The year 2009 has proven to be a very productive time for the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC), one in which we continue to meet and exceed our organizational goals.

As you may remember, the original objectives set by the founders of the CMSC were to:

- enhance comprehensive care in multiple sclerosis (MS); and
- facilitate collaborative studies in symptomatic management, rehabilitation, and psychosocial issues related to this complex disease.

In 2009, the CMSC and its Foundation funded four collaborative studies. These focused on issues of mobility, measurement of outcomes, and interventions that will enhance our care through their contribution to evidence-based practice.

Our Research Committee was pleased to receive many high-quality submissions for funding and we anticipate a similar call for proposals with an equal (if not better) response in 2010. The plan is to share the results of funded studies—one of which was named in memory of the late Dr. Steven Schwid—with participants at the CSMC Annual Meeting in San Antonio in June 2010.

CMSC outreach efforts have also been very successful. CMSC Executive Director June Halper and Dr. Jerry Wolinsky were both recently invited to speak before Brazilian MS professionals at the 10th Annual Brazilian Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (BCTRIMS) meeting. The CMSC and the Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ACTRIMS) collaborated on a special award to a BCTRIMS member for the best poster of the meeting. Ms. Halper also addressed a group at the VA Center of Excellence on individualized care in MS. Additionally, the International Organization of MS Nurses (IOMSN) has continued to develop its very successful roster of regional meetings in MS care under the guidance of Colleen Harris, Chair of the IOMSN Education Committee.

A very special milestone for the CMSC was reached in 2009 with the first official collaborative activity with the American Academy of Neurology (AAN). The
CMSC, with support from its Foundation (FCMSC), announced it is jointly funding an MS Fellowship in honor of Dr. John Kurtzke, a pioneer and legend in MS care, epidemiology, and research. We hope this affiliation is only the beginning of future collaborations between the CMSC and the AAN.

In this issue of MS Exchange, we introduce you to the work of one of our many exceptional members through a new feature, “The Exchange Profile.” Dr. Peter Calabresi, one of our valued speakers at the CMSC Annual Meeting last May, spoke with our editor about the work he and his colleagues at Johns Hopkins are doing, including the development of optical coherence tomography (OCT). This is an exciting move towards the future of MS care, and one you will all be interested in learning about.

I am pleased to present this information to you and I hope we are able to continue to report on new opportunities for growth and development for our organization as well as the field of MS care and research. I would like to commend the Foundation of the CMSC for its support of our mission and remind all CMSC members that the Foundation needs your support in order to continue its important contribution to the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers.

—Robert Lisak, MD
Chair, CMSC Research Committee

(Continued from page 1)

SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE NEXT CMSC ANNUAL MEETING!
June 2-5, 2010

“Multiple Sclerosis: Sustaining Care, Seeking a Cure”
Grand Hyatt
San Antonio, Texas

Deadline for abstracts:
January 12, 2010

For more information, go to: www.mscar.org

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June Halper, MSCN, ANP, FAAN
Executive Director
CMSC
Hackensack, New Jersey, USA

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GLOBAL SUPPORTERS OF MS EXCHANGE INCLUDE:
The New Brazilian Connection to the CMSC

Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) Executive Director June Halper, MSCN, ANP, FAAN, was a guest speaker at a special symposium for the CMSC at the 10th Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (BCTRIMS) on August 27-29, 2009 in Sao Paolo, Brazil. Ms. Halper had been invited to present the comprehensive approach to MS care that has been the cornerstone of Consortium efforts since its inception. Her presentation was entitled “Multidisciplinary Care in MS: The Experience of the CMSC in North America.”

In her presentation, Ms. Halper identified the new philosophy of MS care in which a team approach is used to address symptom management, preventive care, and long-term management issues (psychosocial, familial, and work-related) as well as the medical problems patients face. She spoke to a mixed audience of more than 400 health care professionals about how the optimization of care hinges on a multidisciplinary approach to the whole patient, as well as to his or her support partners. “MS patients present particularly complex needs for their total care,” she explained, “which encompasses their neurologists and nurses, education, rehabilitation, psychological counseling, and family and lifestyle management strategies.”

Ms. Halper then reviewed the history of MS care dating back to the 1950s to 1970s, which consisted primarily of “diagnose and adios,” she said. The understanding of the unique needs of the MS patient has advanced significantly since then. Today’s focus is on balancing acute and sustained care, managing symptoms, coordinating services, and promoting health and well-being. Active members of the CMSC have been instrumental in developing a comprehensive care model, which has yet to be implemented in a number of other countries. “We wish to emphasize the need to broaden the team of other health professionals in MS centers in Brazil beyond MDs,” said Marco Aurélio Lana-Peixoto, MD, who chaired the session and invited Ms. Halper to participate. He felt that hearing about the work of the CMSC would encourage BCTRIMS members to think in new ways that can better serve their MS patients.

Jerry S. Wolinsky, MD, was another featured speaker in two sessions, providing an update of the expanded use of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in MS care and research. He also spoke on the use of MRI as a surrogate marker for disease progression. Internationally known for his expertise in MS, Dr. Wolinsky’s work on MRI outcomes has added significantly to our knowledge about the pathophysiology of the disease.

The BCTRIMS/CMSC Alliance

The leaders of BCTRIMS, including Dr. Lana-Peixoto, who is a former president, and current President Dagoberto Callegaro, MD, have expressed an interest in strengthening their ties to the CMSC. Their plans include having CMSC educational programs on the main agenda for their annual meeting, with guest speakers from among the CMSC membership.

Dr. Lana-Peixoto is one of the most prolifically published neurologists in Brazil, and a staff member at CIEM MS Research Center, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais Medical School, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil. He is also Chairman of the BCTRIMS Steering Committee, and has been instrumental in developing the growing collaboration with the CMSC, says Ms. Halper. “We have been invited in the past and we were delighted to finally bring a program to their annual meeting,” she adds.

This year, BCTRIMS was pleased to announce the presentation of the newly created CMSC-ACTRIMS Award, given for the best poster presentation relating to...

(Continued on page 4)

Teva Neuroscience is dedicated to the MS nurse community and has supported scholarships for nurses, educational programs such as monographs, CE programs, IOMSN dinners, the MS Exchange, and MS Nurse Counseling Points™.

Teva Neuroscience is also proud to say that all of its Shared Solutions Nurses are certified in MS Nursing.
comprehensive care in MS. The first recipient was Cybelle Loureiro, a music therapist from CIEM MS Research Center, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais Medical School, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil, for her poster, “Effects of Neurologic Music Therapy on the Visual Quality of Life in a Patient With Neuromyelitis Optica.”

“We at BCTRIMS are very grateful to the CMSC and ACTRIMS for the prize they have so kindly offered to a selected work presented at the BCTRIMS Annual Meeting,” says Dr. Lana-Peixoto. “The CMSC-ACTRIMS Award is an important initiative to thrust research into the area of multidisciplinary care in MS in Brazil.” He notes that Ms. Loureiro was “just jubilant,” and adds that “The work she presented has been recently used for her PhD dissertation and is to be submitted for publication in a specialized journal.” The CMSC-ACTRIMS Award provides funding for Ms. Loureiro to attend the next meeting of the CMSC in San Antonio in May of 2010.

Ms. Halper is very pleased to see the further expansion of the CMSC influence to organizations such as BCTRIMS, which now joins ECTRIMS, ACTRIMS, and LACTRIMS as an allied member of the Consortium. “We plan to offer a new link to the BCTRIMS website in the near future on our website,” she reports, “and we welcome them to our MS community.”

For more information on BCTRIMS, visit their website at www.bctrim.org.br.

MS Community Mourns Loss of Dr. Stanley van den Noort

Internationally acclaimed research neuroscientist Stanley van den Noort, MD, passed away on September 16, 2009, due to complications resulting from a brain injury suffered in 2007. Dr. van den Noort graduated from Harvard Medical School and went on to serve in the US Navy. He then took positions at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, and the College of Medicine at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), as Dean of the College of Medicine from 1973 through 1985. He continued as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurology for many years after.

“Dr. van den Noort was a truly outstanding clinician and scholar who provided the finest of compassionate care to his many patients,” says Ralph V. Clayman, MD, Dean of the UCI School of Medicine. “His considerable contributions to our medical school and UCI in general will remain with us always.”

Dr. van den Noort, 79, is survived by his wife, June, five children, eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild. For more information, go to the CMSC website at www.mscare.org.
As we come to the last quarter of 2009, we can all be proud of the growth and accomplishments of the International Organization of MS Nurses (IOMSN). Last spring, our Board worked on developing the long-range plan that our committee members are now implementing, which focuses on education, outreach to global partners, and support of IOMSN members in a changing health care environment.

In the area of education, we have again produced a high quality of regional programs for our members. These programs were created by IOMSN members, and the interest continues to grow. Additionally, we are hoping to offer the Linda Morgante Nurse Fellowship program at the CMSC again next year to nurses who are new to the field of multiple sclerosis (MS).

The IOMSN has continued to expand its reach to other MS organizations as well. Our members attended the 26th Congress of the European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS) in Dusseldorf, Germany, September 9-12, 2009, where IOMSN members made poster presentations.

Last year, I was pleased to represent the IOMSN for the first time at a meeting of the MS Trust, an organization in the United Kingdom dedicated to providing MS education to health care professionals and support for continuing research. We will again have a presence at this meeting, November 8-10, 2009, in Kenilworth, UK, as IOMSN Board member Nicki Ward-Abel, RGN, BSc (Hons), MSCN, Birmingham City University, United Kingdom, participates in the 2-hour session called the “Information Zone,” an expo where different organizations take booth space at the meeting to talk to conference participants.

The IOMSN has also embarked on an exciting new partnership with the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) and the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) in the development of clinical practice guidelines for the management of MS. Suzanne Smeltzer, a member of the of MS Nurses International Certification Board (MSNICB) and I have been named Co-chairs for this committee. We received a number of qualified responses after a call for authors in July, and we are in the process of dividing up the clinical sections for assignment. Once the chapters are written and reviewed internally, they will be sent to the AANN, which is publishing the guidelines as part of the AANN Reference Series for Clinical Practice. The ARN, AANN, and IOMSN will all review the final manuscript before publication, which is anticipated for next fall.

We are also encouraging our members to prepare for a major change in the way MS nurses will be expected to

(Continued on page 8)
The Former Heuga Center Launches A New, Expanded Identity

The Heuga Center for Multiple Sclerosis has undergone major changes in 2009, starting with its name. On October 20th, at its 24th Annual Autumn Benefit at the St. Regis Hotel in New York City, the organization revealed its new name, “Can Do Multiple Sclerosis™ (MS).”

Kim Sharkey, who was formerly the Chief Operations Officer, was named the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in February. A restructuring has continued throughout the year. “Our mission has remained the same: empowering people and their families to transform and improve their quality of life,” says Ms. Sharkey. “We are now focusing on expanding our reach.” A full public launch is planned for the beginning of November, which includes an entirely new website: www.mscando.org.

Ms. Sharkey has been with the organization for 6 years, and she has seen many changes over that time. The original Heuga Center, whose headquarters are located in Edwards, Colorado, is a national organization that achieved a 4-star rating from nonprofit evaluator Charity Navigator for operational efficiency and is accredited by the Better Business Bureau. The organization is actively involved with both the MS Coalition and the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC). “In the last couple of years we’ve really elevated our role with the CMSC in terms of developing and presenting educational sessions. In 2009, we presented a poster on our outcomes study,” she says, adding that “there are a number of new ways we hope to grow with the CMSC.”

Patricia Kennedy, RN, CNP, MSCN, a prominent member of the CMSC and the International Organization of MS Nurses (IOMSN), is now the full-time Nurse Educator and Programs Advisor of Can Do MS. Ms. Kennedy has been on the program staff with the Heuga Center for 23 years in an adjunct capacity, and served on the Board of Directors and the Programs Committee. In her new role, Ms. Kennedy is integral in planning the content and delivery of the Can Do MS programs and educating program staff. She has also been instrumental in the new branding efforts.

Patient Education and Empowerment
Can Do MS is designed to offer lifestyle empowerment programs, exemplified by their tagline, “The power to be more than your MS.” The educational programs take several forms, explains Ms. Sharkey.

The Can Do MS approach is rooted in a whole person/whole health/whole community philosophy to maximizing health and quality of life with MS. Can Do MS offers a range of individualized experiential learning formats, including multi-day workshops, weekend seminars, online resources, and peer support programs. The programs are designed to equip individuals with the expanded knowledge, skills, tools, awareness, and confidence to become active co-managers of their health. It also enhances and complements traditional models of care by focusing on the physical, interpersonal, mental, and intellectual aspects of living with MS.

Can Do MS employs an interdisciplinary network of more than 100 health care professionals from around the United States and Canada, including exercise physiologists, dieticians, neurologists, physical and occupational therapists, physicians, psychologists, speech/language pathologists, registered nurses, and other specialists.

The organization serves about 6,000 people a year, and the Can Do Program alumnae now number over 7,000.

Olympic bronze medal skier Jimmy Heuga founded the Heuga Center 25 years ago on the belief that people can do what they want, even if they have MS. The new goals support and expand that vision, explains Ms. Sharkey. “The Can Do MS organization remains dedicated to the principle that with a few lifestyle changes, people with MS can continue to live passionately and be more than their MS,” Ms. Sharkey says.

For more information, visit the new website for the “Can Do Multiple Sclerosis” organization at www.mscando.org.
In 2009 the IOMSN Education Committee launched a series of regional meetings co-chaired by Colleen Harris, RN, MS, MSCN, MSCS, and Beverly Layton, RN, CCRC, MSCN, called “Regional Nursing Updates.” The full-day programs on multiple sclerosis (MS) care were designed to fit the needs of any region in the United States and Canada. The first series of six meetings were held in Austin, Texas; Malvern, Pennsylvania; Orange, New Jersey; Nashville, Tennessee; Helena, Montana; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin throughout the spring and fall of 2008. These meetings were all highly successful and the feedback was used to further develop the content. The meeting format is pre-determined each year so the topics will be consistent across all the regions. This also allows for pre-formatted materials that make the work of chairing such a meeting very streamlined.

The second annual series of meetings began again in 2009 with a program in Orlando, Florida, on Saturday, September 26th, chaired by Constance Easterling, MSN, ARNP, MSCN, from the MS Care Center of Neurological Services Orlando. In addition to Ms. Easterling, who opened the meeting and gave the presentation on treatments, speakers included Jennifer Smrtka, RN, MSN, ARNP, MSCN; Patricia Kennedy, RN, ANP, MSCN; Tracy Walker, RN, MSN, MSCN; and Beverly Layton, RN, CCRC, MSCN. According to Ms. Easterling, 57 attendees

2009 Regional Nursing Update Schedule

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<td>November 7, 2009</td>
<td>Eden Resort and Suites</td>
<td>Dorothea Cassidy Pfohl, RN, BS, MSCN</td>
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<td>222 Eden Road</td>
<td>UPHS Comprehensive MS Center</td>
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<td>December 4, 2009</td>
<td>Sheraton Framingham</td>
<td>Christine St. Laurent, MSN, RN, MSCN</td>
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<td>1657 Worcester Road</td>
<td>Sturdy Memorial Hospital MS Center</td>
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<td>National MS Society – Central New England Chapter</td>
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<td>December 5, 2009</td>
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<td>Jennifer Boyd, RN, MHSn, CNN(c), MSCN</td>
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Turned out for the event, including RNs, LPNs, NPs, one nursing instructor, and one retired nurse, traveling from states as far as Georgia, Texas, and New York, as well as from all over Florida.

“This was the first IOMSN regional meeting in Florida,” says Ms. Easterling, who chose a central Florida location to make it easily accessible. “I was told personally that the speakers were very knowledgeable,” she reports, “and participants felt the content was pertinent to their practices.” Based on the success of this program, Ms. Easterling hopes to hold another meeting in central Florida next year. “I would also like to moderate smaller meetings in south Florida and in north Florida as well within the next year,” she adds.

The Regional Nursing Update programs are sponsored through an educational grant from Bayer Healthcare, and are accredited by Nurse Practitioner Alternatives.

**Clinical Trial Program**

The first Clinical Trial Program was held at The Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Georgia, the day before the CMSC Annual Meeting began this past May. It was entitled "Basic Clinical Trial Principles" and was chaired by Ismari Cleeson, RN, CCRP.

The second Clinical Trial Program will be held on November 14th at the Dearborn Inn in Dearborn, Michigan. This program is being coordinated by Christina Caon, MSN, NP-C, of Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit.

All attendees must pre-register for this event, as walk-in registration is not accepted. Registration is complimentary, and includes continental breakfast and lunch. A $25 fee will be charged only to those who do not attend and do not cancel their registration 4 days prior to the event.

For more information on these programs, please call 201-487-1050 or email info@iomsn.org.

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**Momentum (Continued from page 5)**

Work with their patients in the very near future. Everybody is anticipating oral therapies (OTs) to become available within the next year. Since many of these new therapies target the immune system, nurses who work with patients will need to expand their understanding of the pathophysiology of MS and the role of the immune system in long-term health. Patients considering switching to these drugs from traditional injectable therapies will need consultation and guidance from their health care providers on the long-term implications to the immune system.

Finally, as President, I want to personally thank our members for their support in 2009 and encourage each one of you to participate in our committees and projects, as they are the key to our future success.

—Amy Perrin Ross, APN, MSN, CNRN, MSCN
President, IOMSN
The CMSC and AAN Jointly Establish A New Research Award in Honor of Dr. John Kurtzke

The John F. Kurtzke, MD, FAAN, Clinician-Scientist Development Award was recently established to inspire new multiple sclerosis (MS) health care professionals to follow in the path of Dr. Kurtzke to explore new avenues that may help lead to a cure for MS. This 3-year award is jointly sponsored by the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) and the American Academy of Neurology Foundation (AANF) to honor the tradition of high-minded research established by Dr. Kurtzke over his distinguished career in neuroepidemiology. The winner of the award will be announced in spring 2010 and publicized at both the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) and CMSC Annual Meetings.

Dr. Kurtzke was among the first to quantify the effects of MS when he developed his scoring model, the Kurtzke Scale in Multiple Sclerosis. He later refined this scale into the Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS), which is still one of the most commonly used clinical tools for measuring MS progression.

He became involved in MS research very early in his career. “I wrote my first paper on this disease—entitled ‘Acute Respiratory Failure in MS’—while still a medical student at Cornell,” Dr. Kurtzke explains. “Early on, there really wasn’t much known about MS epidemiology. I wanted to find out what this disease [MS] was all about, and epidemiology seemed to me to be an important and wide open area to explore.” Today, of course, more than 300 prevalence studies of the geographic distribution of MS have been conducted, indicating a worldwide pattern that shows areas of high, medium, and low frequency.

Dr. Kurtzke served as Chief of the Neurology Service at the Veteran’s Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Coatesville, Pennsylvania from 1956 to 1963, and in Washington, DC from 1963 to 1995 (where he still serves as a consultant). He is a Navy veteran of World War II, and a Rear Admiral in the Medical Corps of the US Naval Reserve. He is currently Professor Emeritus at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, where he has been a faculty member since 1963. Since 1992, he has also served as Distinguished Professor of Neurology at the F. Edward Herbert School of Medicine of the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland.

The John F. Kurtzke, MD, FAAN, Clinician-Scientist Development Award is supported in part by grants from Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, EMD Serono, Inc., and Questcor Pharmaceuticals Inc. to the Foundation of the CMSC. The sole mission of the Foundation is to support the work of the CMSC.
As Director of the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Center at Johns Hopkins University Medical School, in Baltimore, Maryland, Peter Calabresi, MD, is principal investigator on several ongoing clinical trials, and oversees research projects looking at neuroprotective therapies for MS. While studying for his medical degree at Yale University, Dr. Calabresi was interested in brain function, which led him to study abnormal behavior and neurological diseases during his internship and residency at Strong Medical Hospital, followed by a fellowship in neuroimmunology at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). MS drew his attention because it affects young people at the prime of their lives.

The MS Center at Johns Hopkins
The MS Center at Johns Hopkins Hospital is one of the largest dedicated MS centers in the country, where more than 2,000 patients are seen annually. Dr. Calabresi took over as MS Center Director in 2003 and now guides about 25 investigators currently working on MS research. “The infrastructure here provides for developments that can make a real impact,” he says. “You need a lot of smart people working on the problem.”

patients seen at the MS Center are young, with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS). Most estimates suggest that about 80% of people with RRMS will convert to progressive MS over the years, which Dr. Calabresi views as a clinical opportunity to have a measurable effect on quality of life.

Research at Johns Hopkins
The Johns Hopkins MS Center has received grants from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the NIH, and the Nancy Davis Center to conduct research into mechanisms of neurodegeneration to help define neuroprotective mechanisms that may reduce the disability patients now experience. “We have basic scientists trying to understand how these cells that make myelin (oligodendrocytes) develop, and how we can stimulate them to make new myelin,” Dr. Calabresi explains. “We have other scientists trying to figure out what makes nerve cells and their projections (axons) die in MS, because we think that’s the key to stopping progressive disease.”

Still another study looks at new ways of using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to assess the integrity of axons and myelin in the brain and spinal cord. Current MRI technology is most sensitive for imaging the inflammation that occurs with RRMS. “We’ve known for 20 years that people with relapses have active gadolinium-enhancing lesions that can be used as a surrogate marker for disease activity, which allows us to conduct clinical trials faster with smaller numbers of patients,” Dr. Calabresi says. In progressive MS, however, the commonly used clinical disability rating scales are not very sensitive to the moderate changes patients experience, making it challenging to conduct clinical trials in this population. “Clinicians find it difficult to determine if a drug is working or not,” he says. Newer MRI techniques may improve sensitivity.

(Continued on page 11)
MS Exchange Makes Room for the IOMSRT

Be sure to look for the new rehabilitation page coming in the February 2010 issue of the MS Exchange. The International Organization of Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation Therapists (IOMSRT) will be provided with a page to highlight their activities, present articles of interest to practitioners involved in multiple sclerosis (MS) care, and feature current rehabilitation research. The page will also be used to draw your attention to items of interest on the rehabilitation website.

The IOMSRT was the brainchild of a core group of rehabilitation clinicians working in the field of MS care. Our goal is to improve communication and networking with others who share similar interests and professional needs. In 2002, the Consortium of MS Centers (CMSC) Board of Governors formally accepted the IOMSRT as a special interest group.

Since that time, the IOMSRT has made tremendous strides in becoming a cohesive, organized group. The organization now has a webpage housed on the CMSC’s website (www.mscare.org) called “Rehab in Motion.” We are also well represented at the CMSC Annual Meeting with excellent rehabilitation programming, a dinner meeting with rehabilitation research presentations, and a presence in the exhibit hall. At the 2010 CMSC Annual Meeting in San Antonio, an entire day will be devoted to rehabilitation topics.

Support your organization! It is an exciting time for MS rehab therapists.

—Patty Bobryk MHS, PT, MSCS, ATP
IOMSRT Chair

If you have an area of interest that you would like to see on the MS Exchange IOMSRT page, or you have an interest in contributing your expertise to an article, please contact Patty Bobryk, PT, MSCS, at pbobryk_0604@msn.com.

Want to become a member of the IOMSRT? Just e-mail the above address and you will be included in the e-mail list.

Exchange Profile (Continued from page 10)

in clinical trials with agents that are designed to repair myelin or protect the nerves in progressive disease.

Newest Development: OCT

One of the most exciting new developments at the MS Center at John Hopkins is a neuroimaging technique called Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), a modality used largely by ophthalmologists to monitor glaucoma. The same technology is being adapted to quantify nerve damage caused by optic neuritis by using a microscopic picture of the retina to measure the inflammation of the nerves. With what Dr. Calabresi calls “spectacular resolution of 3 or 4 microns,” it is hoped that these images will provide important information about the effectiveness of drug therapies for MS. “We have three clinical trials employing OCT to measure if using the drugs we have can protect the nerves from damage. I think that’s going to be the key in preventing people from developing progressive MS,” Dr. Calabresi says.

Dr. Calabresi chose to work in MS because it was an exciting field of research. “Six FDA-approved therapies for MS have been developed since 1993,” he says, pointing out that few other diseases have that kind of therapeutic track record. He expects to see some agents that will be more effective in treating earlier stage disease reach the market as well. “I’m really excited about starting clinical trials with new drugs that can repair the damage that occurs and get people functioning better. I think those trials will start in the next 5 years,” Dr. Calabresi says, adding that, “I really do feel like we’re on the cusp of a new era in treating MS.”
Continuing Education Conference Calendar

NOVEMBER 11-14, 2009
National Academy of Neuropsychology, 29th Annual Conference
Location: New Orleans, LA
Website: www.nanonline.org

NOVEMBER 12-14, 2009
European Charcot Foundation Symposium “A New Treatment Era in Multiple Sclerosis: Options, Challenges, Risks”
Location: Lisbon, Portugal
Contact: Mieke Friedrichs B.A., Managing Director - European Charcot Foundation
Email: m.friedrichs@charcot-ms.eu
Tel: 31-24-3561954
Website: www.charcot-ms.eu

NOVEMBER 19-21, 2009
2009 ASHA Convention
Location: New Orleans, LA
Contact: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Tel: 800-638-8255
Website: www.asha.org

FEBRUARY 17-20, 2010
American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Combined Sections Meeting 2010
Location: San Diego, CA
Contact: APTA
Tel: 703-684-APTA (2782) • 800-999-2782
Website: www.apta.org

APRIL 29 – MAY 1, 2010
90th American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA) Annual Conference
Location: Orlando, FL
Contact: AOTA
Tel: 301-652-2682 • TDD: 800-377-8555
Website: www.aota.org

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