



The RECORDER



The American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society Newsletter-April 2009

Message from ANMS President: Michael Camilleri, MD



We start off 2009 with a new administration, a new appointee to FDA leadership and challenging times. A time of change....

Current State of the Society

ANMS is a vibrant and active society with both clinical and basic science research interests and important programs that are the legacy of our hard-working past-president,

Henry Parkman. In particular, the clinical training program has enhanced GI fellowship training in motility across the country, the theme-related research grant opportunities have assisted scientists with furthering their research efforts, and the support provided by ANMS to the Joint Society Meetings has been demonstrated by the great success of the meeting in Luzern. We consider the Joint Society meeting as the flagship scientific meeting which will occur annually and we are developing ways to continue clinical training courses, mentoring and providing a forum for development of basic science trainees.

Given these programs, the attrition of members in areas that used to be traditional strengths of the ANMS (e.g. esophageal disease) and the evolution and broadening of disciplines now evident among members of the ANMS, we felt there was a need to re-structure our Committees and expand our Council.

Goals

Our goals are:

1. to impact the care of patients with functional and motility disorders or problems of appetite and obesity as they relate to neurohormonal, brainstem and peripheral control mechanisms;
2. to enhance activities in practice, education, research, advocacy, interaction with patient societies, federal, NIH, and Foundations and to be more representative of constituencies and interests within the society.

We anticipate a new era of collaboration with other professional and patient societies and organizations in North America as we realize the strength of working together.

Membership Drive

We now require help from all members to solicit colleagues to become active members of ANMS. Toward this end, **Satish Rao, Gary Mawe and Richard McCallum, Co-Chairs of the Membership Committee**, are working to broaden our membership to reflect broad interests in enteric neuroscience and neurogastroenterology. We want our members to feel ownership of the society and we are striving toward a vertical integration: **A society "under one umbrella" with interests in epidemiology, psychosocial and ingestive behavior, through clinical, translational, and applied basic science of brain-gut communication, to cellular and molecular studies.** ANMS is

the natural home for these professionals, clinical and basic scientists in the field of neurogastroenterology.

Clinical Subcommittee

Our **Clinical Course** offers clinical training, has been deemed excellent by attendees and is very popular among the community. This course has been held every other year and we will retain it. The next Clinical Course will be held with the 2010 Joint Scientific Meeting in Boston.

There are continued efforts led by Drs. Parkman, Rao, and DiLorenzo to obtain **CPT codes and reimbursement** for Motility procedures and treatments. Our focus for the next 2 years will be on colonic motility, intraluminal pressure measurements, and biofeedback retraining for constipation.

We have set an ambitious timetable to **validate GCSI (Gastroparesis Cardinal Symptom Index) endpoints** since these are critical to approval of medications in this area of unmet need. We are grateful to all our sponsors who are making it possible for the ANMS to anchor these validation studies. Validated endpoints will be presented to the FDA by the ANMS in collaboration with patient organizations. We are hoping that this effort will facilitate drug development and offer new hope to patients with Gastroparesis.

Research Grants

In the past, we have been fortunate to have the resources to fund theme-related research based on peer-reviewed applications. The Research subcommittee has selected Ingestive behavior and Satiety/Obesity as the theme for applications this year. However, due to the downturn in the economy which has impacted our sponsors, and market losses we are faced with realistic constraints on our finances and in funding programs. We are working in a variety of different ways to try and gain opportunities in other avenues, and to issue a call for applications hopefully by mid-year.

Journal

The society journal, Neurogastroenterology and Motility continues to go from strength to strength; the ANMS participates in the management of the Journal, and is keen to secure a greater ownership of the journal and its title. We are also exploring ways to reduce publication costs and have surveyed the membership to explore the proportion who prefer paper versus electronic journal.

Closing Comment

Given the change in ANMS by-laws regarding tenure of the Presidency, I am on an ambitious pace. I appreciate the honor to serve as President for another 18 months. I am committed to the society and to providing talented members of the ANMS the opportunity to gain experience on ANMS committees and Council, and to succeed as leaders of the Society. We also plan

regular, bi-annual communication from the different subcommittees through our electronic medium, the *RECORDER*.

Michael Camilleri, MD
ANMS President



ANMS Pharmacology Summit

The First ANMS Pharmacology Summit was held in Washington DC on March 23, 2009.

Participants included representatives from

Universities of California (Davis), Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Michigan State, Oklahoma, Vermont, and Calgary, the National Institutes of Health, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Temple University School of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Queen's University, IFFGD, and the following companies: *Albireo, GlaxoSmithKline, Ipsen, Sanofi-Aventis, Sucampo Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America, Inc., The Dannon Company, Theravance, Inc. and Wyeth Research.*

The objectives were to develop, maintain, and strengthen ties between pharmaceutical industry and academic leaders with interests in enteric neuroscience, GI motility, functional bowel disorders and the neuroendocrine role of the GI tract in obesity and ingestive behavior.

The rationale for the Summit is that patients continue to have unmet clinical needs, whereas, it is in the mission statements of ANMS, IFFGD and Pharma companies to improve patient care. It is the perception of ANMS that its members and the society itself represent the most innovative basic and translational scientists in the field and hence they possess the most relevant credentials to interact with Pharma in Research & Discovery to bring new and effective medications to patients.

Through the first and future summits, the ANMS aims to develop a mechanism to sustain strong, long-term *mutually-beneficial relationships* with pharmaceutical industry in order to understand the needs of pharmaceutical industry, overcome the limitations for the development of better, more sensitive and effective end-points in translational research studies of GI motor and sensory disorders, define research approaches for the development of agents for the treatment of GI disorders, GI manifestations of neurological disorders and obesity.

After an introduction that addressed the medication pipeline, the regulatory hurdles, and potential new pathways to drug approval in a common indication, that is IBS, and an overview of ongoing efforts by the ANMS to contribute to the validation of clinical trial endpoints, there was an in-depth discussion of different receptors and mechanisms involved in motor, sensory, inflammatory, and ingestive behaviors.

The speakers and topics covered:

Therapeutic opportunities in neurogastroenterology: The state of clinical trials and regulatory issues

Michael Camilleri

What are patients needs? *Nancy Norton*

Relationship between symptoms and motor functions

Upper gut motor functions – *Henry Parkman*

Lower intestinal motor function – *Satish Rao*



Michael Camilleri, Gary Mawe and Gianrico Farrugia

Relationship between symptoms and sensory functions

Emeran Mayer

Cholinergic signaling in the gastrointestinal tract

James Galligan

Commentator: Satish Rao

Serotonin as a signaling molecule in the gastrointestinal tract

Gary Mawe

Commentator: Gianrico Farrugia

Purinergic receptors in the gastrointestinal tract: contributions to control of motility, secretion and visceral sensation

James Galligan

Commentator: Stephen Vanner

The endocannabinoid system (ECS) as a novel therapeutic target

Keith Sharkey

Commentator: Michael Camilleri

Neuro-immune interactions

Terez Shea-Donohue

Commentator : Emeran Mayer

Application of corticotrophin-releasing factor (CRF) and opiate receptor ligands for the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders

Beverley Greenwood-Van Meerveld

Commentator: Henry Parkman

Neuro-degeneration, -protection and -plasticity: Potential therapeutic targets

John Wiley

Commentator: Gianrico Farrugia

Intestinal secretion

Stephen Vanner

Commentator: Satish Rao

Mechanisms in appetite control

Helen Raybould

Commentator: Michael Camilleri



Participants will be sent a questionnaire to provide feedback on the summit. A summary of the feedback will be reported in a future issue of the newsletter.



The AGA/ANMS Meeting on Gastroparesis and Functional Dyspepsia

The ANMS together with the AGA hosted a meeting on Gastroparesis and Functional Dyspepsia in January 2009 in Orlando, Florida.

With over 100 participants, the meeting was a success with a lively exchange of information through several excellent sessions and workshops that covered the etiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and clinical management of these disorders.

The meeting was initially proposed by Dr. Henry Parkman as the president of the ANMS to our AGA section on Neurogastroenterology and Motility. While he was chair of the AGA Nerve-Gut Motility section, Jim Galligan was instrumental in getting this program approved and funded. The meeting was organized by Jim Galligan, Emeran Mayer and Gianrico Farrugia.

The ANMS is presently in the process of organizing an up-to-date review on topics that were covered at the meeting. This ANMS review article will discuss advances in epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, treatment, and understanding of gastroparesis and functional dyspepsia as well as identifying areas for future research.

American Gastroenterological Association

Advancing the Science and Practice of Gastroenterology



2008 ANMS Satellite Symposium at the Society for Neurosciences meeting was held on November 14, 2008 in Washington, DC.

A new initiative of the ANMS Research Committee was to create awareness in the field

of neurogastroenterology among neuroscientists attending the Annual Meeting of the Society for Neurosciences (SFN). A series of mini-symposia labeled "A Window into Enteric Sciences" was kicked off in 2007 to take place as a Satellite Event of the SFN. The second SFN satellite symposium entitled "A Window into Enteric Sciences: Neurogenic Inflammation and Visceral Pain" sponsored by the ANMS was held in on November 14, 2008 in Washington DC and organized by Lori Ennis. The topics covered evolving areas related to the interaction between inflammatory mediators and the enteric nervous system and implications on mechanisms of visceral pain and pain pathways. The program, chaired by Gianrico Farrugia, MD and Yvette Taché, PhD opened

with an address by the Immediate Past ANMS President, Henry Parkman, MD from Temple University who elaborated on "Integration of Neurosciences to the Field of Gastroenterology: Training and Career Opportunities." This was followed by presentations by a blend of senior and junior investigators involved in the field of neurogastroenterology and visceral pain covered the following topics:
Emeran Mayer, MD, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, "Visualizing Visceral Pain"

David Linden, PhD, Mayo Clinic, "Inflammation, the Enteric Nervous System and Visceral Pain"

Vicente Martinez, DVM, PhD, AstraZeneca "Inflammation and Visceral Pain".

Anna Malykhina, PhD, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine "Cross Sensitization Between Bladder and Colonic Visceral Afferents.

The meeting attracted 40-50 participants who filled the room assigned to capacity. Lively interactions after each presentation continued during the cocktail reception that took place at the end of the mini-symposium. Evaluation by participants praised the quality of the presentations and relevance of the topics addressed. The meeting was co-sponsored by Ajinomoto Co USA.



Presenters and organizers of the 2nd ANMS Mini-Symposium on "A Window into Enteric Sciences: Neurogenic Inflammation and Visceral Pain" From left to right Drs Taché, Parkman, Linden, Martinez, Malykhina, Mayer, Ennis and Farrugia

Upcoming Meetings:

Digestive Disease Week. May 30-June 4, 2009. McCormick Convention Center, Chicago, IL. Visit our ANMS Booth #854 in Foundation Row.

American Gastroenterological Association

Advancing the Science and Practice of Gastroenterology

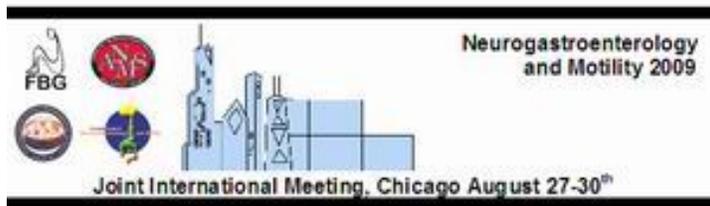


Seventeenth International Workshop on Electrogastrography

(IEGGS). August 27, 2009 in Chicago, IL held in conjunction with the 2009 Joint International Neurogastroenterology and Motility Meeting (August 27-30, 2009). This meeting brings together physicians and basic scientists who share a common interest in EGG, electrical stimulation of the gut for gastroparesis and obesity, gastric motor dysfunction.



2009 Joint International Meeting in Neurogastroenterology and Motility will be held August 27-30, 2009 in Chicago, Illinois.



Functional Brain-Gut Research Group (FBG) are the hosts for the meeting this year and the participating societies are: American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society, Functional Brain-Gut Research Group, European Society of Neurogastroenterology and Motility, International Group for Neurogastroenterology and Motility.

There were 350 abstracts accepted for the meeting and letter of notification have been sent. We are looking forward to an exciting meeting. Visit <http://www.fbgweb.org/ngm09.htm> to view a copy of the program, register, and make your hotel reservation. **Reduced registration fees until June 15, 2009.**

The Scientific, Steering and Local Organizing Committees put together an exciting and comprehensive program covering major topics from bench to bedside emphasizing the exchange of ideas between basic researchers and clinicians. In order to encourage interactions between experts and young investigators, ample time slots have been reserved for poster sessions. Complementing the core program, satellite symposia will provide our partners from the industry opportunities to present latest developments and directions of future research.

Participants are the most important part of any successful meeting. The NGM 2009 faculty includes well-renown opinion leaders in our field and we look forward to seeing you in Chicago!

Emeran Mayer G. Richard Locke Lin Chang

Neuroimmunophysiology of the Gastrointestinal Tract. A Cross-Disciplinary Conference on Intestinal Physiology and Pathophysiology.

An international conference dedicated to understanding how nerves, immune, epithelial and stromal cells of the GI tract interact in the regulation of enteric physiology & pathophysiology.

September 18th-21st 2009. Banff, Alberta, Canada

Organizers: Derek McKay (U. Calgary: dmckay@ucalgary.ca), Wallace MacNaughton (U. Calgary), Keith Sharkey (U. Calgary), Kim Barrett (UCSD) For details visit: www.ucalgary.ca/nips/



2010 Joint International Meeting in Neurogastroenterology and Motility and Gastrointestinal Motility & Neurogastroenterology in Clinical Practice

Course held in conjunction on August 26, 2010

will be held August 26-29, 2010 in Boston, Massachusetts ANMS will be the host society for this year's meeting. The Scientific Committee met in January to plan the program.

Abstract Deadline: March 3, 2010

Joint sponsors:

- American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society
- European Society of Neurogastroenterology and Motility
- Functional Brain-Gut Research Group
- International Group for the Study of Neurogastroenterology and Motility

Host: American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society

Ongoing Projects of ANMS

Possible Merger with ANMS and Functional Brain Gut Research Group (FBG)

At the last ANMS Council meeting, it was decided that discussions should be initiated to explore the opportunity to merge FBG with ANMS as a means to enhance the professional representation of our field at times of significant economic, organizational and scientific changes. The ANMS has broadened its Council representation to include broader participation of leaders in diverse interest groups including areas of traditional strength (e.g. esophagus), functional disease, pediatrics, and new growth areas such as appetite control and ingestive behavior. The ANMS acknowledged the importance of neurogastroenterology when it changed the Society's title a few years ago.

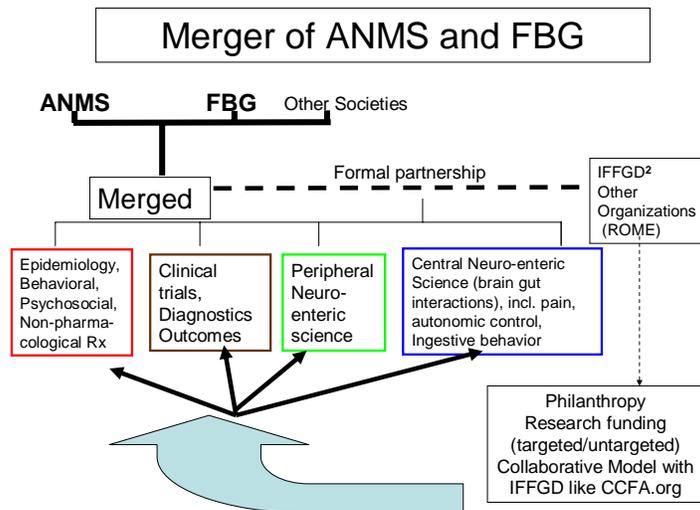
A *merger committee* has been formed with equal representation of ANMS (Camilleri, Farrugia, Parkman) and FBG (Fass, Naliboff, Mayer). This committee has met twice, and there are ongoing discussions between individual members. A merged society would provide fair representation of interests and stakeholders belonging to 4 areas of major interest of the common membership.

Tentative mission statement of a merged society : "A multidisciplinary society dedicated to the study, diagnosis and treatment of disorders related to altered brain gut interactions, including peripheral and central enteric neuroscience."

Areas of primary interest will include:

- Peripheral and central regulation of various gastrointestinal functions (motility, sensation, absorption, secretion), visceral pain, inflammation and ingestive behaviors and GI motility disorders
- Epidemiological, psychosocial aspects and functional GI disorders

This is summarized in the figure below:



Thus, the possibility of a merger with the FBG is being explored as directed by the ANMS Council, and **a full report and communication to all ANMS members will be provided in the next couple of months.**

We will communicate our recommendations to the ANMS membership between DDW and the Joint Society meeting in August. We plan to hold a TOWN HALL MEETING for ANMS members to address any questions, voice concerns and make recommendations at the 2009 Joint Meeting in Chicago on Saturday, August 29 at 12:00 noon.

The ANMS and Gastroparesis and the FDA

The American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society (ANMS) appreciate the need for continued clinical research in gastroparesis with its tremendous unmet treatment needs. Our society established a working group to help develop a valid endpoint for use in gastroparesis. The working group consists of several clinical investigators of gastroparesis, representatives of patient support groups, and one of the developers of the Gastroparesis Cardinal Symptom Index (GCSI), a commonly used outcome measure for gastroparesis. The working group has extensively reviewed prior treatment studies using a variety of clinical endpoints. Discussions were held with the FDA on perceived problems with various clinical endpoints. The working group has developed a dossier for the use of the GCSI as a PRO for treatment trials for gastroparesis.

The ANMS Working Group on Gastroparesis Clinical Endpoints consists of Henry Parkman, Michael Camilleri, Brad Kuo, Nancy Norton, and Dennis Revicki.

Clinical Practice Committee

Co-Chairs: H Parkman and S Rao

Members: C Di Lorenzo, *J Pandolfino*, N Norton

The Clinical Practice Committee has been actively seeking and working with sister societies to develop new procedure codes for tests in GI motility. For the year 2009-10, the committee will facilitate the development of new codes for a number of procedures. If members have suggestions for procedure codes that they wish us to pursue, please let one of the co-chairs know. Additionally, the committee is actively engaged in the development of position papers for diagnostic evaluation and management of oropharyngeal disorders, esophageal motility and functional esophageal disorders, neuromuscular training for pelvic floor disorders and diagnostic evaluation and management of fecal incontinence. The committee is actively seeking input from all members to update the ANMS GI Motility Lab Registry, by asking members to view the registry and send in any changes. Members who wish to have their labs listed should contact the co-chairs with relevant information as soon as possible.

Education & Training Committee

Co-Chairs: S Rao and R McCallum

Members: Chang, Ouyang, Shaker, *Kuo*, Parkman

The education committee has met on several occasions and has finalized a program for the biannual postgraduate course which will be held along with the joint international meeting in Boston, 2010. The date for this is **Wednesday August 26, 2010**, so mark your calendars! A new feature of this program will be live interactive demonstrations on esophageal and anorectal manometry using novel techniques. This will be performed under the auspices of Beth Israel Hospital Boston and assistance from Dr. Anthony Lembo. The ANMS clinical training program at 10 centers of excellence in USA continues to be a success and in its third year remains a highly sought after program. The ANMS will train 20 gastroenterology fellows from USA and Canada during the academic year 2008-9. The Education committee is also considering plans for organizing regional symposia and workshops on motility procedures. Members interested in conducting these sessions are requested to contact the committee co-chairs.

Membership Committee

Co-Chairs: G Mawe, S Rao, and R McCallum

Members: H Raybould, J Chen, Reza Shaker, *W Chey*, *R Fass*

The membership committee has been recently reconstituted and is spear heading a national campaign or recruiting new members to

our society. The committees' goal is to double the ANMS membership within the next 3 years. Towards this, the committee requests all members of ANMS to consider nominating colleagues and trainees to become ANMS members. The potential list of membership benefits is summarized below. Additionally and importantly, we also seek nurses and technicians and research coordinators who are involved in neurogastroenterology and GI motility to please consider becoming auxiliary members of the ANMS. The committee also notes that several members have not renewed their membership for the current year 2009 and we ask all members to do so as soon as possible. Our success as a society primarily depends on your individual and collective support as members. Please see appeal from membership committee below.

APPEAL TO ASSIST WITH ANMS Membership Drive

If you are receiving this newsletter, you are a member of the ANMS and you are hopefully aware of the benefits of membership and of the various efforts that our society is making to help our field thrive. In an effort to ensure the future success of the field, and to encourage active participation by our young investigators and clinicians in training, we are asking you to encourage trainees at your institution to join the ANMS. Trainee membership status is available to clinical Fellows, Residents, Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows, and has a reduced membership rate of only \$50 per year. This provides access to the society journal, *Neurogastroenterology and Motility*, grant opportunities, and mentoring opportunities. In addition, Auxiliary Membership status is available at *no charge* to interested nurses and technicians, and this provides them with access to the journal. Membership applications are available on the society website (www.motilitysociety.org)

ANMS Membership

Ask your colleagues to join the ANMS. They can easily join on the ANMS website. For the membership fee of only \$125 for Regular membership and \$50 for trainees, you get a \$250 value journal subscription to *Neurogastroenterology and Motility*! In addition society members receive copies of the Recorder, and get reduced registration fees to ANMS meetings. Share this information with your colleagues. Note there are now three types of memberships for our society:

Regular Member

Training Member – For individuals in graduate school or postgraduate training (GI Fellows, Post-docs)

Auxiliary Member – Nurse, technician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant that assists in the practice of GI motility and functional GI disorders

Committee on Research

Chair: J Galligan

Members: A Bharucha, L Chang, J Chen, G Mawe, H Raybould
To ensure ANMS is the pre-eminent society in Research conducted by physicians and scientist members of ANMS
To develop rationale for an RFP for Enteric Neuroscience

Research to be funded by NIH

To coordinate the peer review and assignment of ANMS research grants

NIH News

Gastroparesis: Hope through Research

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases' Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition supports basic and clinical research into gastrointestinal motility disorders, including gastroparesis.

The NIH Gastroparesis Clinical Research Consortium

(GpCRC) is a network of centers established to improve our understanding of the cause and natural course of gastroparesis and

to advance the diagnosis and treatment of this disorder. The Gastroparesis Consortium Clinical Centers includes: Stanford University with Mayo Clinic and California Pacific Medical Center
Temple University
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
Wake Forest University
University of Kansas
Johns Hopkins University (Data Coordinating Center)

Current studies underway in the NIH Gastroparesis Consortium include the Gastroparesis Registry where patients are followed periodically and information is gathered at regular intervals about their disorder. Another study aims at understanding the changes in stomach tissue that occur in gastroparesis to help come up with better ways to treat patients. In addition, several treatment trials are planned to study the effects of promising drugs and devices to control symptoms and improve the quality of life of patients with gastroparesis. Information on these studies can be obtained at either of the following website:

<http://www.jhuuct.com/gpcrc/open/patients/patientlinks.htm>

Mentoring in Neurogastroenterology Research. The objective of the program is to provide guidance and networking to individuals at an early stage of their career who are considering or have just entered the field of neurogastroenterology and gastrointestinal motility. This program will help young clinicians and scientists in the fields of clinical and basic sciences related to neurogastroenterology and gastrointestinal motility. In this program, mentors will be matched with mentees to help provide mentees with suggestions, guidance and assistance. This can be performed through a variety of ways including email, telephone calls, and meetings. Mentors meet with their mentee during the ANMS and AGA meetings. A breakfast meeting for mentors and mentees is planned at the Joint International Meeting of Neurogastroenterology and Motility in Luzern Switzerland. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee, please visit our website at <http://www.motilitysociety.org/> and fill out the appropriate form.

Registry of GI Motility Laboratories

An updated Registry of GI Motility Laboratories is posted on our ANMS website (www.motilitysociety.org). The purpose of this registry is to have a listing of GI Motility Laboratories that perform good quality GI motility testing that can be relied on by other physicians. This will help both physicians who want to refer patients as well as patients who might need to find a local laboratory that does this procedure. In the future, this registry may be useful for quality assurance and pay for performance.

The ANMS Journal: Neurogastroenterology and Motility

The field of gastrointestinal motility has undergone phenomenal growth and change in the past three decades since it emerged as a distinct specialty. Our Journal, *Neurogastroenterology & Motility*, is the official Journal of the American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society, the European Society of Neurogastroenterology and Motility, and the Functional Brain-Gut Research Group. Having reached an impact factor of 3.38 at the last official report, the journal editors report continued increase in the number of submissions annually. The journal contract with the Publisher, Wiley-Blackwell, is currently under review. A poll of members indicated that at least half of respondents wish to continue to receive a paper version of the journal. Therefore the ANMS is planning to still offer members the opportunity to receive either paper or electronic issues of the journal. The Journal continues to provide a forum where current

issues and advances relating to the motor, sensory, secretory, metabolic, hormonal and immune functions of the GI tract can be presented and discussed. It is of interest to both clinicians and basic or translational researchers. The Journal publishes original research and review articles, abstracts of symposia and meeting reports. The journal is published monthly and will be increasing its page numbers in the near future. ANMS members on the Journal Management Committee are Ann Ouyang and Michael Camilleri.

American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society (ANMS):

A society dedicated to research and the practice of medicine in gastrointestinal motility, the brain-gut axis, and related enteric sciences.

Mission of ANMS:

Advance the study of neurogastroenterology, GI motility and related enteric sciences

Translate the scientific advances to patient care

Disseminate the knowledge to patients and care-givers in order to improve the diagnosis and treatment of patients with GI motility and functional GI disorders

Officers of the American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society (ANMS)

Michael Camilleri, MD	President	2008-2010
Satish S. C. Rao, MD	President-Elect	2008-2010
Anthony Bauer, PhD	Secretary	2006-2010
John Wiley, MD	Treasurer	2006-2010
James Galligan, PhD	Councilor	2006-2010
Emeran A. Mayer, MD	Councilor	2006-2010
Gary M. Mawe, PhD	Councilor	2006-2010
Adil Bharucha, MD	Councilor	2008-2012
Lin Chang, MD	Councilor	2008-2012
Jiande Chen, PhD	Councilor	2008-2012
Carlo DiLorenzo, MD	Councilor	2008-2012
Beverly Greenwood-Van Meerveld, PhD	Councilor	2008-2012
Richard McCallum, MD	Councilor	2008-2012
Helen Raybould, PhD	Councilor	2008-2012
Reza Shaker, MD	Councilor	2008-2012
Ann Ouyang, MD	Representative to NGM	
Nancy Norton	Ad hoc councilor	
Henry P. Parkman, MD	Immediate Past-President	
Lori Ennis	Executive Director	

Information from Patient Support/Physician Liaison Groups

International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders – *Providing Support for 18 Years*

The International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders (IFFGD) continues to move forward promoting education and awareness of digestive disorders.

Our recent efforts include the publication of “IBS Patients: Their Illness Experience and Unmet Needs.” We have published the results of an ongoing online study we are conducting in collaboration with the UNC Center for Functional GI and Motility Disorders looking at IBS patient experiences and needs. Data collected from June through October of 2007 was analyzed by the UNC Biometry Team. Our report on the findings may be viewed online by going to our web page at www.aboutIBS.org/needs-survey. The results of the Survey challenge conventional assumptions that minimize the burden caused by this disorder. They provide an understanding of the severity of the condition, and of how desperately people are seeking freedom from symptoms. The findings suggest that much more needs to be done to develop and deliver satisfactory treatment to IBS sufferers.

Results from the Survey are also in press for publication in the *Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology* under the title, “International Survey of Patients with IBS: Symptom Features

and Their Severity, Health Status, Treatments, and Risk Taking to Achieve Clinical Benefit.”

On March 8-9, 2009 IFFGD participated in the 19th Annual Digestive Disease National Coalition (DDNC) Public Policy Forum and Institutional Member Forum in Washington D.C. The DDNC is the foremost collective voice of digestive disease patient organizations, physician societies, and industry partners on Capitol Hill. We visited congressional offices to discuss key priorities of importance to the digestive disease community, including:

- Renewed commitment to fund the National Institutes of Health.
- Meaningful funding increases for the Food and Drug Administration. This includes encouraging Congressional efforts to improve efficiency and expedite the development of new, crucial treatments and therapies; including a guidance document for industry regarding the development of IBS treatments.
- Implementation of the research recommendations the National Commission on Digestive Diseases.

We continue to add to our library of fact sheets and brochures, now having over 215 publications available for both physicians and patients. We encourage you to contact us and obtain publications to make available to patients in your clinical practice. Virtually all of our publications are available online at www.iffgd.org/library. The downloadable articles are free to IFFGD members.

At the 8th International Symposium on Functional GI Disorders, held April 16-19, we honored recipients of the IFFGD 2009 Research Awards. The awardees were chosen by an independent Selection Committee from among many deserving nominees. We give these awards to active investigators who have a record of research interest in basic mechanisms or clinical aspects of functional gastrointestinal and motility disorders, and neurogastroenterology. The awards are intended to encourage participation and recognize achievement in this area of digestive health research. We congratulate our 2009 Research Award recipients for their outstanding achievements:

Senior Investigator – Clinical Science
Satish S. C. Rao, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinic, Iowa City, IA

Senior Investigator – Basic Science
Emeran A. Mayer, M.D.
UCLA Center for Integrative Medicine, Los Angeles, CA

Junior Investigator – Pediatrics
Miguel Saps, M.D.
Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL

Junior Investigator – Clinical Science
Javier Santos, M.D., Ph.D.
Hospital General Universitario Valle de Hebron,
Barcelona, SPAIN

Junior Investigator – Basic Science
Martin Storr, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, CANADA

The activities of IFFGD are made possible through cooperative efforts with the medical community and others concerned with functional GI and motility disorders. We thank all of you who have supported us throughout the years, and look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you.

Nancy J Norton
President and Founder, IFFGD

Association of Gastrointestinal Motility Disorders, Inc.

The Association of Gastrointestinal Motility Disorders, Inc. (AGMD) is working diligently in its education, awareness and outreach campaigns by providing new programs and expanding some of our existing ones.

On July 24-26, 2009, we will be holding our bi-annual AGMD Digestive Motility Symposium at the Doubletree Bedford Glen Hotel in Bedford, Massachusetts. Our symposia are a critical part of our educational program and we encourage those in the medical, scientific and nutritional communities, as well as patients and their family members to attend.

Our monthly AGMD Digestive Motility Education/Support Group Meetings have been a huge success. These meetings are a great source of support, education, information and outreach to many people affected by digestive motility problems. It has been extremely revealing to discover the many misconceptions, misinformation, and frustrations that numerous patients and their family members share in their experiences with digestive motility diseases and disorders. This underscores the importance of our mission.

AGMD has scheduled several local speaking engagements at various venues. In addition, AGMD is developing a community television program where invited guests will have discussions about various aspects of digestive motility diseases and disorders.

The importance of our endeavors is to draw awareness, educate, provide support, and promote research is paramount for those who struggle on a daily basis from digestive motility diseases and disorders. So many patients feel very much alone and isolated in their battle with the myriad of symptoms and the impact that digestive motility has on their lives. Patients need to know that there are answers to their many questions, adequate treatments available to help them live with their symptoms, direction as to what to do and where to seek help, and finally hope that their tomorrows will hold the promise of a cure.

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