Parkinson’s Disease, Web-based Education Program for Health Providers in Cameroon

—Esther Calo, MD, PhD, Hospital Universitario de Burgos, Burgos, Spain

Due to rapid demographic changes, the prevalence of Parkinson’s disease (PD) is increasing in sub-Saharan (SS) countries.\(^1\) In contrast to developed countries, evidence suggests that most patients with PD are under diagnosed and untreated, with markedly increased mortality and shortage of qualified personnel.\(^2\) In the last years, there has been renewed interest from the World Health Organization, Telecommunications Companies and Medical Associations about the use of telemedicine in Africa.\(^3\)

To help increase access to care and to train providers around the world using technology, the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society (MDS) has sponsored pilot projects in care and education that can lay the foundation for reaching the majority of people with PD. In this regards, a telemedicine program for health providers has been developed at Hospital Laquintinie in Douala, a city of three million inhabitants in Cameroon. The course is a web-based program that will provide participants with access to specialized education in the field of movement disorders, which is currently unavailable in their region. Local neurologists and professors at the University of Douala, including Dr. Doumbe, chairman of the Department of Neurology (Hospital Laquintinie), and Dr. Njienwe (University of Douala), have significantly contributed to the implementation of this course at Hospital Laquintinie. The course consists of twelve lectures over the course of a year which will connect participants with experts in the field of movement disorders using live video, slides, chat and audio conferencing. The participants will have the opportunity to receive MDS membership and its benefits, including special education to certify them to use the MDS rating scales. Two courses will be launched, one designed for doctors (neurologists, neurology residents, primary care, and internists), and another one for other health professionals (nurses, physiotherapists, and psychologists). The course will be taught by professors from Spanish hospitals, including Hospital Universitario de Burgos, Hospital 12 de Octubre, Hospital Clinico San Carlos, Hospital Sant Pau, and Hospital Central de Asturias; Rush University Medical Center, Columbia University and Rochester University in the United States; Parkinson Victoria Association, Health Sciences University in Australia; North Tyneside General Hospital in Great Britain; and Hospital Galway and Parkinson Galway Association in Ireland. The main objectives of this pilot telemedicine education program will be to analyze the feasibility and adherence from participants, as well as satisfaction of users, and prospectively to collect and compare information about patients with PD quality of life and caregiver burden at baseline and at the end of this program.

However, telemedicine for PD strategy development in Africa is challenging. Most of the SS countries have inadequate communication technologies infrastructure, which creates difficult implementation. In addition, telemedicine needs to demonstrate success and sustainability, and this type of initiative has to survive beyond the end of the initial funding period. Therefore, networking provides opportunities to spread the cost of infrastructure of telemedicine development between the local governments, business, foreign education providers, and health sectors, and therefore the cost burden should not be borne by just one sector. Telemedicine for PD should be recognized to remove or at least mitigate the barriers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22
Dear Colleagues,

The beginning of this issue of Moving Along highlights the 17th International Congress in Sydney, Australia. This was a very interesting and dynamic event, perfectly organized by Victor Fung, David John Burn, and their colleagues on the MDS Congress Scientific Program Committee, as well as the Congress Local Organizing Committee in Sydney. Many of us found it to be particularly pleasant and relaxing to travel to the convention center every day by ferry! We look forward to another unique and exciting venue for the 18th International Congress, when MDS will travel to Stockholm, Sweden, and we will commute to the convention center by train instead of boat.

This issue also features the Society’s biannual turnover of new leadership in the Officers and MDS Regional Sections, with several new people introducing themselves in their new role. In addition, ample space is given to the various regional education courses and symposia sponsored or endorsed by the Society in the five continents (Antarctica is still out of reach of MDS for the time being, despite the fact that one of us has already visited this continent!). In this issue, we are particularly happy to publish two reports (one as the cover story) of education activities carried out by MDS members in Sub-Saharan Africa, in the attempt to spread knowledge and awareness of movement disorders.

A timely initiative is also to give space to the Health Professional (Non-Physician) special interest group and their education activities; the aim to increase the knowledge of this fascinating field of neurology among all those in charge of our patients is one of the main reasons the Society is in existence today.

We look forward to serving another term as editors of Moving Along, and as always encourage your ideas and submissions for future issues. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a successful and productive 2014!
It is a great honor for me to assume the position of President of the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society (MDS), the largest international organization representing movement disorder specialists. I look forward to working with my fellow Officers and International Executive Committee (IEC) members, and will do my utmost to be responsive to the membership, which now includes 4,500 members from 117 countries.

As the Society continues to grow, so does our effort to increase awareness of Movement Disorders as a neurological subspecialty among the public and other related societies. As part of this effort, MDS members voted to change the organization’s name at its last general meeting in Sydney, Australia on June 18th, 2013. This new name, the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society, recognizes the growing importance of Parkinson’s disease care and research within the field of Movement Disorders and the activities of the Society. Other efforts to increase awareness also include establishing a new online journal and a new website in 2014.

While the MDS award-winning website domain, www.movementdisorders.org, will remain the same, the website will be upgraded in 2014 to accommodate all platforms (tablet, mobile, mini, desktop) and will accommodate enhanced multimedia capabilities. Our website has more than doubled in size in the last five years, surpassing 1 million page views, and we want to ensure the website continues setting the standard among medical societies for a visually attractive and intuitively organized portal to society information. Hubert Fernandez has been asked to serve another term as editor to oversee the completion of this effort. In addition, Susan Fox has been selected as Co-Editor of the MDS Website for the next term.

Also launching in 2014, Movement Disorders—Clinical Practice is the new online journal from the Society. The sister publication to Movement Disorders, Movement Disorders-Clinical Practice seeks to publish peer-reviewed articles that are focused on clinical practice and educational issues relevant to Movement Disorders neurology. Particular emphasis will be placed on updates in clinical patient management, new advances in clinical diagnosis, novel observations on phenomenology, and practice-related management. This journal will also publish important individual case presentations, case series, and vignettes with and without accompanied videos. Articles will be fully citable from launch using the DOI (digital object identifier) system and will be searchable on Wiley Online Library and other search engines. Kailash Bhatia, MD, DM, FRCP, London, United Kingdom, and Marcelo Merello, MD, PhD, Buenos Aires, Argentina, have been selected to serve as the editors of this new MDS journal.

It is rare that a Society grows as steadily as MDS (on average, 8% per year). With more members engaged in advancing the neurological sciences pertaining to movement disorders, I look forward to bringing you updates on the progress of the Society’s growing programming. A particular vote of appreciation must go to our outgoing Officers and IEC members Philip Thompson, Cindy Comella, Nir Giladi, Kailash Bhatia, Ryuji Kaji, Serge Przedborski and Jon Stoessl, whose hard work have contributed to our present success.

I look forward to working with all of you to ensure the continued success of our Society.

Matthew B. Stern, MD
MDS President, 2013-2015
MDS International Congress in ‘The Land Down Under’

For the first time in the history of the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society, the International Congress was held on the continent of Australia. Situated next to long stretches of ocean and sandy beaches, Sydney hosted The 17th International Congress of Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders on June 16-20, 2013 for delegates coming from 75 different countries. The Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, located in the heart of beautiful Darling Harbour, was the perfect venue for the delegates to learn about the latest research, and perspectives in the field of Movement Disorders and to network and collaborate with colleagues. Everyone’s participation made for several highlights during the week:

- 2,600 total people registered (including press and exhibitors)
- 75 countries represented
- 100 Travel Grants awarded by MDS
- 20 additional Travel Grants provided by the MDS-AOS
- 220 faculty members participated in the Scientific Sessions
- 1,322 posters accepted
- 44 Late-Breaking posters accepted
- 13 MDS Study Group abstracts accepted
- 4 Therapeutic Plenary Sessions
- 9 Plenary Sessions
- 26 Parallel Sessions
- 8 Teaching Courses
- 9 Video Sessions
- 17 Skills Workshops
- 16 Guided Poster Tours
- 25 companies exhibited
- 19 representatives from the press attended

Under the direction of Prof. David John Burn, the Congress Scientific Program Committee (CSPC) made every effort to ensure that the science for the 17th International Congress was diverse and educational. The 2013 Scientific Program incorporated Therapeutic Plenary Sessions, Plenary and Parallel Sessions, Teaching Courses, Video Sessions, Skills Workshops, Controversies, Blue Ribbon Highlights, Poster Sessions and Guided Poster Tours. There were 13 sessions focused on this year’s theme of “Clinicopathological Correlations in Movement Disorders – From Bench to Bedside” which gave participants an educational and comprehensive overview on the subject.

All eight Teaching Courses from the 17th International Congress are available on DVD-ROM for purchase which includes slides, audio, video and the accompanying syllabi. All 13 Themed Courses are also available on DVD-ROM for purchase which includes slides, audio and video. To order either of these DVDs, please visit www.mdscongress2013.org/.

A unique session was introduced this year to the Scientific Program called, “Challenging the experts: Movement disorders clinicopathological correlations”. This Parallel Session was designed to challenge movement disorder experts and exemplify actual movement disorder cases. This session brought together four experienced movement disorders specialists and expert neuropathologists to take the audience through clinical cases with video documentation highlighting how they interpret the history and signs in patients with complex movement disorders. The session was very well received by all in attendance and special thanks to our “MDS Experts” who made the session possible.

Delegates were formally welcomed to the country by experiencing a Smoking Ceremony and a performance by a traditional Aboriginal dance group called ‘Descendance’. This ‘welcome’ at the official opening to the International Congress on Sunday, June 16, paid respect to the Aboriginal ancestors and provided an awareness of Australia’s indigenous cultures.

Following the performance at the Opening Ceremony, President Günther Deuschl distributed these awards for the last time during his presidency:

- Honorary Member Awards:
  - Joseph Jankovic, Houston, TX, USA
  - John G. Nutt, Portland, OR, USA

- President’s Distinguished Service Award:
  - Philip Thompson, Adelaide, Australia

- Stanley Fahn Lecture:
  - Philip Thompson, Adelaide, Australia

- C. David Marsden Lecture:
  - Peter Jenner, London, United Kingdom

- Junior Awards
  - Jee Young Lee, Seoul, Korea
  - Mun Kyung Sunwoo, Seoul, Korea
  - Alison Yarnall, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom

Additionally, 120 Travel Grants were distributed. Please see pages 6-7 for more information on these awards.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
Nearly 1,300 delegates gathered to watch unique movement disorder cases on the evening of Wednesday, June 19 during the 6th Annual MDS Video Challenge. The cases presented were selected from a large number of submissions by an international panel of reviewers. Led by Masters of Ceremony Anthony Lang and Kapil Sethi, the world-renowned Panel of Experts engaged the audience by guiding them through the thought process of diagnosing challenging movement disorder cases.

The nine cases that were presented to the Panel of Experts and the three short cases that were shown from the Masters of Ceremony came from Movement Disorder Centers around the world which offered an enjoyable spirit of competition to this event. The Gold medal was awarded to Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau in Spain (presented by Javier Pagonabarraga; Gerstmann-Sträussler-Scheinker disease), the Silver medal was awarded to Sobell Department of Motor Neurosciences and Movement Disorders in United Kingdom (presented Maria Stamoulou; AADC deficiency) and the Bronze medal was awarded to the PD Hinduja National Hospital and Medical Research Center (presented by Charulata Savant Sankhla; Subacute Sclerosing Panencephalitis).

The International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society would like to thank all of the institutions and national Movement Disorder groups who submitted a Letter of Intent at the start of this process and would especially like to thank those who were selected to present their case during the MDS Video Challenge. A DVD-ROM of the MDS Video Challenge is available for purchase by ordering from the MDS website at www.mdscongress2013.org/. Please watch the website for more information about upcoming deadlines if you are interested in participating in the 7th Annual MDS Video Challenge to be held in Stockholm on June 11, 2014.

To claim CME credit for your participation in the MDS 17th International Congress, please visit www.mdscongress2013.org/cme/form.php and complete the on-screen instructions using your registration number found on your name badge or registration confirmation.

The International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society would also like to extend their gratitude to faculty, supporters, exhibitors and delegates for traveling the long distance to Sydney and for helping make the 17th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders another successful meeting!

Mark your calendars! MDS is already planning for the 18th International Congress in Stockholm, Sweden, June 8-12, 2014. Please visit our website for details regarding 2014 Congress at www.mdscongress2014.org/ or contact the International Secretariat at congress@movementdisorders.org with any questions.
2013 MDS Awards Announced

During the 17th International Congress of Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders, June 16-20, 2013, the Society was proud to honor the following MDS award recipients:

**President’s Distinguished Service Award**
The President’s Distinguished Service Award is given in recognition of long and distinguished service to MDS.

**2013 Recipient**
Philip Thompson
Adelaide, Australia


**Honorary Member Award**
The Honorary Member Award recognizes individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the field of Movement Disorders or otherwise to MDS.

**2013 Recipients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Jankovic</td>
<td>Houston, TX, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Nutt</td>
<td>Portland, OR, USA</td>
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**Junior Awards**
Three Junior Award recipients were selected based on their significant contribution to research in the field of Movement Disorders.

**2013 Recipients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alison Yarnall</td>
<td>Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mun Kyung Sunwoo</td>
<td>Seoul, Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jee Young Lee</td>
<td>Seoul, Korea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Previous recipients of the Junior Award include Marios Politis (2012), Norbert Brüggemann (2012), Karin Tuschi (2012), Alexander Schmidt (Clinical 2011), George Tofaris (Basic Science 2011), Roberto Cilia (Clinical 2010), Raphael Hourez (Basic Science 2010), Helen Ling (Clinical 2009), Carlos Jur (Basic Science 2009), Luke Massey (Clinical 2008), Binith Cheeran (Basic Science 2008), Christine Daniels (Clinical 2007), Myriam Khondiker (Basic Science 2007), Andre Troiano (Clinical 2006), Akiko Imamura (Basic Science 2006), Peter Novak (Clinical 2005), Nutan Sharma (Basic Science 2005), David Williams (Clinical 2004), Pedro Gonzalez-Alegre (Basic Science 2004), Sylvie Raoul (Clinical 2002) and Jan Raethjen (Basic Science 2002).

**Travel Grants**
MDS Travel Grants are offered annually in partial support of International Congress delegates in financial need to facilitate their travel to and participation in the International Congress of Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders.

**2013 Recipients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pankaj Agarwal*</td>
<td>Mumbai, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umer Akbar</td>
<td>Gainesville, FL, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonardo Almeida</td>
<td>Hooper, AL, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jakkrut Amornvit</td>
<td>Bangkok, Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camila Aquino</td>
<td>Toronto, ON, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Arkadir</td>
<td>New York, NY, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abolfazl Avan</td>
<td>Mashhad, Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amit Batla</td>
<td>Ghaziabad, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miriam Batule Dominguez</td>
<td>Santa Clara, Cuba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Bedeschi Ferrari</td>
<td>São Paulo, Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Berman</td>
<td>Denver, CO, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josie-Anne Bertrand</td>
<td>Montreal, QC, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ketaki Bhalsing*</td>
<td>Bangalore, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabriella Boschetti</td>
<td>Curitiba, Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Cash</td>
<td>Toronto, ON, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alvin Cenina</td>
<td>Manila, Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence Chang</td>
<td>New York, NY, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corina Christie</td>
<td>Capital Federal, Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence Cormier</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
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</tbody>
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CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
2013 MDS Awards Announced

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Xiaoli Fu*
Guangzhou, China

Brook Galna
Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom

Anna Gamaleya
Moscow, Russia

Hardeep Gambhir*
New Delhi, India

Florin Gandor
Berlin, Germany

Juan C. Giugni
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Aroma Agape Gopalai
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Anne Grünwald
Lübeck, Germany

Jifeng Guo*
Changsha, China

Mohammad Habib*
Sobhanbag, Bangladesh

Jessica Hedeman
Bethesda, MD, USA

Alex Jahangirvand
Saskatoon, SK, Canada

Ketan Ramakant Jhunjhunwala
Bangalore, India

Onanong Jitkritsadakul*
Bangkok, Thailand

Lorraine V. Kalia
Toronto, ON, Canada

Suneil K. Kalia
Toronto, ON, Canada

Eleanna Kara
London, United Kingdom

Juyeon Kim*
Seoul, Korea

Okka Thea Kimmich
Dublin, Ireland

Florian Krismer
Innsbruck, Austria

Neeraj Kumar*
Barabanki, India

Pradeep Kumar
New Delhi, India

Travis Larsh
Kent, OH, USA

Tanya Lin
Tucson, AZ, USA

Jose R. López-Castellanos
San Salvador, El Salvador

Audrey Mailliet
Bruxelles, France

Leslie C. Markun
San Francisco, CA, USA

Hector Ruben Martinez Hernandez
New York, NY, USA

Daniel Martinez-Ramierz
Gainesville, FL, USA

Jessica McCamish
Ventura, CA, USA

Raja Mehanna
Cleveland Heights, OH, USA

Tiago A. Mestre
Toronto, ON, Canada

Kulthida Methawasin
Nakornnayok, Thailand

Kelly Mills
San Francisco, CA, USA

Shahnaz Miri
Teheran, Iran

Jitendriya Mishra*
Chandigarh, India

Hugo Morales
Mexico City, Mexico

Nicolas Morin
Quebec City, QC, Canada

Mariana M. Mosovich
Panama, Brazil

Bogdan Neagu
Thornton, ON, Canada

Zhen Ni
Toronto, ON, Canada

Srivaidee Oravivattanakul
Cleveland Heights, OH, USA

Rafael Palacio*
Bataan, Philippines

Pattamon Panyakaew*
Bangkok, Thailand

Alexander Pentelyat
Philadelphia, PA, USA

Neepa Patel
Houston, TX, USA

Sitti Petchrutetchachat
Nonthaburi, Thailand

Luiza G. Piovesana
Campinas, Brazil

Thomas Ragole
Denver, CO, USA

Gail Ramiro*
Quezon City, Philippines

Gesine Respondek
Munich, Germany

Lucia Ricciardi
Messina, Italy

Richard Salazar Montero
Baltimore, MD, USA

Mohit Saxena
New Delhi, India

Rebecca E. Schuele
Tübingen, Germany

Eva Schulte
Munich, Germany

Madeleine E. Sharp
New York, NY, USA

Leah L. Shiong Shu
Manila, Philippines

Fabienne S. Springer
Innsbruck, Austria

Jirada Sringean*
Nonthaburi, Thailand

Leena Subramanian
Cardiff, United Kingdom

Christine R. Swanson
Philadelphia, PA, USA

Ai Tan*
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Dawn Tan*
Singapore

Sriran Tazen
New York, NY, USA

Jill Trumble
Augusta, GA, USA

Bayasgalan Tserensodnom*
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Kaviraja Udupa
Toronto, ON, Canada

Chizoba Ume
Elliot City, MD, USA

Mwiza Ushe
St. Louis, MO, USA

Elena Vazey
Charleston, SC, USA

V.G. Veena*
New Delhi, India

Sarah Vercruysse
Leuven, Belgium

Tuhin Virmani
New York, NY, USA

Romina Vuono
Cambridge, United Kingdom

Jeri Y. Williams
Birmingham, AL, USA

Simone Wolff
Lübeck, Germany

Gilad Yahalom
Tel-Hashomer, Israel

Farkhod Yunusov
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Jinxia Zhou*
Beijing, China

Irina Zhukova
Tomsk, Russia

* 2013 Travel Grants sponsored by the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society - Asian and Oceanian Section (MDS-AOS)
Redesign improvements you will be seeing in the near future include:

1. **Responsive Design for tablet, mobile, desktop**
   This cutting-edge technology allows user devices of all types - tablet, Mobile phone, Mini, Desktop – to access and view the MDS website according to the user’s unique platforms without compromising the design or functionality on their screen.

2. **Enhanced homepage**
   The new website will have an updated, professional look that will be easy on the eyes. Less is more: less text, more images that guide users to important topics and resources.

3. **Improved navigation and easier search strategies**
   There are approximately 1,500 pages of web content. So it is time to re-examine all of these pages with a better strategy for searching information, downloading files and viewing videos.

4. **Multimedia Library**
   The new design will allow all of the Society’s multimedia (videos, podcasts, graphics, slidesets) to be presented in one easily searchable section.

5. **Search Engine Optimization (SEO) Upgrade**
   It’s vital that the Society’s website remains competitive on search engines such as Google, Yahoo and Bing. The redesign also includes an upgrade of search engine optimization of the website.

6. **New online Journal of Clinical Practice**
   Launching in 2014, Movement Disorders-Clinical Practice, is the new e-only journal from the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society. The sister publication to Movement Disorders, Movement Disorders-Clinical Practice seeks to publish peer-reviewed articles that are focused on clinical practice and educational issues relevant to movement disorders neurology. Particular emphasis will be placed on updates in clinical patient management, new advances in clinical diagnosis, novel observations on phenomenology, and practice-related management.
Health Professionals (Non-Physician) Special Interest Group Co-hosts Summer School for Physiotherapists

—Mariella Graziano, Physiotherapist BSc (Hons), Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg, Health Professionals Special Interest Group

This past July, MDS Health Professionals participated in the first Summer School for Physiotherapy for People with Parkinson’s disease in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. The Summer School was developed in collaboration between MDS-European Section and ParkinsonNet to further increase Parkinson-specific expertise among physiotherapists through interactions with experts in the field and each other.

We welcome the participants in this first Summer School, from 22 different countries, into MDS membership and look forward to their participation in the Health Professionals Special Interest Group. Going forward we will plan to work collaboratively with interested co-sponsoring organizations in other sections of MDS to bring multidisciplinary Summer Schools to more regions around the world. Please read the complete Health Professionals Summer School course report on page 14.

Health Professionals (Non-Physician) Special Interest Group Welcomes New Chair, Ruth Hagestuen, RN, MA

On behalf of the MDS Health Professionals (Non-Physician) Special Interest Group (SIG), the group warmly welcomes their new chair, Ruth Hagestuen, RN, MA, of the USA. Ruth’s vast professional experience in the care of people with Parkinson’s and in particular in Interdisciplinary Teams for Parkinson’s disease and related movement disorders is an asset for the SIG.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Prof. Meg Morris, PhD, of Australia, who has served as Chair of the Health Professional (Non Physicians) SIG from June 2011 until June 2013. Prof. Morris has been an outstanding chair for our group and under her leadership we saw membership grow to 220 members. In addition, due to her leadership, the Health Professionals saw a growing number of multidisciplinary team sessions at the 2013 International Congress in Sydney. Her initiatives to incorporate state-of-the-art interactive lectures at the special sessions for Health Professionals (Non Physicians) attracted a higher number of participants at both Congresses in Dublin 2012 and Sydney 2013.

Currently, we are looking forward to working with the Society’s Web Editorial Board to provide input into the redesign of the MDS website. We hope to see the new website come to light by June 2014.

The Health Professionals (Non-Physician) SIG webpage will provide visitors not only with articles on topics of interest in our field, but also book reviews on various subjects pertaining to the multidisciplinary field of movement disorders healthcare, links to other conferences and workshops, updates on the International Congress, and much more. We also have the MDS Facebook group page and invite you to join us on this social media channel.

Next year, the 18th International Congress of Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders will take place in Stockholm June 8-12. Keep the date in your busy agendas. We look forward to meeting you in Sweden!

Scan the code below to go directly to the Health Professionals (Non-Physician) SIG webpage.
Neurosurgery Special Interest Group agrees to adopt NINDS/CDISC data standard for capturing adverse events data associated with DBS in Parkinson’s patients

—Per Almqvist, MD, PhD, Associate Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery, Senior Consultant, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden; Chair, MDS Neurosurgery Special Interest Group

Deep brain stimulation (DBS) has proven to be a remarkable success for the treatment of movement disorders, with therapeutic benefits for otherwise treatment-resistant conditions. Most patients report an improvement in their quality of life following DBS, and improvement in their physical functioning. DBS has already been used by more than 80,000 patients world-wide and there’s every reason to believe it will become an established treatment option for other neurological disorders.

While DBS has proven helpful for many patients, there is the potential for serious complications and side effects, including bleeding within the brain during surgery, dysfunction or infection of implanted hardware, and stimulation-related neurological or neuropsychiatric side effects. A number of publications have reported on complications associated with DBS surgery since its introduction in 1987. However, with advancing technology and increasing experience, the complication rate of DBS surgery is declining.

In an effort to create a standard for the documentation of complications associated with DBS surgery, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) has developed a data capture module for the adverse events associated with neurosurgical implantation of DBS systems in Parkinson’s disease patients. This data capture module has been adopted by the Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC), and was released as a provisional standard for use in December 2012.

At the MDS Congress in Sydney last June, the Neurosurgery Special Interest Group (Neurosurgery SIG) agreed to adopt the NINDS/CDISC data standard for capturing adverse events data associated with DBS in Parkinson’s patients. The Neurosurgery SIG also proposed testing this new data capture tool in an epidemiological study. This pilot study would be conducted at 10 to 15 clinical centers world-wide. All Parkinson’s disease patients planned for DBS surgery during the study period will be eligible for enrollment. The objective of this study will be to assess the usability of the data capture tool and to determine if there are certain DBS parameters more frequently associated with adverse events.

The next steps are to identify interested study sites world-wide (who will be responsible for obtaining local ethics approval and for all local expenses associated with the conduct of the study), seek research funding in order to support data collection and analysis and protocol development.

If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact Per Almqvist at per.almqvist@ki.se.
Olivier Rascol  
Chair, MDS-ES

It is with great honor that I assume the role of Chair of the MDS European Section and I greatly look forward to working with all of our members in Europe through 2015 and beyond.

In assuming this role, I would like to thank the previous Chairs Werner Poewe (2011-2013) and Alfredo Berardelli (2009-2011), as well as members of the MDS European Section (MDS-ES) Officers and Executive Committee and the MDS-ES Education Committee. Additionally, I would like to personally welcome the new members of the MDS-ES Officers and Executive Committee (Anette Schrag, Secretary; Pille Taba, Secretary-Elect; Carlo Colosimo, Treasurer-Elect; Joaquim Ferreira, Chair-Elect; Huw Morris, Pablo Mir, Oleg Levin, and Klaus Seppi, Members-at-Large), and thank Murat Emre (Treasurer), Werner Poewe (Past-Chair), Paolo Barone, Christine Klein, Per Odin, and Pierre Pollak (Members-at-Large) for the continuation of their service.

Further, I would like to specify the main objectives of the Section for the next two years:

1. Establish the future collaboration between MDS-ES and the new European Academy of Neurology (EAN) in order to continue the fruitful collaboration that the MDS-ES had for the past decade with the EFNS.
2. Continue to develop innovative MDS-ES educational initiatives in line with the remarkable previous achievements of the Section, now being coordinated by Angelo Antonini, Chair of the MDS-ES Education Committee, in close contact with Joaquim Ferreira, who assumes the role of Chair of the international MDS Education Committee, and who was past-Chair of the MDS-ES Education Committee.

I greatly look forward to working with all of you over the next two years in this very exciting time for the MDS European Section.

Best regards,

Olivier Rascol, MD, PhD  
Chair, MDS-ES
MDS-ES Movement Disorders European Fellowship Program Proves Successful

—Angelo Antonini, MD, PhD, Chair, MDS-ES Education Committee

The first year of the MDS European Section’s Movement Disorders European Fellowship Program has been successful, with four fellows receiving funding for placement. MDS funded three of the grants, and the World Federation of Neurology provided funding for a fourth participant from Sub-Saharan Africa. The fellows, Jonida Bala from Albania, Diana Buniatyan from Armenia, Andriy Kuzminskyy from Ukraine, and Lola Taiwo from Nigeria, all will complete their fellowships within 2013. Of the two fellows who have completed their placement at the time of this writing, the reports have been overwhelmingly positive. Dr. Kuzminskyy reported that he was able to see approximately 124 movement disorders patients with a range of diseases from Parkinson’s disease, dystonia, chorea, restless legs syndrome, functional movement disorders and more. He had the opportunity to see rare and different forms of movement disorders, to see various methods of treatment and also acquired skills in botulinum toxin injections. Dr. Bala noted that the fellowship will positively impact his clinical practice by the confidence he gained in diagnosing patients, saying that “being confident is the first step to successful clinical results in medicine.”

Developing World Education Program – Fès, Morocco, April 19-20, 2013

—Ouafae Messouak, MD, PhD, Fès University, Fès, Morocco

The first teaching course on movement disorders approved and supported by MDS was held at the Royal Mirage Hotel on April 19-20, 2013, in Fès, Morocco. It is an honor to have hosted this course. The course was a success, with 90 participants in attendance.

The teaching program had a panel of renowned international and national faculty members who shared their expertise. International faculty members included Prof. Pierre Burbaud (Bordeaux), Prof. Olivier Rascol (Toulouse), Prof. Wassilios Meissner (Bordeaux), and Prof. Philip Azulay (Marseille).

The main topics that were spotlighted in this course were dystonia (physiopathology, clinical aspects and treatment) and Parkinson’s disease (epidemiology aspects, motor signs, treatment and non motor signs). There were also interesting clinical cases and video sessions.

Ultimately, the program was designed to benefit young trainees from different North African countries (Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia) who aspire to specialize in movement disorders and to update practicing neurologists in this perpetually changing field. Each participant received valuable teaching materials from MDS as well. They included DVDs of the following:

- The 4th Annual VO Games (June 8, 2011, Toronto, ON, Canada)
- Teaching Courses of the 16th International Congress of Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders (Dublin, Ireland, June 17-21, 2012)
- Themed Sessions of the 16th International Congress of Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders (Dublin, Ireland, June 17-21, 2012)
- New Therapies for Advanced Parkinson’s Disease workshop (Durham, North Carolina, October 29, 2010)
- 2 books on botulinum toxin and spasmodic torticollis

Given the success of this course, we hope to see more educational events of this nature in our region of the world. We also wish to thank all who were involved in bringing this course to fruition.
Sixth Annual MDS European Summer School for Young Neurologists, July 26-28, 2013

—Kailash P. Bhatia, MD, DM, FRCP, Professor, Institute of Neurology, London, United Kingdom
—Werner Poeue, MD, Director, Innsbruck Medical University, Innsbruck, Austria
—Niall P. Quinn, MD, Professor Emeritus, Institute of Neurology, London, United Kingdom

The sixth annual MDS-ES Summer School for Young Neurologists was held in London, United Kingdom, on July 26-28, 2013. Forty-six participants from 26 countries attended the School, including four delegates from Sub-Saharan Africa who were supported through funding from the Task Force on Africa. An additional 17 travel grants were distributed to those residing in North Africa and Eastern Europe. Overwhelming interest in the course resulted in over 150 applications for fewer than 50 available spaces.

The course was held at the University College London’s Institute of Neurology in Queen Square and the course directors were Prof. Kailash Bhatia, Prof. Werner Poeue, and Prof. Niall Quinn. Other participating faculty were Prof. Bastiaan Bloem (Nijmegen, Netherlands), Prof. David Brooks (London, United Kingdom), Dr. Santiago Catania (London, United Kingdom), Prof. Carla Cordivari (London, United Kingdom), Prof. Marina de Koning-Tijssen (Groningen, Netherlands), Dr. Thomas Foltynie (London, United Kingdom), Dr. Fina Martí (Barcelona, Spain), Dr. Susanne Schneider (Kiel, Germany), Dr. Maria Stamelou (Athens, Greece), Prof. Marie Vidailhet (Paris, France), and Prof. Nicholas Wood (London, United Kingdom). There was also a special presentation by veterinary neurologist Dr. Julien Guevar (Glasgow, Scotland).

The first day of the course included 12 plenary lectures covering topics such as Parkinson’s disease, dystonia, tremor, ataxia, myoclonus, and dyskinesia. This was followed by a course dinner with a presentation by Dr. Julien Guevar on movement disorders in animals. The second day began with patient examinations in which participants were able to examine eight live patients guided by expert faculty members. Following the examinations, students participated in the “Bring Your Own Patient” session where each student presented a video case of their own to individual faculty in small groups. Following their presentations, faculty presented their own cases to the students. The faculty then met privately to discuss the student presentations. The evening concluded with canapés and champagne and the top ten student presentations were announced. These students then gave their presentations to the entire group the next day.

The third day addressed psychogenic movement disorders, botulinum toxin therapy, and imaging techniques in movement disorders. The ten student finalists then presented their cases to the other participants, who chose their top three presentations. The winners were awarded free registration to the 18th International Congress of Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders in Stockholm, Sweden. Congratulations to Dr. Marcello Moccia, Dr. Jesús Pérez-Pérez, and Dr. Søren Elmgreen who received first, second, and third place, respectively.

Evaluations showed marked improvement in participants’ confidence in examining a patient with a movement disorder, reaching a diagnosis on straightforward movement disorders cases, and presenting a movement disorders case history. One-hundred percent of the participants agreed that the course was relevant to their practice and would enhance their professional effectiveness and their care of patients. Overall, the course was a great success. Thank you to all who participated!
The first MDS Allied Health Professional Summer School was developed in collaboration with MDS-ES and ParkinsonNet, and was based on previous MDS Summer and Winter School formats. The application process for the summer school was very competitive, with 48 out of 68 applications accepted.

The first day focused on topic presentations and discussion centered around Parkinson’s disease, such as the pathology, clinical picture, medical treatment options, motor learning, how to ensure a continuum of care in a multidisciplinary and self-care perspective, how to use the 1st European Guidelines for Physiotherapy in Parkinson’s disease, and how to optimize parkinson care through reorganization. At the end of the first day, there was a video dinner led by Prof. Bastiaan Bloem.

The second day focused on history-taking, physical assessment and interventions on the core areas of physical therapy in Parkinson’s disease, working in plenary and parallel sessions. This day ended with a tango lesson dinner. The final day included small group patient practicums, where participants were able to examine patients under the guidance of movement disorders specialists, and complex cases were discussed.

The faculty included top global experts on physiotherapy: Prof. Dr. Giovanni Abbruzzese, MD (Italy), Prof. Dr. Ann Ashburn, PT (UK), Dr. Colleen Canning, PT (Australia), Mariella Graziano, BSc (Hons) (Luxembourg), Ruth Hagestuen, RN, MA (USA), Dr. Walter Maetzler, MD (Germany), Prof. Dr. Meg Morris, PT (Australia), Prof. Dr. Alice Nieuwboer, PT (Belgium), and Maarten Nijkrake, PhD, PT (Netherlands). The course directors for this activity were Bastiaan Bloem, MD, PhD (Netherlands), Samyra Keus, PhD (Netherlands), and Marten Munneke, PT, PhD (Netherlands).

Based on the course evaluations, the attendees were very pleased with the course, making the first Allied Health Professional Summer School in Nijmegen a tremendous success.
As we move into a leadership transition in the MDS-AOS, we are grateful for the work and distinguished service of our past AOS leaders. These are:

Past Chair: Ruey-Meei Wu
Past Secretary: Victor Fung
Past Treasurer: Eng-King Tan
Past Executive Committee Members: Zhen Xin Zhang, Raymond Rosales, Apichart P’sarnpong, Beom Jeon, Ryosuke Takahashi
Past Education Chair: Ryosuke Takahashi
Past Education Committee Members: Kwang-Soo Lee, Roon-groj Bhidayasiri, Shu-Leong Ho, Saeed Bohlega

Together they have worked hard to serve the AOS and MDS over the past two years. We are grateful that many of them will continue to serve in other capacities after they have stepped down from these positions.

The MDS-AOS has achieved a great deal over the past two years under the leadership of Ruey-Meei Wu. They have raised the overall AOS membership within MDS from 18% to 27% from 2011-2013. The AOS now has more than 1,100 members. In addition, the leadership successfully organized the 3rd Asian and Oceanian Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Congress (AOPMC) in 2011, with more than 1,000 participants in total. Additionally, they have implemented the AOS Training Fellowship Program and the AOS E-Newsletter. They have also organized more than eight outreach programs and an MDS organized live course in Manila over the past two years.

As we close 2013, the new AOS leadership will continue to look for your support on two fronts:

1. To raise the membership of the AOS to constitute more than 30% of the total MDS membership. As 2/3 of the world’s population live in our region, there is an urgent need to raise the membership and profile of the MDS-AOS so that we may be able to do more to help patients and caregivers who live with Parkinson’s disease and other movement disorders in our region. We urge you to make use of the waived-dues and reduced rates membership categories to encourage your colleagues, nurses and allied health professionals to join the Society.

2. To organize a successful 4th AOPMC meeting in Bangkok, Thailand in November 28-30, 2014. The various AOPMC and AOS committees are working hard to put together the plans and program for the AOPMC. We encourage every member to join us for the coming Congress. Alongside this meeting will be the 10th International Symposium of the Asian and Pacific Parkinson’s Association (APPA). This meeting is especially for patients and caregivers with PD to attend and learn more about their conditions. More information for these meetings may be found in the websites

http://www.movementdisorders.org/aopmc2014/
http://www.movementdisorders.org/appa2014/

We look forward to your support in bringing your local PD and MD communities to Bangkok in November 2014.

The MDS-AOS will only be able to function well with the active participation of all members. We therefore look forward to your help to:

- encourage MDS membership
- organize education programs in your countries
- contribute new ideas and plans to develop the MDS-AOS.

If you have some ideas to contribute to the MDS-AOS or need help with any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me by email (louis_tan@nni.com.sg), our secretariat liaison Megan Daniels (mdaniels@movementdisorders.org), or any member of the leadership for assistance.

We look forward to working with you!

With best regards,

Louis Tan
Chair, MDS-AOS
Developing World Education Program - Malaysian Parkinson’s Disease & DBS Course – Penang, Malaysia, August 23-24, 2013

—Lim Thien Thien, MD, MRCP (UK), Penang General Hospital & Island Hospital, Tanjung Bunga, Malaysia

The Malaysian Parkinson’s Disease & DBS Course took place on August 23-24, 2013, in Penang, Malaysia. The conference was attended by 159 delegates from Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia and the Philippines. The event was held under the auspices of the Movement Disorder Council (Malaysian Society of Neurosciences) and the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society – Asian and Oceanian Section (MDS-AOS). The international faculty consisted of Hubert H. Fernandez (USA), Roongroj Bhidayasiri (Thailand), Sarun Nanta-Aree (Thailand), Li Wei (Singapore), Hang-Chen Wang (Taiwan) and Richard Kerr (Australia). Local speakers consisted of Lee Moon Keen, Lim Shen-Yang, Norlinah Mohd. Ibrahim, Hayati Yaakup, Lim Thien Thien, Tan Ai Huey, and Shahrul Azmin Mohd. Rani.

The meeting focused on deep brain stimulation, including indications and contraindications, candidate selection, surgical aspects, microelectrode recording, DBS programming, practical issues, and case presentations. Other topics addressed in the one-and-a-half day conference included management of early and advanced Parkinson disease (PD), PD look-alikes/atypical parkinsonism, psychosis and dementia in PD, and palliative care in PD. A video challenge competition showing an abundance of video cases was a highlight of the meeting, with the winning team (from Malaysia) consisting of Tan Ai Huey, Law Zhe Kang and Chua Kee Huat.

Basic Movement Disorder Educational Course - Chengdu, China, November 2, 2013

—HuiFang Shang, MD, West China Hospital of Sichuan University, China

A one-day teaching course on movement disorders was held in Chengdu, China on November 2, 2013, under the auspices of West China School of Medicine & West China Hospital of Sichuan University as well as the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society– Asian and Oceanian Section (MDS-AOS). This event used the MDS Parkinson and Movement Disorders (PMD) Course slide sets and focused on improving participants’ knowledge and skills in Movement Disorders. This course was coordinated by Prof. HuiFang Shang (course director), and supported by MDS under the Developing World Education Program (DWEIP).

Three hundred and six physicians, including neurologists, general physicians, nurses and students from various postgraduate programs from many provinces of China registered for this full-day course. This course covered the main issues in movement disorders faced by medical doctors in their daily clinical practice. The faculty consists of Prof. JeanMarc Burgunder (Bern University, Switzerland), Prof. Louis CS Tan (National Neuroscience Institute, Singapore), Prof. Shengdi Chen and Prof. Qin Xiao (Ruijin Hospital of Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine, China), Prof. HuiFang Shang (West China Hospital of Sichuan University, China) and Prof. BaoRong Zhang (The Second Affiliation Hospital Zhejiang University School of Medicine, China).

Caption: From left: Prof. Qin Xiao, Prof. Shengdi Chen, Prof. JeanMarc Burgunder, Prof. HuiFang Shang, Prof. Louis CS Tan, Prof. BaoRong Zhang.
The First Movement Disorders Learning Camp - Tagaytay City, Philippines - September 14-15, 2013

—Roland Dominic Jamora, MD, University of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines

The first ever Movement Learning Camp in the Philippines took place on September 14-15, 2013 at Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City. This camp was organized by the Movement Disorder Society of the Philippines (MDSP) and supported by the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society Asian and Oceanian Section (MDS-AOS).

The course was attended by 174 neurologists and neurologists-in-training from around the Philippines. This two, half-day course was intended to introduce attendees, especially the trainees, to the basics of movement disorders. The course format followed the Parkinson and Movement Disorders (PMD) Course, including lectures and video presentations.

The course directors were Dr. Dominic Jamora and Dr. Cid Diesta. Dr. Shen Yang Lim (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), the international faculty member, generously gave three lectures on the diagnosis, differential diagnosis and management of PD and chorea. The local faculty included Dr. Lillian Lee (Quezon City, Dystonia), Dr. Raymond Rosales (Manila, Basal ganglia anatomy and phenomenology), Dr. Dominic Jamora (Manila, Tremors and management of parkinson plus syndromes), and Dr. Cid Diesta (Makati City, Movement disorders in sleep). Dr. Rosalia Tegel (Quezon City, Myoclonus), Dr. Arlene Ng (Quezon City, Psychogenic movement disorders), Dr. Criscely Go (Manila, Tics and Tourette syndrome), Dr. Anthony Piano (Las Pinas City, Gait and ataxia), and Dr. Rafael Palacio (Batangas, Etiopathogenesis of PD).

The Basic Movement Disorders Course Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam - September 12, 2013

—Minh Le, MD, The University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

The University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City and its Teaching Hospital, University Medical Center, would like to thank the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society (MDS) for their support of The Basic Movement Disorders Course in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on September 21, 2013. This event was the first held in Vietnam of the MDS-AOS Developing World Education Program and it helped to train the local physicians on the current issues of movement disorders. This course was co-sponsored and hosted by the University Medical Center-University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City.

One hundred and seventy one physicians, including neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuropediatricians, geriatricians, psychiatrists and family medicine physicians from Hanoi, Hue, Ho Chi Minh City, and many provinces of the Mekong Delta registered for this full-day course. The main topics included the current issues in movement disorders that physicians commonly face in their daily clinical practice.

The faculty included two well-known specialists on movement disorders of Asia, Prof. Ruey-Meei (Robin) Wu from Taiwan and Prof. Roongroj Bhidayasiri from Thailand, as well as three lecturers from Vietnam including Dr. Le Minh, Dr. Nguyen Thi Hung and Dr. Nguyen Huu Cong.
As we begin with a new group of MDS-PAS Committee Members, I would like to thank again all the outgoing Committee Members for their work on behalf of MDS and PAS, and welcome the new members of the Pan American Section (MDS-PAS) Executive and Education Committees. We would also like to congratulate and welcome the new MDS Officers, particularly, Francisco Cardoso, Oscar Gershanik, Christopher Goetz, and Matt Stern, all from the PAS.

We are also proud of the role MDS-PAS played in the success of the MDS Congress in Sydney. We had nearly 700 members hailing from 14 different countries from the MDS-PAS region. Some highlights from the MDS-PAS members were the induction of two regional members as honorary members, awards in the annual video case of the month competition, and participation in the Congress Video Challenge. The members inducted as Honorary Members of the Society were Joseph Jankovic from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX, US and John Nutt from the Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, OR, US. In the annual video case of the month competition, there were two videos that placed from the region: Second place, “Progressive ataxia in an 18-year-old man,” was submitted by Gabriel Persi and Emilia Gatto from Sanatorio de la Trinidad Mitre, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Third place, “Afro-Brazilian man presents with slowly progressive diplopia due to painless ophthalmoparesis,” was submitted by Rafael de Lima Reis, Eduardo Prezzi, and Luiz Felipe Vasconcellos from Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Lastly, the PAS had two participants in the Congress Video Challenge as well: Hector Ruben Martinez from Columbia University in the US, and Paula Christina de Azevedo from UNICAMP State University for Campinas in Brazil. It was wonderful to witness active participation from so many countries in the region.

Looking ahead, the MDS-PAS Committees are in the process of setting goals to mirror the overall MDS strategic plan for 2014-2017, including many upcoming regional educational activities and new programs. In accordance with the society strategic plan, the MDS-PAS plans to offer and monitor the success of education in a variety of fields such as education targeting allied health professionals, basic scientists, and industry representatives. The region is currently drafting proposals for programs in each of these areas. Further, the MDS-PAS continues to foster outreach efforts, particularly in Latin America and underserved areas within the region. Recent and upcoming outreach highlights are an Ambassador Program (AP) hosted by Henrique Fernandez at the 5th Meeting of the Movement Disorders Section of the Brazilian Academy of Neurology, August 29-31, 2013 in São Paulo, Brazil, another upcoming AP hosted by Hector Ruben Martinez at the XXXVII Annual Meeting of the Mexican Academy of Neurology, November 2-3, 2013 in Merida, Mexico, a Developing World Education Program hosted by Nancy Pavón at the 4th International Scientific Conference “Restauración Neurológica 2014,” March 5-7, 2014 in Havana, Cuba, and an MDS Botulinum Toxin Workshop directed by Carolina Kunstmann and Pedro Chana Cuevas, April 4, 2014 in Santiago, Chile.

Lastly, in conjunction with a drive for membership, the MDS-PAS plans to continue to reach young members though the expansion of the School for Young Neurologists program to extend to both South and North America, as well as a fellowship program slated to launch in the upcoming year. As the region continues to develop, it strives to foster programs which will support the mission of MDS.

Regionally, the MDS-PAS continues to rely on a multipronged approach to its mission. Along with a broad representation of countries on both the MDS-PAS Executive Committee and the MDS-PAS Education Committee, the region continues to grow in membership and society offerings which are aimed to increase representation and synergy throughout the MDS-PAS. The upcoming launch of an MDS-PAS E-Newsletter and the aforementioned MDS-PAS Fellowship further contribute to these efforts. In addition, the MDS-PAS is looking forward to upcoming program proposals for activities across various parts of the region, including Atlanta, Buenos Aires, New York, Merida, San Diego, and Salvador da Bahia. The MDS-PAS continues to hold the objectives of maintaining cohesion amongst its members in the region, as well as growing the Society through outreach and educational programs.

After a somewhat slow post-Congress summer, we look forward to a busy 2014 with a new online journal Movement Disorders - Clinical Practice, an expanded and enhanced website, and a growing number of opportunities to work together and build camaraderie throughout the region, and globally with our participation in the Society.

Kind regards,

Jorge L. Juncos, MD
Chair, MDS-PAS
Educational Course on Biomarkers in Parkinson’s Disease: Focus on Neuroimaging and PET studies

—Cecilia Peralta, MD, Hospital Universitario CEMIC, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Visiting Professor: Antonio Strafella, University of Toronto, Canada.
Invited Professor: Francisco Cardoso, University of Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

On April 10-12, 2013, the Argentine Neurological Society hosted a course on neuroimaging and PET studies in Parkinson’s disease (PD), gathering neurologists, psychiatrists, nuclear medicine and internal medicine doctors inside the Centro de Educación Médica e Investigaciones Clínicas (CEMIC) auditorium.

The 133 registrants were introduced to the potential of imaging dopaminergic function with positron emission tomography (PET) and other neuroimaging techniques in neurological practice.

Dr. Antonio Strafella from the University of Toronto, Canada, served as a visiting professor through the support of The Movement Disorder Society-Pan American Section (MDS-PAS) Visiting Professors Program. Dr. Strafella lectured on the new biomarkers in PD, when to order a PET study using different dopaminergic radiotracers and how to image the non-motor symptoms in PD.

In addition, presentations were made by Dr. Gershanik on new concepts in PD, followed by Dr. Cardoso’s balanced view on the uses and limitations of these new imaging techniques, Dr. Gatto’s presentation on atypical parkinsonisms and Dr. Merello’s talk on the use of functional imaging in deep brain stimulation in PD.

The local faculty, Federico Micheli, Rolando Giannaula, Jose Bueri, Tomoko Arakaki, Anabel Chade, Diego Bauso, Diana Simonetti, Maria Bastianello, Guillermo Casale, Fernando Taragano, Federico Quaglia, Cecilia Serrano, Diego Castro, Gonzalo Gomez Arevalo, Juan Carlos Gallo and Santiago Driollet Laspiur also gave excellent lectures and actively participated in discussions with the audience.

The attendees expressed their satisfaction with the quality of the scientific program and the organization of the course. CEMIC and the organizers, Dr. Peralta and Dr. Bastianello, would like to thank MDS and Dr. Strafella for their support in the organization of the course.
Pan American Section Ambassador Program: International Symposium of Movement Disorders at the XXXVII Mexican Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting – Merida, Mexico, November 2-3, 2013

—Hector Ruben Martinez-Hernandez, MD, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY, USA

The International Parkinson and Movement Disorders Society-Pan American Section (MDS-PAS) Ambassador Program supported the International Symposium of Movement Disorders during the XXXVII Annual Meeting of the Mexican Academy of Neurology in Merida, Mexico, November 2-3, 2013. The XXXVII Mexican Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting was attended by 1,130 participants and the movement disorders symposium was attended by 400 clinicians, including general neurologists, clinical fellows, neurology residents, neurosurgeons and internists from Mexico and Central America.

The movement disorders symposium consisted of 14 lectures, which covered the main clinical aspects, as well as some basic science topics of movement disorders. There were lectures on the basal ganglia physiology and pathophysiology in movement disorders and several topics about Parkinson’s disease, such as the molecular mechanisms and causality theories, pre-motor manifestations, mild cognitive impairment, new therapeutic interventions, and genetics of PD. Other movement disorders were also reviewed with presentations, such as advances in restless legs syndrome, autoimmunity and movement disorders, clinical aspects, genetics, classification and treatment of dystonia, advances of paroxismal dyskinesias, clinical approach of psychogenic movement disorders, and recent advances on the pathophysiology of essential tremor.

The MDS-PAS ambassadors, Oscar Gershanik (Hospital Universitario Favaloro Foundation) and Eduardo Tolosa (Hospital Clinic Universitari), participated on the organizing committee and imparted a total of five lectures. The event was also honored with the presence of 11 distinguished professors from throughout the world, including keynote speaker, Stanley Fahn (Neurological Institute). Further contributions were made by clinical researchers, Elan Louis (Columbia University) and Roy Alcalay (Columbia University), and PAS leaders, Irene Litvan (University of California San Diego) and Francisco Cardoso (Federal University of Minas Gerais). In addition, William Ondo (University of Texas), Hubert Fernandez (Cleveland Clinic), Carlo Colosimo (La Coruña) and Raul de la Fuente (Coruña, Spain) gave presentations on their areas of expertise. Local movement disorders specialists and neurologists of the Movement Disorders Study Group of the Mexican Academy of Neurology were also an integral part in coordinating logistics and facilitating question and answer sessions.

The event was the first of its kind in the region and the Mexican Academy of Neurology and MDS received much positive feedback from attendees. The symposium organizing committee thanks the MDS-PAS and PAS Chair, Jorge Juncos, for its support. The Mexican Academy of Neurology is planning another symposium during its annual meeting in 2014 and looks forward to future collaboration with the MDS-PAS to increase Mexico’s presence, involvement and commitment with the Society and its mission to disseminate further knowledge about movement disorders.

Dr. Anthony Lang and Dr. Kapil Sethi enthusiastically presented movement disorders videos in a local movie theater as part of the symposium.

Keynote speaker Prof. Stanley Fahn and local Ambassador Program host Dr. Hector Ruben Martinez Hernandez.
Neurology training for non-Neurologists in West Africa: Focus on Parkinson’s Disease and other Neurodegenerative Disorders
—Roberto Cilia, MD, Parkinson’s Institute, ICP, Milan, Italy

This course was jointly funded by the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society (MDS) and the World Federation of Neurology. Additional co-sponsors were the ‘Fondazione Grigioni per il Morbo di Parkinson’ (Italy) and the Society for Worldwide Medical Exchange (SWME). Course organizers were Dr. Roberto Cilia (Italy) and Dr. Albert Akpalu (Ghana).

This was the first neurology course designed for medical doctors who are not specialized in neurology, but it was also open to neurologists interested in training in the field of Movement Disorders and Dementia. Participants were invited from throughout West Africa.

Thirty-six participants attended the course, from Ghana (24), Nigeria (6), Sierra Leone (3), Gambia (2), and Cameroon (1). The faculty consisted of 16 international and local members, including neurologists, geriatricians, nurse specialists, a neuropsychologist, a physiotherapist, a nutrition specialist, and a general practitioner from rural Ghana. The opening ceremony included guests such as the representative of the Minister of Health and of the Nursing system in Ghana, the Italian Ambassador in Ghana, the chairman of the Internal Medicine Department of the Accra Teaching Hospital and the director of the Parkinson Institute in Milan, Italy.

The course was run in English and included slide presentations and practical sessions with assessment of patients. Slide sessions focused on Parkinson’s disease (PD), Dementia and other neurodegenerative disorders, covering epidemiology, diagnosis, pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapy. For the practical sessions with patients, participants were divided into small groups of 5-6 each, under the guidance of a faculty member, aiming to teach: (a) how to perform a neurological examination, (b) neuropsychological scales screening for global and frontal-lobe cognitive functions, (c) examples of physical therapy focused on gait and balance. Twelve patients attended these sessions, including PD, Lewy Body Dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, and Spino-Cerebellar Ataxia. In a session entitled “Bring-Your-Own Patient”, participants were invited to present a patient from their own clinic and discuss with the faculty the most relevant diagnostic and management challenges.

There were some joint sessions with the PD Nurse Specialist Course, organized by Prof. Richard Walker (chair of the MDS Task Force on Africa). Doctors and nurses had the opportunity to interact and share experiences about caring for patients. In particular, we included a “Beyond the Neurologist” session, dealing with the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to patients, especially in settings where medications are limited.

Educational material has been prepared and released for this course, including basic information about motor and non-motor features of PD and/or dementia. These booklets were drafted by different health care professionals (nurses, nutrition specialist, physiotherapists, and neuropsychologists) and were full of pictures and photographs to be suitable for patients and caregivers with low education. The course was a great success and participants’ feedback was very positive in large part due to the practical sessions with patients and the very interactive sessions. Each participant was given a DVD including all the slide presentations of the course, the UPDRS and the cognitive screening scales, the two educational booklets, and photographs of the course. An email list was also created including all the participants as well as the Italian and Ghanaian faculty, to share information and help in challenges of everyday clinical practice.
society and physical geography impose, especially rural areas in Africa, and to be culturally appropriate if they are to be adopted and sustained.

References

The program was announced at the hospital during April, 2013. Pictured are the course director along with director, medical director, the human resources director of Hospital Laquintinie, and Natividad Mariscal, movement disorders nurse.

Dr. Cubo, announcing the course to health professionals at hospital Laquintinie.
Bangkok, Thailand

Save the Date

4th Asian and Oceanian Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders Congress

November 28-30, 2014
18th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARKINSON’S DISEASE AND MOVEMENT DISORDERS

IMPORTANT DATES
APRIL 11, 2014
Early Registration Deadline
MAY 9, 2014
Final Pre-Registration Deadline
JUNE 8-12, 2014
18th International Congress of Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders