

CMSCenterPiece

The 2007 CMSC Annual Meeting Newsletter

Washington, DC

Edited by June Halper and James Simsarian, MD • May 31, 2007

RECAP OF CMSC ANNUAL MEETING OPENING CEREMONY AND LUNCH

Yesterday at the opening ceremony of the 21st annual CMSC meeting, physicians, researchers and nurses opened a new chapter covering research and clinical care of multiple sclerosis. As the first joint meeting of the CMSC and Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ACTRIMS), participants have the benefits of both meetings conveniently scheduled together.

Organizers observed a moment of silence in memory of Leonor Gold, MD.

"As you look around, you're going to see that this is going to be our best meeting ever," said Corey C. Ford, MD, PhD, president of CMSC. He also welcomed the presidents of the two partner organizations, Diane Lowden of the International Organization of MS Nurses (IOMSN) and Marco Lana-Peixoto, MD, of the Latin American Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (LACTRIMS).

Diane Lowden, president of IOMSN, offered her welcome to participants. "This is a landmark year for IOMSN," she said. "Ten years ago, six people sat around a table in Calgary, Alberta and conceived of an international MS nursing organization."

This year also marks the fifth anniversary of the IOMSN MS certification exam. "So this is really a year to celebrate," Lowden added.

LACTRIMS president Marco Lana-Peixoto, MD, highlighted the active Latin American component of this year's conference. Impacts and Challenges of MS in this region will be highlighted at Friday evening's dessert symposium (9 pm -10 pm, International Ballroom East). "We are pleased to have this opportunity to celebrate our partnership with other groups committed to fighting MS," Lana-Peixoto said. "We are dedicating the LACTRIMS meeting to the memory of Dr. Leonor Gold."

Today's highlights

- Progress in MS management: Changing Perspectives in MS, 8 – 8:45am (International Ballroom Center)

Randall Schapiro, MD, will draw on over 30 years of experience to give an overview of the changes in diagnosis and treatment of MS since the 1960s. Dr. Schapiro is a clinical professor of neurology at the University of Minnesota and the founder and director of the Schapiro Center for Multiple Sclerosis at the Minneapolis Clinic of Neurology.

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PAGE 2

- CMSC Symposia, five different focuses on MS, 9 am-12 pm

Five concurrent morning symposia will examine important topics in MS care and diagnosis.

- **Hormonal Perspectives in MS (Chair: Patricia Coyle, MD)**--This symposium will review the presumed effects of hormones on MS, discuss the focused topics of pregnancy and sexual dysfunction, and review the potential for future hormone therapy.
- **Advanced MS (Chair: Jodie Haselkorn, MD, MPH)**--This multi-disciplinary national panel of experts will address issues common to working with individuals with advanced MS that frequently are not discussed.
- **Challenges in the Diagnosis of MS and Demyelinating Disease in Children: A Case Based Interactive Approach (Chair: Brenda Banwell, MD, FAAP, FRCPC)**— Using a case-based model, this symposium will highlight challenges in the diagnosis, imaging and care of children with MS.
- **MS or Not MS: Making an Accurate Diagnosis (Chair: Mark Freedman, MD, CSPQ, FRCPC)**— The first step in managing multiple sclerosis is to make an accurate diagnosis. The basic concepts of diagnosing MS and methods to differentiate MS from diseases that masquerade as MS will be presented.
- **Health Promotion Programs for People with MS (Chair: Brian Hutchinson, PT, MSCS)**— This symposium will address health promotion models and strategies for sustaining wellness in MS. Evidence-based information will be presented supporting health and wellness programs.

Challenges of MS Care: Translating Imaging Research Into Clinical Practice, 3 pm-5pm (International Ballroom West)— Speakers will cover conventional and non-conventional MRI imaging techniques and their application in clinical practice.

Dessert, Dialog, and Discussion: Late Breaking MS News, What it Means for your Patients, 8 pm-10 pm (International Ballroom East) — Experts will discuss how to identify candidates for early intervention, what factors should be considered in selecting a disease-modifying therapy (DMT), and the role of research that supports health and quality of life.