

NEUROPATHIC PAIN

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NEWSLETTER of the IASP Special Interest Group on Neuropathic Pain

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Message from the Chair

At the NeuPSIG general meeting in Glasgow on August 20, my term as the Chair of IASP's Neuropathic Pain Special Interest Group (NeuPSIG) will come to an end and Rolf-Detlef Treede will become the Chair. It has been a very great honor to be able to serve as the Chair of NeuPSIG for the past three years. My best memories will be of wonderfully collegial discussions and collaborations with the members of the NeuPSIG management committee. All of my colleagues on the committee worked incredibly hard, and it has been immensely gratifying to do our best to fulfill NeuPSIG's mission to "advance the understanding of mechanisms, assessment, prevention, and treatment of neuropathic pain."

Now that NeuPSIG has been in existence for over six years, it is important to ask how well it has accomplished this objective. NeuPSIG is the largest of IASP's Special Interest Groups, with approximately 1053 members from 61 countries. It is also a very active Special Interest Group, with committees that have generated publications on the definition, assessment, and treatment of neuropathic pain. NeuPSIG also maintains a regularly updated website and publishes this newsletter every six months, with most issues including a review of an important and often controversial topic involving neuropathic pain. In addition, NeuPSIG has sponsored or co-sponsored well-attended meetings on neuropathic pain once or twice each year in various locations around the world, including Athens, Berlin, Bermuda, Glasgow, London, Madrid, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Sydney, and Uluru.

These are very important accomplishments, but there is a lot more that remains to be done. To further NeuPSIG's educational goals, consideration has been given to the development of a speakers' bureau and lecture series, the formation of a mentoring program, and the translation of various publications. To further NeuPSIG's research objectives, various proposals for research meetings and collaborations have been discussed. These worthy initiatives are all in relatively early stages of development, and they all have great potential to increase the contribution that NeuPSIG can make to the understanding and treatment of neuropathic pain.

One very challenging issue that the management committee has been considering involves relationships between NeuPSIG's activities and industry. Such relationships have received a great deal of attention in the professional and lay media. As two Rochester colleagues of mine emphasized a few years ago, conflicts of interest are very common, but bias is the real enemy that we all must do our utmost to minimize (Schwid SR, Gross RA. *Neurology*, 2005;64:1830-1). The NeuPSIG management committee is dedicated to ensuring that its policies and procedures minimize bias. However, evaluating conflicts of interest and other potential sources of bias is not straightforward. Moreover, such evaluation must be a dynamic process because the types of activities and conflicts that should be considered are continually evolving. As with all of NeuPSIG's activities and responsibilities, the management committee would very much like to receive

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your input and ideas regarding this complex set of issues.

I would like to conclude this column by acknowledging my enormous debt of gratitude to the NeuPSIG executive committee members—Rolf Detlef-Treede, who has been a very wise and exceptionally responsive Vice-Chair, Jonathan Dostrovsky, who as Secretary has not only ensured that this newsletter is interesting and valuable but has also done an outstanding job of keeping the rest of us on track in carrying out our responsibilities, and Chris Wells, who as Treasurer has been so extraordinary in his devotion to NeuPSIG’s viability that it is impossible to imagine we would be where we are today without his prodigious efforts. I also want to acknowledge my great appreciation for the members of NeuPSIG’s outstanding management committee—Ralf Baron, Sara Bistre, Geoff Gourlay, Maija Haanpää, Troels Jensen, Andrew Rice, and Gary Strichartz—who have all been tirelessly committed to making sure that NeuPSIG continues to be successful in pursuing its long-term objective of alleviating neuropathic pain around the world.

With my very best wishes,
Bob Dworkin

Revisions to NeuPSIG Bylaws

In view of the recent changes made to the IASP bylaws, we have revised the NeuPSIG bylaws so that they are consistent. The main change was reducing the term of the management committee members and executive from 3 to 2 years due to the change of IASP World Congresses from three to two years and thus also the NeuPSIG general meetings. In order to provide sufficient continuity despite the decrease in length of the terms, we added a new position of Past Chair and allowed the secretary and treasurer to be re-elected for up to two additional terms. These and a few other minor changes can be seen in the appended revised bylaws. These changes will be open for discussion at the General Meeting, where a vote to accept them will be held.

Comments can also be sent to the Secretary by email up to August 4.

NeuPSIG Executive Committee 2008-10

The current NeuPSIG management committee has proposed the following executive committee for the next 2-year term:

- Secretary - Andrew Rice
- Treasurer - Jonathan Dostrovsky
- Vice chair - Maija Haanpää
- (Chair - Rolf-Detlef Treede, the current Vice chair, will become chair; Bob Dworkin, the current chair will become Past chair)
- No additional nominations were received by the May 30 deadline.

NeuPSIG Management Committee

The Executive Committee

- Robert Dworkin (Chair, USA)
- Rolf-Detlef Treede (Vice Chair, GERMANY)
- Jonathan Dostrovsky (Secretary, CANADA)
- Chris Wells (Treasurer, UK)

Committee Members

- Troels Jensen, Council Liaison (DENMARK)
- Gary Strichartz (USA)
- Andrew Rice (UK)
- Maija Haanpää (FINLAND)
- Sara Bistre (MEXICO)
- Ralf Baron (GERMANY)
- Geoff Gourlay (AUSTRALIA)

Management Committee Meetings:

The management committee met on Saturday, May 17 2008, at the Athens Hilton. The meeting was preceded by a site visit of the Athens Megaron Convention Center by the committee on Friday afternoon. The next meeting of the committee will be on August 13 in London immediately preceding the NeuPSIG Satellite meeting.



The NeuPSIG management committee at the Athens committee meeting. From left to right: Dostrovsky, Rice, Haanpää, Treede, Gourlay, Dworkin, Baron, Bistre, Wells, Jensen.

NeuPSIG General Meeting

The biannual general meeting of the SIG will take place in Glasgow on Wednesday, August 20, at 16:30 – 17:30 in the Clyde Room in the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre. All are welcome to attend; only NeuPSIG members can vote.

Plans for upcoming meetings:

At its recent meeting in Athens, the committee finalized plans for the Satellite meeting in London next month, discussed the symposium in Bali scheduled for next April, continued with planning the 3rd International Neuropathic Pain meeting to be held in Athens in May 2010, and started discussing possible venues for the 4th International Neuropathic Pain meeting in 2013. The possibility of holding a Satellite meeting for the next

IASP World Congress on Pain in Montréal will be discussed at the next management committee meeting in Bermuda in November 2008. Further details of the London, Bali, and Athens meetings are listed below:

Satellite meeting to the 12th IASP World Congress on Pain “Recent developments in neuropathic pain”

This satellite symposium will be held at the Royal Society of Medicine in London, UK from Wednesday, August 13, to Friday, August 15, 2008

Plenary sessions will be the backbone of the meeting and will cover a range of important and topical subjects with presentations by an international array of leading experts listed below:

F. Bach, Denmark
 R. Baron, Germany
 S. Beggs, Canada
 D. Bennett, UK
 M. Costigan, USA
 A. Dickenson, UK
 R.H. Dworkin, USA
 M. Haanpää, Finland
 K. Inoue, Japan
 T. Jensen, Denmark
 E. Jorum, Norway
 H. Kehlet, Denmark
 S.B.McMahon, UK
 K. Noguchi, Japan
 F. Porreca, USA
 P. Siddall, Australia
 A. Somogyi, Australia
 R.D. Treede, Germany

For details, see: www.kenes.com/neuropathic2008/

Bali, April 2009

ASEAPS (Association of Southeast Asian Pain Societies), NeuPSIG and the IASP combine to sponsor a pain meeting in Bali, Indonesia, in 2009.

NeuPSIG is delighted to be associated with ASEAPS, which is an association of five National Pain Chapters in Southeast Asia, to sponsor a meeting from Friday 17th April to Monday 20th April 2009 in Bali. This will be a four-day meeting with a day devoted to all aspects of the diagnosis and treatment neuropathic pain on Saturday 18th April. The IASP will also have a significant involvement in the Bali meeting by providing sponsorship for doctors and researchers from nearby countries that do not currently have national pain chapters to attend the Bali meeting. This is the first time that NeuPSIG and the IASP had joined together to sponsor a meeting in conjunction with a federation or association of its existing national pain chapters such as ASEAPS. The advantage of this model is that funding from both NeuPSIG and the IASP is actually supporting multiple pain chapters, in this case the pain chapters of Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, and of course Indonesia, the host nation. Dr. Husni Tanra and his colleagues from Indonesia are in charge of the overall scientific program and conference logis-

tics. NeuPSIG encourages all of its members to attend this scientific meeting in an interesting part of the globe.

Third International Congress on Neuropathic Pain, Athens, Greece, May 27–30, 2010.

COMMITTEES: The following committees associated with this meeting have been formed:

Scientific Programme Committee

Christopher D. Wells, UK - Chairperson
 Ralf Baron, Germany - Co-Chairperson
 Emmanouil Anastassiou, Greece
 Nadine Attal, France
 Alan Basbaum, USA
 Fabrizio Benedetti, Italy
 Sara Bistre, Mexico
 Jose Castro-Lopes, Portugal
 Giorgio Cruccu, Italy
 Tony Dickenson, UK
 Jonathan O. Dostrovsky, Canada
 Chris Ecclestone, UK
 Per T. Hansson, Sweden
 Troels Staehelin Jensen, Denmark
 Stavros Livanios, Greece
 Jeffrey Mogil, Canada
 Karin Petersen, USA
 Roland Peyron, France
 Srinivasa Raja, USA
 Andrew S.C. Rice, UK
 Joachim Scholz, USA
 Dave Simpson, USA
 Rolf-Detlef Treede, Germany
 Athina Vadalouca, Greece

Grants Committee

Geoff Gourley, Australia - Chairperson

Poster Committee

Maija Haanpää, Finland - Chairperson

Honorary Committee

David Bowsher, UK
 J. Edmond Charlton, UK
 Robert Dworkin, USA
 Turo J. Nurmikko, UK
 Horacio Vanegas, Venezuela
 Ron Melzack, Canada

Local Organizing Committee

Vassiliki Chimonitsy-Kypriou - Local Chairperson
 Andromachi Glinavou
 Antonios Louizos
 Irene Kouroukli

WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

Topical workshops will be held as multi-track sessions throughout the Congress. Each workshop will have up to 3 speakers and will last for 90 minutes. You are invited to submit a proposal for a workshop to take place at the Congress via the website at: www.kenes.com/neuropathic.

February 26, 2009 deadline for submission of proposals
 Congress website: www.kenes.com/neuropathic/

NeuPSIG Subcommittees Updates:

Assessment

The committee, chaired by Maija Haanpaa, has recently submitted for publication a manuscript on the assessment of neuropathic pain by GPs (title 'Assessment of neuropathic pain in primary care'). The committee, in collaboration with the EFNS Neuropathic pain panel, met in Athens on May 16 and is working on an update of the previously published EFNS assessment guidelines for neuropathic pain.

Treatment

The treatment committee, chaired by Bob Dworkin, has had two recent meetings to develop additional guidelines for the management of neuropathic pain. One meeting focused on invasive interventions, including neural blockade, infusions and implantable treatments, spinal cord stimulators, and surgery and other ablative treatments. The most recent meeting focused on non-pharmacologic, non-invasive interventions, including psychosocial interventions, physical therapy and rehabilitation, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation and transcranial magnetic stimulation, manipulation and chiropractic interventions, acupuncture and herbal treatments, and other complementary and alternative medicine interventions. Manuscripts are in preparation that present the evidence-based recommendations for the management of neuropathic pain developed at these meetings and will be submitted for publication in the coming months.

Education

The committee, chaired by Sara Bistre, is planning to translate into Spanish some of the recent publications prepared for/by NeuPSIG, e.g. the article "Redefinition of neuropathic pain and a grading system for clinical use: Consensus statement on clinical and research diagnostic criteria", and other recent articles published or in preparation by the Assessment and Treatment committees.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

NeuPSIG Satellite Meeting to the 12th World Congress on Pain

August 13 – 15, 2008, London, UK

Topical Reviews

Topical reviews will resume in the next issue of the Newsletter. Please contact the NeuPSIG Secretary if you are interested in submitting a review.

Job Ads

If you would like to advertise any jobs related to neuropathic pain in the NeuPSIG newsletter and website, please send details electronically to the Secretary, Jonathan Dostrovsky.

Summary of Upcoming SIG meetings:

Satellite meeting of the 12th IASP World Congress on Pain, "Recent developments in neuropathic pain", will take place in **London August 13th - 15th, 2008** immediately preceding the Congress. www.kenes.com/neuropathic2008/

11th International Conference on the Mechanisms and Treatment of Neuropathic Pain will take place at **Bermuda, November 6-8, 2008**. www.neuropathicpain.org/

Symposium on Neuropathic Pain given by the NeuSIG management committee in **Bali on April 18, 2009** in association with the ASEAPS meeting.

12th International Conference on the Mechanisms and Treatment of Neuropathic Pain will take place in **San Francisco, November 5-7, 2009**. www.neuropathicpain.org/

Third International Congress on Neuropathic Pain, **Athens, Greece, May 27–30, 2010**. www.kenes.com/neuropathic/

Fourth International Congress on Neuropathic Pain, **2013**

Current SIG information

As of July 21, 2008, the NeuPSIG has 1053 members in 61 countries representing 45 specialties.

Please submit your contributions, ideas, and comments for the NeuP SIG Newsletter to the SIG Secretary/ Newsletter Editor:

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