

# CMSCenterPiece

The 2007 CMSC Annual Meeting Newsletter

Washington, DC

Edited by June Halper and James Simsarian, MD • May 30, 2007

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## Welcome letter

A warm welcome to all attendees of the 2007 CMSC Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. In your welcome packet, you should have received a conference proceedings booklet.

Throughout the last 21 years, CMSC has operated with a philosophy that enhances the collaboration of members for the improvement of care and the acquisition of knowledge. At the same time, the world of MS has changed with the advent of advances in technology, immunology, disease modification and a new philosophy of care and caring. Our growth is due to the fact that we are "one family," a team of MS professionals striving for excellence in care, the improvement of quality of life for all those affected by the condition, and sustaining the belief that one day MS will be a distant memory.

Clinical courses covering MS evaluation and diagnosis, treatment, clinical trials, grant writing and disease management will be available this afternoon. Researchers will present lectures on changing care, neuroimmunology, genetics, and reprogramming the immune system throughout the meeting. Symposia give attendees opportunities to gain the latest insights in both MS pathology and patient care strategies.

We welcome IOMSN, LACTRIMS and ACTRIMS as collaborators in our program. The addition of the expertise of their thought leaders has made our annual meeting the largest and most comprehensive MS meeting in the world. In addition, our partnership with LACTRIMS and IOMSN broadens our view of MS; our VA Special Interest Group provides us with an excellent perspective on both men and women in the armed forces diagnosed with MS. Our rehabilitation and emerging psychosocial special interest groups offer us a well-rounded approach to comprehensive care. Our "One Team One Dream" theme has now expanded to the formation of the MS Coalition, an affiliation of non-profit organizations that can speak with one voice on behalf of those affected by MS ([www.multiplesclerosiscoalition.org](http://www.multiplesclerosiscoalition.org)).

If you have any questions during the meeting, please see a staff member, go to the registration table, or reference the message board. I hope you have a wonderful meeting. Welcome to our nation's Capital.

June Halper, MSCN, ANP, FAAN, Executive Director

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### **Meeting opens over lunch, 12 – 2pm**

Please join us for the opening ceremonies and lunch in the International Ballroom Center. The president of CMSC, Corey C. Ford, MD, PhD will greet meeting participants along with Marco Lana-Peixoto, MD, president of LACTRIMS, and Diane Lowden, MSc(A), MSCN, president of IOMSN.

Following the opening ceremony, Amit Bar-Or, MD, FRCP(c) will present a lecture: Neuro-Immunologic Perspectives of MS. This talk will serve as an overview of some of the emerging techniques in the neuroimmunology of multiple sclerosis.

### **Learn new skills and gain added expertise: Clinical courses, 2 – 4pm**

A variety of clinical courses will be offered this afternoon in several general areas:

- Evaluation and diagnosis
- MS treatment and disease management
- Clinical trials
- Grant writing

### **Dinners cater to a variety of interests; IOMSN celebrates 10 years, 7:30pm**

Starting at 7:30pm, several dinners will take place including a dinner of the International Organization of Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation Therapists (IOMSRT) (Cabinet Room) and the MS Coalition dinner (Georgetown Ballroom). The Meet the Professor Dinner (Jefferson Ballroom) will feature a presentation on Neuroimaging in MS by Jack Simon, MD, PhD.

In the International Ballroom Center, the International Organization of Multiple Sclerosis Nurses (IOMSN) will hold its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Dinner from 7:30 – 10:30pm. IOMSN was founded in 1997 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and in its 10 years, it has grown to more than 1000 members in 20 countries. The goals of the IOMSN are to facilitate the development of a specialized branch of nursing in MS, establish standards of nursing care, support MS research and educate the healthcare community about MS. IOMSN offers credentialing and has started a nurse mentorship program.

### **Don't miss the Exhibit Hall**

The Exhibit Hall will open Thursday at 6pm. Exhibits will include a wide variety of products and services for those affected by MS. Don't miss this opportunity to make new connections and learn about new products.