



The RECORDER

The American Motility Society Newsletter-Summer 2004

Message from our AMS President: Chung Owyang

Time passes so quickly. It seems like just yesterday that I was elected President of the American Motility Society (AMS). As I reflect upon the last 4 years, much has been accomplished but there remains a lot to be done. Our mission is to advance the science and practice of GI motility. Working with the AMS council and committee chairs, we have developed a new strategic plan to make AMS more nimble, forward thinking and responsive to the needs of its constituencies. We have developed a strong infrastructure to better serve the society. A central administrative office was established and Lori Ennis was appointed as the Executive Director to deal with the day-to-day operations of the AMS. To assist the President and the AMS council in strategic planning and operations, 4 committees were created: Education and Training Committee, Chair, Henry Parkman, Research Committee, Chair, Tony Bauer, Clinical Practice Committee, Chair, Bob Summers), Membership/Public Relations Committee, Chair, Henry Lin and Finance Committee, Chair, Dr. Joseph Szurszewski.

In the clinical arena, much effort has been expended in developing guidelines for the standardization of clinical testing for GI motor and sensory functions. The results of these many hours of hard work have since been published in our society's journal, "*Journal of Neurogastroenterology and Motility*". Other clinical initiatives include new information on billing and coding of motility disorders as well as testing, and the development of postgraduate courses for GI motility testing. In addition, the society is close to unveiling additional information on their web-site, created to facilitate the dissemination of new clinical information.

Science and discovery remain the cornerstones of the AMS. In addition to the biennial scientific meeting, the AMS has organized a number of basic science workshops/symposia. These include an international symposium on the Enteric Nervous System organized by Dr. Keith Sharkey and partially funded by AMS. A one-day workshop co-hosted by Drs. Bill Hasler and Kent Sanders on Electrogastrography and Interstitial Cells of Cajal which examined bench-to-bedside research. A workshop on Gastroparesis jointly sponsored by AMS and the NIH was held April 2004 in Bethesda. The success of these symposia/workshops has resulted in the establishment of these activities as an annual event. The Research Committee has been given the task of selecting suitable topics. It is my hope that these meetings will provide impetus for the NIH to launch new research programs related to neurogastroenterology and motility.

In the education arena, under the directorship of Drs. McCallum, Parkman, and Rao, the AMS has put on a series of very successful postgraduate courses around the country, highlighting major advances in diagnostic evaluation and treatment of motility disorders. Due to the great fund raising effort made by the course

directors, it was possible to support up to 100 GI fellows to attend the last course, held in Nashville, TN. The special symposia for patients with motility disorders and their support groups were a real highlight of our last two meetings. By reaching out to our patients and allowing them to connect with top experts in the field, these events embodied what we believe to be a critical mission of our society. In the long run, the grassroots support generated by these types of events will be crucial for AMS to achieve its goals. The success of these and other postgraduate courses has led the council to decide to make them a regularly scheduled yearly event.

The thirteenth biennial AMS scientific meeting will be held September 9-12, 2004 in Rochester, MN. hosted by Gianrico Farrugia, of the Mayo Clinic. This is one of the most important events organized by AMS, as it highlights the major recent progress made in the field of GI motility and neurogastroenterology. The rapid pace of advances in these fields led council to come to the conclusion that it should now be an annual event. Consequently, the next meeting will take place in September, 2005 in Santa Monica, CA. and will be organized by Drs. Henry Lin and Mark Pimentel. Additionally, over the last several years the AMS has been working with our European counterparts in the EGMS and the Functional Bowel Group in the U.S. on plans to combine our individual meetings into a joint annual meeting alternately held in Europe and the U.S. Eventually, we may look to include our counterparts in Asia as well, creating a true world meeting that could be held biennially and alternate yearly with individual society meetings.

Ensuring that we have adequate funds to fuel the missions of education, research, and clinical practice is a top priority of AMS. Over the last couple of years we have been successful in partnering with the pharmaceutical industry to raise funds critical to the successful organization of our series of postgraduate courses and scientific workshops. Most significantly, the AMS has recently received a generous donation of \$1 million from Novartis Pharmaceuticals. To ensure that this gift is used to achieve our mission in the most effective manner, a special committee chaired by our former AMS president, Dr. Joseph Szurszewski, has been appointed to oversee the investment strategies and policy for these funds.

The last four years have been a very busy and exciting time. With the help of the council and committee chairs, and the support from the membership at large, we have made significant strides toward achieving many of our society's goals. It has been a unique and singular honor for me to serve as the president of AMS. I believe our society is in a strong position to continue to make important and meaningful contributions toward advancing education, research, and patient care in motility disorders worldwide. I look forward to working with our new President, Dr. Henry Parkman, to build on this foundation as we move forward in our mission.

Upcoming Meetings:

The 13th Biennial AMS Scientific Meeting will be held



September 9-12, 2004 in Rochester MN on the Mayo Clinic campus. An exciting meeting is planned for our society with a record 134 abstract submissions. The meeting will emphasize recent advances in the field of

the enteric neurosciences with sessions on genomics and proteomics, functional GI disorders, the role of inflammation in GI function, molecular mechanisms underlying gut mechanosensitivity, and recent discoveries on the regulation of neurons, ICCs, and smooth muscle cells. Other highlights include a live interactive motility testing session showcasing established and new motility testing techniques and a case-based clinical mini-course that will review state-of-the art management of pediatric and adult motility disorders. The sponsor of the meeting is Gianrico Farrugia, MD. For registration, call 1-800-323-2688 or visit www.motilitysociety.org or email ams2004@mayo.edu.

Gastroparesis Consensus Treatment Conference.

September 12, 2004. Rochester, MN. This afternoon session will immediately follow the AMS Scientific meeting. This session will develop evidence based treatment guidelines and algorithms for treatment of gastroparesis. Presentations followed by open discussions will help to shape this document. Dinner will be provided and a reception to follow. Organizers: Richard McCallum, Jay Pasricha, Gianrico Farrugia, Edy Soffer, Henry Parkman, Thomas Abell, William Hasler, and Jeanne Keith-Ferris. Please notify Jeanne Keith-Ferris if you plan to attend at: jkferris@shaw.ca or call: 403-247-3215. You can obtain an agenda by going to: www.gptreatmentconsensus.com

Esophageal Motility and Reflux Evaluation in Clinical Practice: A One-Day American Motility Society Course

February 12, 2005; Hotel Intercontinental; New Orleans, LA. Course Organizers: Richard McCallum, Roy Orlando, and Henry Parkman. The course will provide in-depth discussion of the physiology, pathophysiology and treatment of esophageal motility disorders and the spectrum of gastroesophageal reflux disease. The course is geared to academic gastroenterologists, practicing gastroenterologists, GI fellows, nurses and technicians involved in esophageal motility and pH monitoring tests. Multiple formats will be used including lectures, workshop discussions, and case-based presentations. For registration or more information, Email: kuce@ku.edu or visit www.motilitysociety.org or www.kuce.org

6th International Symposium on Functional

Gastrointestinal Disorders. This symposium will be held April 7-10, 2005, at the Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin and is jointly sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Medical School and the International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders, in cooperation with the Functional Brain-Gut Research Group. An international audience of clinicians and investigators will gather to exchange information on the latest advancements in the areas of functional gastrointestinal disorders. The symposium will offer a format of plenary sessions, interactive workshops and mini symposia on both adult and pediatric functional gastrointestinal disorders. Contact: Terese Bailey, Office of Continuing Medical Education, 2701 International Lane, #208, Madison, WI 53704. call (608) 240-2141; fax (608) 240-2151; or Email: tmbailey@wisc.edu

20th International Symposium on Neurogastroenterology and Motility will be held July 3-6, 2005 in Toulouse, France.

International Society for Autonomic Neuroscience (ISAN). July 12-16, 2005. Marseille, France.

The meeting begins with a welcome reception, and continues with plenary sessions, selected abstracts given as platform presentations, posters and plenary lectures. On Thursday 14th, the afternoon will be free for Bastille Day celebrations. <http://www.isanweb.org/>

Annual AMS Scientific Meeting will be held September 23-25, 2005 at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica, California. The meeting organizers are Henry Lin and Mark Pimentel. Please visit the AMS website www.motilitysociety.org for updated information.

Note that this meeting is one year after the 13th Biennial meeting.

The Neurogastroenterology and Motility 2006 Joint International Meeting is planned for September 14-17, 2006



at the Seaport Hotel in Boston, MA. This meeting is jointly sponsored by the American Motility Society, European Society of Neurogastroenterology and Motility, The Functional Brain Gut Research Group and the International Motility Group. **The meeting is hosted by the American Motility Society.** Visit the AMS website for future updates.

RESEARCH GRANTS INFORMATION

IFFGD Research Awards Announcement

The International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders (IFFGD) is seeking applications for research awards. These awards are intended to encourage the participation of clinicians and scientists in multidisciplinary efforts aimed at advancing the understanding of functional gastrointestinal and motility disorders. They are for active investigators who have a record of research interest in basic mechanisms or clinical aspects of functional gastrointestinal and motility disorders. To be eligible, investigators must have completed an MD or PhD, have demonstrated research activities, and be currently active in investigating basic or clinical aspects of functional GI or motility disorders. The awards -- each in the amount of \$7,500 -- will be given in six categories to a Senior, Junior, and Pediatric clinical and basic investigator. The deadline for receipt of applications is October 15, 2004. For more information and to obtain an application, please visit IFFGD's web site, <http://www.iffgd.org/Research/Awards2005.html>.

AMS at NIH-NIDDK on Gastroparesis

The Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition, a sub-division of the NIDDK at the NIH, holds quarterly congressionally mandated Digestive Diseases Interagency Coordinating Committee meetings on various GI disorders. Dr. Frank Hamilton was instrumental in arranging a program entitled "Gastroparesis – A Common Disorder," for April 2, 2004. The basic objective of this meeting was to review and evaluate scientific information and research on gastroparesis. The meeting served as an opportunity for exchange information that may assist the NIDDK and NIH in planning future initiatives in Gastroparesis. The audience was composed of scientists, administrators, and health policy people from different NIH Institutes as well as DOD, USDA, and FDA.

The presenters and their topics were:

1. Henry Parkman, "Overview of the Epidemiology and Economic Burden of Gastroparesis"
2. Jeanne Keith Ferris of GPDA: "Quality of Life issues for patients with Gastroparesis"
3. John Wiley, "Pathogenesis of Gastroparesis"
4. Kenton Sanders, "Remodeling of the Rhythmo-neuromuscular Apparatus in Diabetic Gastroparesis"
5. Michael Camilleri, "Medical Treatments for Gastroparesis"
6. Richard McCallum, "Gastric Pacing"
7. Jay Pasricha, "Gaps & Research Needs in Gastroparesis"
8. Chung Owyang, "Future Research Directions".

Dr. Stephen James, Director of the NIDDK, and Frank Hamilton, Chief of the Digestive Diseases Program, provided comments about potential future funding in the area of gastroparesis. The thought at this time is that there would not be an RFA in gastroparesis since NIH funding has not increased this year. Several suggestions, however, were given as ways to increase research funding in gastroparesis.

1) There is a recent NIH Program Announcement for small clinical trials for which disorders of GI function is listed, including gastroparesis, functional dyspepsia, cyclic vomiting syndrome, pseudoobstruction, irritable bowel syndrome, colonic inertia, ileus. This PAR will use the NIH small grant (R03) award mechanism. The URL is <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-04-082.html>; 2) There are several recent RFAs for Diabetes research, an area that has an increase in funding. Some of this funding would be available for Diabetic Gastroparesis, others are for novel therapeutic agents (RAID); 3) There is a large NIH tissue repository being developed for clinical trials that could be used for gastroparesis; 4) a group U01 consortium grant could be applied for which could then distribute smaller grants; 5) group R01 grants could be submitted as mentioned in the recent NIH roadmap.

Digestive Diseases National Coalition (DDNC)

The Digestive Disease National Coalition is an organization comprised of 25 health organizations and professional societies concerned with the diseases of the digestive tract. The Coalition, with Nancy Norton as the chairperson, promotes a strong federal investment in digestive disease research, patient care, prevention and public awareness. The DDNC supports increased funding for the NIH, and specifically the NIDDK. The DDNC also has been urging NIDDK to develop an IBS strategic plan and to raise awareness on Motility Disorders. The public policy forum was held on March 7, 2004. On March 8, visits were made to congressmen to urge emphasizing the DDNC suggestions. Further information about DDNC is available at <http://www.ddnc.org>.

AMS Web site

Visit our web site at <http://www.motilitysociety.org>

The initial phase of this website construction is completed which provides information to prospective new members so that the process of joining our organization becomes easy. The website also provides to our current members an on-line mechanism for renewing their membership, on-line access to the *Journal of Neurogastroenterology and Motility*, voting, and a place for news about our Society. In future phases, the AMS website will be developed to be a resource for fostering communications between AMS members on both clinical and research matters as well as a portal of access to the expertise of our membership.

Clinical Practice Committee: Robert Summers, MD

This committee is comprised of Satish Rao, Alin Botoman, Robert Summers, Edy Soffer and Carlo DiLorenzo with advice by Joel Brill from the AGA. The committee is working hard on developing new codes and details will be forthcoming in the next *Recorder*.

AMS Membership Drive

Members of the AMS receive *Neurogastroenterology and Motility* as a benefit, that is to say, for the membership fee of only \$100 for Non-Trainee and \$50 for Trainee a year, you get a \$250 journal subscription! Share this opportunity with your colleagues. Direct them to the AMS website and help them join the AMS.

Billing and Diagnostic Code Update

The Bravo pH Monitoring System's New APC Code

On April 1, 2004 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) implemented a New Technology Ambulatory Payment Category for insertion of a pH capsule for the measurement and monitoring of gastroesophageal reflux disease (C9712 - Insert pH Capsule, GERD). Hospitals need to report this code to receive proper payment from Medicare under its APC outpatient reimbursement mechanism for the capsule-based acid reflux pH testing procedure (Bravo pH monitoring procedure)

Information from Patient Support Organizations

The FDA has issued warning letters to compounding pharmacies/pharmaceutical supply houses to halt the importation to the United States of the ingredients for making Domperidone and of Domperidone-containing products. This advisory also informs of a directive to FDA field personnel to be on the lookout for foreign supplies of Domperidone shipped to U.S. customers to prevent their entry into the country.

The "FDA Talk Paper" issued June 7, 2004 is careful to focus on the FDA's concerns regarding some women's misuse of domperidone to increase milk production. The agency is concerned with the potential public health risks associated with domperidone. There have been several published reports and case studies of cardiac arrhythmias, cardiac arrest, and sudden death in patients receiving an intravenous form of domperidone that has been withdrawn from marketing in a number of countries. In several countries where the oral form of domperidone continues to be marketed, labels for the product contain specific warnings against use of domperidone by breastfeeding women and note that the drug is excreted in breast milk that could expose a breastfeeding infant to unknown risks. The letters issued by FDA stated that all drug products containing domperidone (whether compounded or not) violate the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act because they are unapproved new drugs and misbranded. In addition, distribution within the U.S., or importation of domperidone-containing products, violates the law. FDA informed the warning letter recipients that further violations of this Act may result in enforcement actions including seizure and injunction. See FDA Web page at <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/SAFETY/2004/safety04.htm#domperidone> and Talk Paper at <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/ANSWERS/2004/ANS01292.html>

Officers of the American Motility Society (AMS)

Chung Owyang, MD	President
Robert W. Summers, MD	Past-President
Joseph H. Szurszewski, PhD	Past-Past President
William Hasler, MD	Treasurer
Ann Ouyang, MD	Secretary
Peter J. Kahrilas, MD	Councilor
Henry C. Lin, MD	Councilor
Charlene M. Prather, MD	Councilor
Anthony Bauer, PhD	Councilor
Henry P. Parkman, MD	Councilor
Satish S. C. Rao, MD	Councilor

Finally, we need your vote for the AMS Elections!

Vote now for new Councilors for AMS. The voting deadline is **September 1st**. A short biographical sketch is available on-line for each of the candidates. Current AMS members can cast their vote on-line by going to www.motilitysociety.org and clicking on **Membership**, and then **Current Member**. Sign in with your user name and password. If you have forgotten your password, click the link "Forgotten Password" and it will email you your password.

There are six nominees for the three open positions. The term is for 4 years. The nominees are:

Gianrico Farrugia, MD
Keith A. Sharkey, PhD
Michael P. Jones, MD
Jay Pasricha, MD
Jeffrey L. Conklin, MD
Yvette Tache, PhD