

VA SIGnature Newsletter

From the Chair...

Dear VA-SIG members,

As the newly appointed chair of the VA-SIG, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new VA-SIG members who joined the organization during the June 2006 Consortium for Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) annual meeting in Scottsdale Arizona. We are grateful to our sponsors that so many had an opportunity to attend the meeting. Membership is not limited to conference participation. All members are encouraged to invite colleagues to join and to participate throughout the year.

On June 3rd, the VA-SIG had a “round table discussion” in Scottsdale. Issues discussed included restrictions of certain medications for fatigue treatment at specific facilities. A plan of action was developed and hopefully we will know the results soon. Many members felt that a written “guideline” on treatment suggestions/recommendations would be beneficial. There was much discussion on how this should be accomplished and who should participate. The members considered the difficulty of the task of creating a “guideline” on evidence-based medicine, acknowledging many unknown parameters; thus, the term “recommendations” was considered.

Other plans discussed during the meeting included collaborating with the Centers of Excellence, West and East. As a group, we are very proud of the VA contributions to the 2006 CMSC meeting.

I look forward to a challenging year of addressing the structure of the VA-SIG so that we can adapt to changing times and meet our needs. I look forward to working with each of you!

Sincerely,

Peggy A. Coffey, MD

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From the Editor...

Welcome to the new year of the newsletter. In this issue we have included for you the citations for the VA speakers and the Centers of Excellence programs from the recent Consortium of MS Centers annual meeting. It is exciting to see how many VA members are participating in the annual meeting as well as collaborating outside the VA. The full abstract is available for you on the consortium website: www.msca.org

We plan on making some changes in the newsletter in the coming months. We will be including a series on Multiple Sclerosis topics. We will be including a literature review of recent MS literature in a different discipline each quarter, the first will be nursing MS literature in the October issue. We want to include your educational offerings so please send them to the editor with a contact name. We will also be listing offerings by the Centers of Excellence. Finally, we would like to include a review of web sites related to MS each quarter – if anyone reading is a web guru and would like to write this please let the editor know. If you have ideas, comments, suggestions or would like to write let us know.

Deborah Downey, NP

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**Consortium of MS Centers Annual Program
Scottsdale, Arizona May 31-June3, 2006**

CONFERENCE PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

Neuro-ophthalmology

Robert Shin, MD, Janet Rucker, MD, Fiona Costello MD

Tech-Medicine in MS care: New Frontiers

Jodie Haselkorn, MD, Robert Kane, PhD, Deborah Miller, PdD

Cognition Evaluation: How to Identify Problems and Make Use of Test Results

Jeffrey Wilken, PhD, Cynthia Sullivan, Phd

Differing Perspectives on MS care: A lively Case Based Panel Discussion

James Bowen, MD, Donna Jo Blake, MD, Vijayshree Yadav, MD, Cinda Hugos, MS, PT, Artie Guerrero

Surviving Cognitive Impairment in MS: Interactive Case Presentations

Jeffrey Wilken, Phd, Cynthia Sullivan, PhD, Mary Elizabeth Quig, Phd, Howard Rossman, DO, Sonda Lawson, MA

Progressive MS

Christopher Bever, MD, MBA, Robert Shin, MD, Mitchell Wallin, MD, MPH, James Bowen, MD, Albert Lo, MD, Jodie Haselkorn, MD, MPH

Pain Management in MS

Heidi Maloni, DNScc, RN, CNRN, ANP, MSCN

Pulmonary Rehabilitation in MS

Jodie Haselkorn, MD, MPH, Richard Goodman, MD, Donna Fry, PT, PhD, Toni Chiara, PhD, PT

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

(S10) FATIGUE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP: DOES IT HELP A VETERAN COHORT?

Gordon Campbell, FNP

Nancy McFarlane, CTRS; Ruth Whitham, MD

Portland VAMC

Portland VA Medical Center Mail, Code: P3MSCOE, Box 1034
Portland, OR 97201 USA

(S14) VHA MS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE SECOND ANNUAL DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

William J Culpepper, II, MA¹

Douglas Bradham, DrPh¹; Christopher Bever, MD²; Mitchell Wallin, MD³; Walter Royal, MD²

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100 N. Greene Street, Lower Level
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²Baltimore VAMC

³Washington DC VAMC

(S36) CENTRAL AUDITORY FUNCTION IN PEOPLE WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Michele Hutter, Research Audiologist¹

Mary Fitzpatrick, NP¹; David Lilly, PhD¹; M. Samantha Lewis, PhD¹; Dennis Bourdette, MD^{1,2};

Ruth Whitham, MD³; Stephen Fausti, PhD¹

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³Portland VA

(S47) COMPARISON OF MS FAMILY CAREGIVER NEEDS AND CHARACTERISTICS IN TWO CLINICAL SETTINGS

Christine Martin, PhD¹

Michele Merrick, RN²; Mary Ehrmantraut, CRNP¹

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Baltimore VA Medical Center, Dept. of Neurology (127)
Baltimore, MD 21201 USA

²Maryland Center for MS

(S64) RELIABILITY OF COMPUTERIZED ASSESSMENT (ANAM) OF MS PATIENTS OVER TIME

Catherine Rogers, PhD¹

Jeffrey A. Wilken, PhD¹; Robert L. Kane, PhD¹; Cynthia L. Sullivan, PhD^{1,2}; Mitchell T. Wallin, MD, MPH^{1,3}

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50 Irving St, NW
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²University of Maryland, College Park, MD

³Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, DC

(S72) OLDER VETERANS WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS: SIMILARITIES, DIFFERENCES AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Ajith Silva, PhD¹

William Culpepper, MS²; Shan Ji, PhD²; Christopher Sadler, BA²; Douglas Bradham, DrPh²

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²VHA MS Center of Excellence - East

(S74) A SURVEY OF ISSUES RELATED TO COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION AMONG A LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE WITH MS

Thomas Stewart, JD, MS, PA-C¹

Jeffrey Wilken, PhD²; Allen Bowling, MD, PhD¹

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²DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center

(S77) PREVALENCE AND CORRELATES OF TOBACCO AND HAZARDOUS ALCOHOL USE AMONG VETERANS WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Aaron Turner, PhD

Daniel Kivlahan, PhD; Jodie Haselkorn, MD, MPH

VA PSHCS/ University of Washington

S-117-RCS, 1660 S. Columbian Way

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(S78) UNDERSTANDING PAIN AND PAIN INTERFERENCE IN VETERANS WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Aaron Turner, PhD^{1,2}

Dawn Ehde, PhD²; Jodie Haselkorn, MD, MPH^{1,2}

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²University of Washington

(S84) THE EFFECT OF COMBINATION MODAFINIL (PROVIGIL) + INTERFERON B-1A (AVONEX) TREATMENT ON QUALITY OF LIFE: FINAL STUDY RESULTS

Jeffrey A. Wilken, PhD¹

Mitchell T. Wallin, MD, MPH^{1,2}; Cynthia L. Sullivan, PhD^{1,3}; Robert L. Kane, PhD¹;

Howard Rossman, DO⁴; Sonda Lawson, MS, LLPC⁴; James Simsarian, MD⁵;

Carol Saunders, RN, MSCN⁵; Robert Shin, MD¹; Jerold Mikszewski, MD⁶;

Douglas Kerr, MD⁷; Mary Elizabeth Quig, PhD⁵

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

(W06) EVALUATION OF CAREGIVER'S WELLNESS DAY EVENT

Ellen M. Cloyd, LISW, MSCS

Donna B. Healy, RN, BSN, MSCN; Tamara A. Smith, MSW

VAMC Iowa City

601 Hwy 6 West

Iowa City, IA 52246 USA

(W07) CLINICAL AND RESEARCH APPLICATIONS OF A COMPREHENSIVE PSYCHOLOGY DATABASE

Peggy Crawford, PhD¹

Farrah Thomas, PsyD¹; Kimberley Schaub, PhD²

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9500 Euclid Avenue

Cleveland, OH 44195 USA

²Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs

(W28) A UNIQUE MS MODEL CARE IN THE SCI/D CENTER

Carlos Ramirez, MSN, ARNP

Nahid Veit, MSN

VA

10840 Peppersong Dr

Riverview, FL 33569 USA

ANTIGEN-SPECIFIC TREATMENT OF EAE REVERSES MYELIN AND AXONAL INJURY

Chunhe Wang^{1,2}; Bruce G. Gold¹; Laurie J. Kaler²; Xiaolin Yu¹; Gregory G. Burrows¹;

Arthur A. Vandenbark^{1,2,3}; Dennis N. Bourdette^{1,2}; Halina Offner^{1,2,4}

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⁴Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine,

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Portland, OR 97239;

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Full Abstracts are available at: www.ms-care.org

Educational Offerings

MS Center of Excellence East

Monthly Conference Calls for Clinic Directors

Directors and Coordinators Meeting, Baltimore 9/17-9/19, 2006

jane.stolte@va.gov for more information

MS Center of Excellence West

September 15, 2006, Portland, Oregon

Neurology Advancements for the 21st Century: Clinical and research Updates for 2006
and John Whitaker Distinguished Lecture

Bi-monthly Case Conference Calls for MSCoE West and East

For email notifications and updates, contact Jennifer Jett

Directors and Coordinators Meeting, Portland 9/16/06

jennifer.jett@va.gov for more information

Monthly Conference Calls on MS selected topics, first Monday of every month

Contact Sandra Williamson for more information and call-in numbers, next call
will be 8/7/06

sandra.williamson@va.gov

Case Conferences are now available online for CME credit. Contact Jennifer Jett for information on how to access and obtain CME credit.

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