

April 16<sup>th</sup> 2008

Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to announce that the VA MS Center of Excellence West will host the **6<sup>th</sup> Annual VA MS Center of Excellence West Regional Meeting** on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Portland, Oregon. The goal of the Regional Meeting is to share information on ways that we can improve the care of veterans with MS through clinical care, provider and veteran education, informatics and research. The VA MS Center of Excellence West cordially invites you *or* a designated representative from your facility to attend this meeting.

As at previous meetings, the VA MS Center of Excellence West is looking forward to hosting an informative and meaningful meeting. A Welcome & Introductions Breakfast will begin at 8:30 am followed by the Regional Meeting which will continue throughout the day until 3:30 pm. The Oregon Health & Science Department of Neurology has kindly agreed to host a dinner and wine tour Friday evening for those attending the Regional Meeting.

In conjunction with the Regional Meeting, the Oregon Health & Science Department of Neurology will host a CME course titled "**Neurologists in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: What's New for 2009?**" on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at Doernbecher's Vey Conference Center in Portland, Oregon. This category 1 CME course will provide updates on a number of neurological disorders. In addition, Dr. Leslie Weiner will deliver the 2008 VA sponsored John Whitaker Memorial Lecture on MS titled "**The Viral Hypothesis of MS: Past and Present.**" The CME course will begin at 8:30 am and will continue throughout the day, with the final presentation ending at 3:30 pm.

**Please mark these dates on your calendar now!** In the next few months you *or* a designated representative of your facility will be receiving travel details and a tentative agenda for the Regional Meeting, along with a registration form for the CME course. As a guest of the VA MS Center of Excellence West, the registration fee for the CME course will be waived. The VA MS Center of Excellence West will reimburse you *or* a designated representative from your facility for airline costs and hotel costs for the evenings of September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Hotel costs for September 27<sup>th</sup> may be reimbursed in accordance with the travel needs of the attendee and will be considered on an individual basis. **Please RSVP to Jaimie Henry at [jaimie.henry@med.va.gov](mailto:jaimie.henry@med.va.gov) to reserve your place at the Regional Meeting.**

Due to limited funding this year, we are only able to offer funding for one representative from each VA site. As individuals accept or decline the invitation, we will have a better understanding of the number of attendees and may be able to offer the opportunity for a second individual to attend. If you have a second individual at your site who would like to attend, please let us know and we will make every effort to accommodate your request.

We look forward to seeing you in September!

Sincerely,



Jodie Haselkorn, MD, MPH  
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