, etc.

The development of the symposium included keynote lectures and also workshops with an active participation by both professionals and patients, such as:

- Workshop: "Using Botulinum Toxin in the Treatment of Movement Disorders," with the participation of Prof. Ana Rosso and Prof. Mauro Gómez de Araujo, both from Brazil.
- Workshop on Quality of Life with Parkinson's Disease, Co-chaired by Dr. María Alejandra Carrasco and Dr. Cristina Pecci with the participation of Prof. Lucrecia Vega Gramunt (Italy).
- Workshop on Neurosurgery and Neuromodulation in Movement Disorders, with the outstanding participation of Prof. José Damián Carrillo-Ruiz (Mexico).

Also, a large number of activities took place in connection to Huntington's Disease, which included: A Huntington's Disease Module, comprising sessions devoted to ENROLL HD with conferences given by Prof. Dr. Cristina Sampaio and Prof. Dr. Bernhard Landwehrmeyer, and conferences about new therapeutic perspectives, given by Prof. Dr. María Beconi and Prof. Dr. Ignacio Muñoz SanJuan. There was also a Meeting of Families with Huntington's Disease in Latin America, with the participa-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

MDS Ambassador Program - Introducción al estudio, identificación y manejo de los movimientos anormales — Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 29-31, 2012

—Emilia Gatto, MD, FUNDACION INEBA, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dr. Emilia Gatto and the Pan American Section of MDS organized the course *Introducción al estudio, identificación y manejo de los movimientos anormales* which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on August 29-31, 2012.

The program focused on training young neurologists and neurologists from different parts of Argentina, Chile and Peru in fundamental movement disorders education under the leader-



ship of MDS Visiting Professors Dr. Irene Litvan and Dr. Anthony Lang, who gave lectures and conducted the video sessions along with Argentinean Movement Disorders specialists: Prof. Dr. Oscar Gershanik, Dr. Tomoko Arakaki, Dr. Nélide Garreto, Dr. Cecilia Peralta, Dr. Diego Bauso, Dr. Diana Simonetti, Dr. Javier Ziliani, Dr. Manuel Rodríguez, Dr. Jose Bueri, Dr. Gonzalo Gómez Arévalo, Dr. Silvia García, Dr. Marcelo Merello, Dr. Anabel Chade, and Dr. Gabriel Napoli.

The program was attended by 90 participants who, in a post program evaluation, expressed their satisfaction with the course content and the speakers qualifying the general content as excellent in 62% of questionnaires and that they would recommend the course in 96% of cases. The majority of them also agreed that they hope the course will take place next year with more topics and a longer duration.

The organizers Dr. Emilia Gatto, Dr. José Etcheverry, Dr. Ana Sanguinetti, Dr. Gabriel Persi, Dr. Virginia Parisi and the INEBA Foundation would like to thank the MDS and the Visiting Professors for their support in organizing this course.

MDS Ambassador Program - Central America XV Meeting of Neurology — Managua, Nicaragua, November 22-24, 2012

—Walter S. Díaz, MD, Managua, Nicaragua

Dr. Walter S. Díaz and the Pan American Section of the MDS organized the Symposium of Movement Disorders as part of the Central America XV meeting of Neurology, which was held in Managua, Nicaragua on November 22-24, 2012. It marked the first MDS- PAS meeting in the Central American Region. The program was attended by 220 participants including neurologists from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama.

This Symposium focused on continuing the medical education of young neurologists and neurologists from different countries of Central America, internal medicine, neurosurgeons, residents and medical students of Nicaragua. The ambassador from MDS was Dr. Irene Litvan. She gave 3 lectures: *Errores más comunes en el diagnóstico de la enfermedad de Parkinson*, *Demencia Frontotemporal* y *actualidades en la enfermedad corticobasal*.

The organizers, Dr. Walter S. Díaz and The Nicaraguan Society of Neurology, would like to thank MDS and the Ambassador for their support in organizing this Symposium.



The 2nd Pan American Section School for Young Neurologists — Santiago, Chile, April 5-7, 2013

—Pedro Chaná, MD, Director of CETRAM, Santiago, Chile

The 2nd MDS Pan American Section School for Young Neurologists took place April 5-7, 2013 in Santiago, Chile. The course was organized by the MDS with the strong support of the Chilean organization Centro de Trastornos del Movimiento (CETRAM), a nongovernment organization that works in conjunction with associations of Chilean patients.

This successful event was attended by 40 young neurologists from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Peru. The participants were selected from over 70 applicants to the course. The activities were carried out in an atmosphere of camaraderie and hard work, with a format that included lectures held in the morning and practical demonstrations with patients in the afternoon, including practical sessions on a psychosocial rehabilitation approach focused on improving the quality of life of patients.

The first day of the conference focused on Parkinson's disease and Parkinsonism with theoretical aspects during the morning and afternoon workshops. The second day it turned towards hyperkinetic disorders with the same schema, adding in the evening a discussion of videos. The third day the students brought their own cases to discuss together. It was organized as a competition in which six groups were formed to discuss the cases of each of its members with the guidance of a faculty member. Subsequently, the professors selected four cases to be presented to the entire group and a winner was chosen by students and faculty in a secret ballot. The winner of the best case presentation, Dr. Gabriel Persi from Buenos Aires, Argentina, was awarded free registration for the 18th Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders in 2014 in Stockholm.

The faculty consisted in a select group of movement disorders specialists in the Pan American Region: Dr. Rafael Aranguiz •



Santiago, Chile, Dr. Francisca Canals • Santiago, Chile, Prof. Francisco Cardoso • Belo Horizonte, Brazil, Dr. Andres de la Cerda • Santiago, Chile, Dr. Jorge Juncos • Atlanta, USA, Dr. Carlos Juri • Santiago, Chile, Dr. Carolina Kunstmann • Santiago, Chile, Dr. Irene Litvan • San Diego, USA, Dr. Federico Micheli • Buenos Aires, Argentina Dr. Marcelo Miranda • Santiago, Chile. Practical activities were supported throughout by the CETRAM professional management team and coordinated by its director, Ms. Daniela Albuquerque, occupational therapist. This successful event was led by co-directors Dr. Olga Benavides and Dr. Pedro Chaná.

MDS Ambassador Program CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

tion of representatives of Associations of Families from Venezuela, Chile, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, and Argentina.

On October 10, before the symposium started, a course was given to train young professionals in the area of Movement Disorders in the Hospital Universitario de Mendoza, as well as a Science Dissemination Workshop. It was aimed at creating awareness about the relevance of correctly using resources in the Health area, specifically in the problem area of movement disorders. It was attended by representatives from prestigious local, national and international media, among them Prof. Dr. María Trinidad Herrero Ezquerro (Spain) and NBC's correspondent and producer Charles Sabine (UK).

“We have achieved our goals and will continue to work tirelessly to improve the quality of life of individuals affected by movement disorders in Latin America,” declared Prof. Dr. Federico Micheli, president of the meeting, in his closing speech.



MDS Telemedicine Task Force Launches First Course in Cameroon

In July, the MDS Telemedicine Task Force will begin to implement its first course in Douala, Cameroon at Hospital Laquintinie. During April, the course director, Dr. Esther Cubo and her nurse, Natividad Mariscal, both from Burgos, Spain, traveled to Douala to make the final arrangements for the course. The course will consist of an estimated 23 participants, including general practitioners, nurses and three of the country's fifteen neurologists. The year long program consists in a monthly, telemedicine lecture given by professors from Hospital Universitario de Burgos, Hospital 12 de Octubre, Hospital Clinico San Carlos and Hospital Central de Asturias all from Spain, as well as Rush University Medical Center, Columbia University and Johns Hopkins all in the United States. The program aims to improve the diagnostic, assessment, and treatment skills of the health providers in Cameroon.



(Left) Dr. Cubo and her nurse, Natividad Mariscal, met with a traditional Doctor from Cameroon to find out how neurological diseases were initially treated in the country. (Right) The program was announced at the hospital during April. Pictured are the course director along with director, medical director, and the human resources director of Hospital Laquintinie.

Parkinson's disease in sub-Saharan Africa CONTINUED FROM COVER

Pilot Project in Nigeria

In relation to drug availability, the Task Force is conducting a pilot project in Nigeria, overseen by Dr. Njide Okubadejo, to provide patients, who otherwise could not afford treatment, with access to drugs. These have been donated by Teva, Canada and this has been facilitated by Dr. Mark Guttman. This is initially a 2-year pilot and we hope that, if it is successful, this might be repeated longer term in Nigeria, and also in other sites. A key problem will be making PD drugs affordable in SSA but we hope that by demonstrating the need, and potential market, pharmaceutical companies will make more effort to make affordable drugs available.

Plans for the Future

Looking to the future, one of the ways of establishing evidence of this need is by the collection of more data. We are keen to set up a multi-centre study to look at both the phenotype and genotype of PD, and also to look longitudinally at response to treatment such that efforts to increase availability of treatment to individuals will run hand in hand with robust evaluation, including health economics. Ten years ago there was a universal movement to make highly active anti-retroviral drugs available throughout SSA for HIV patients, and this has been very successful. Although PD is not as high profile drugs can have a major impact on individuals' quality of life.

Anyone who is interested in finding out more and potentially becoming involved with the work of the Task Force on Africa can contact Prof. Richard Walker or Secretariat Liason Megan Daniels or any of the other members of the Committee. The Task Force aims to keep people updated on the initiatives via the MDS website.

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