

CMSCenterPiece

The 2008 CMSC Annual Meeting Newsletter

Denver, CO

Edited by June Halper and James Simsarian, MD • May 28, 2008

Welcome to Denver, Colorado, the mile-high city. This is the second annual meeting of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) that we have held in this beautiful location. In 1990, we had 500 attendees who worked in MS Centers from North America, 10 exhibitors, and 20 posters. At that time, we focused on MS and the family and were experts in rehabilitation, symptomatic management, and psychosocial support. Today, we have over 1200 registrants, over 40 exhibitors, and have added immunology, neuropathology, neuro-imaging, symptomatic management, disease modification and current and future clinical trials to our bedrock of managing the total impact of multiple sclerosis on all those affected.

In 1993, a small group of members returned to Denver to hold the "What Do We Know Conference" -- a turning point for our organization -- in which we began to examine practice patterns, what is the evidence, and what is needed to develop a body of knowledge supporting the value of comprehensive care. CMSC/NARCOMS was founded here in Denver and has grown to be the largest patient-driven MS database worldwide. Our founders, neurologists with a vision, foresaw the need for the CMSC, an organization that reflected the multi-faceted and dynamic needs of patients and their families. Thought leaders such as Dr. John Whitaker, Dr. Labe Scheinberg, and Dr. Donald Paty are recognized throughout our meeting; living legends such as Dr. Barry Arnason, Dr. Randy Schapiro, Dr. Jock Murray, Dr. Howard Weiner, Dr. Robert Herndon, and Dr. Jack Conomy can be very proud that their vision is alive and thriving.

Throughout the last 22 years, the CMSC has embraced a philosophy and a model of collaboration that enhances the work of our members. At the same time, the world of MS has changed with advances in technology, immunology, disease modification and a new philosophy of care and caring. We have grown because we are "one family," a team of MS professionals striving for excellence in care and for the improvement of quality of life for all those affected by the condition, while sustaining the belief that one day MS will be a distant memory

We welcome IOMSN and LACTRIMS 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).

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, make new friends, greet friends from around the globe, and go back to your home and workplace refreshed, invigorated, and hopeful as we all fight the challenges of multiple sclerosis.

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 Capitol Ballroom. The president of CMSC, Corey C. Ford, MD, PhD will greet us along with Carlos Oehninger, MD, president of LACTRIMS, and Diane Lowden, MSc(A), MSCN, president of IOMSN.

Following the opening ceremony, Dr. Jock Murray, a founder of the CMSC, will provide a history of the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis and its evolution over the past several centuries. Dr. Murray is an internationally recognized author, clinician, researcher, and lecturer. His informative talk is presented in memory of another founder, Dr. Donald Paty.

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

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

- Five Important Papers Published During the Past 12 Months
- Basic Immunology
- Genetics and MS
- Measurement Outcomes
- Neuroanatomy
- Health Promotion
- The Neurologic Examination and Red Flags
- Case-Based Approach to Rehabilitation

Dinners cater to a variety of interests

Starting at 7:30pm, several dinners will take place, including a dinner of the International Organization of Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation Therapists (IOMSRT) (Agate Room) and the MS Coalition dinner (Capitol 4 Room). The Meet the Professor Dinner (Capitol 1-3 Room) will feature discussion on current topics in MS with Dr. Patricia Coyle and Dr. Brian Weinschenker.

In the Mineral Hall, the International Organization of Multiple Sclerosis Nurses (IOMSN) will hold its Dinner from 7:30 – 10:30pm. IOMSN was founded in 1997 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and, in its 11 years, 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 7am with the largest group of exhibitors in our history. 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.