



PADRECC

Insider



March/April 2005



Ron Blehm, PT, with patient at recent PADRECC event. See article on pg. 3.

The Results Are In!

The NW PADRECC recently received high marks in the audit conducted by VA Financial Accounting Operations and Reports Section (FAOR) and Medical and Surgical Service last November. The review team conducted an assessment to determine the overall effectiveness, accomplishments, and achievements of the program operations and the appropriateness of funds expended for the NW PADRECC program. Praise was given for exceptional and comprehensive clinical care, state-of-the-art research, education of health care professionals, and support of veterans and caregivers carried out by the program. Identified strengths of the program included: assemblage of a high quality team of

professionals, effective oversight by the Advisory Committee, collaborations with outside research programs, neurosurgical expertise, mentoring of junior faculty in submitting VA grants, development of clinical interventions aimed at improving the care of PD, advocacy at the national level, the development of the movement disorder fellowship program, CSP#468 administration, and patient-focused clinic care. The only negative criticism addressed reporting methods of PADRECCs as a whole and was not a reflection of the NW PADRECC specifically. This report confirms what we already know – the NW PADRECC is an innovative professional organization!

Calendar Items

PADRECC Executive Meeting
PVAMC Bldg. 100, Room 7D-153
Thursday, May 5, 8:30-9:30 AM

Journal Club
PVAMC, Th, May 12, 8:30-9:30 AM
Topic: Assessing Quality of Care
Speaker: Kari Swartztrauber

Huntington's Disease Symposium
Doernbecher Hospital, Vey Auditorium
Sunday, May 15, 12-5:00 PM

Journal Club
PCO, Thursday, May 19, 8:30-9:30 AM
Topic: Risk Factors for Falls in PD
Speaker: Jeff Kraakevik

Journal Club
PCO, Thursday, May 26, 8:30-9:30 AM
Topic: PSG Levodopa
Speaker: Barbra Alexander-Brown

PADRECC Staff Meeting
PVAMC Bldg. 100, Room 7D-153
Friday, June 03, 11:15 AM-12:30 PM
Lunch Provided

VTEL
Look for updates soon
2nd & 4th Wednesday each month
Noon-1:00 PM

PADRECC in PROGRESS

Announcements & Current Events

Jeff Kraakevik, MD, will be presenting at the 2005 PRO Conference in Newport, Oregon on Sunday, May 22 at 2:00 PM. His topic: "I Can't Remember and I'm Feeling Down, So I'm Going to Vegas: An Overview of Cognitive Changes in PD."

On Wednesday, April 27 from 5:00 – 6:30 PM, Matt Brodsky, MD and Dee Linde will lead a **Dystonia Support Group** at the PVAMC in Bldg. 100, Room 201. Patients and staff are welcome to attend.

The PADRECC welcomes **Jeremy Cook** as our new Program Assistant! Before joining PADRECC in March, he worked as a clerk in HR. Jeremy is an enthusiastic addition to our team and we're glad to have him aboard.

The PADRECC bids farewell to **Bob Bourdage**, Program Analyst and **Alison Dame**, Neuropsychological Tech for CSP#468. Bob has moved to Washington, DC and Alison will be moving to Portland, Maine later in April. We wish them well in their future endeavors and are grateful for their contribution to the program!

Congratulations to **Jane Anau**, who recently won the prestigious McNair Scholarship. This award partners Jane with a mentor and gives her the opportunity to research a topic of interest over a two-month period with the possibility of publishing her results in their journal. Her project will compare services and outcomes of school-based community health centers to adult safety-net clinics in Multnomah County. Her research will take her away from the PADRECC this summer, but we are hopeful we can bring her back in the fall!

In February, the PADRECC program provided support for **Eileen Divine, MSW** to attend the "Allied Team Training for Parkinson's Disease," hosted by the National Parkinson's Foundation and held in Washington, DC. This conference brought together allied health professionals (PT, OT, Speech/Path, music therapists, and ssweSWSW) in an effort to foster collaborative care across disciplines in the treatment of PD.

Susan O'Connor Awarded VA Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Susan O'Connor, RN, who was awarded Portland VA Medical Center's Employee of the Month for January 2005. Susan has excelled in coordinating the CSP #468, not only by meeting the enrollment expectations, but by going the extra mile to remove barriers and insuring Vets have a quality experience participating in the study. She has advocated for safe, handicapped accessible hotel rooms with VA Lodging, made connections with community organizations who provided air transportation free of charge for DBS patients with limited incomes, proactively flexed her work schedule to be available for surgery patients on the weekend and evenings, and has gone as far as offering dog-sitting services for a patient who could not afford to kennel! In addition, Susan has been the driving force behind the development a patient education program at Portland, which includes a comprehensive patient education library, classes on disease management, and patient support groups.

She has accomplished this while the PADRECC clinic has tripled in size. And despite this growth, she has provided a higher level of service to our vets than previously seen in clinic, including one-on-one nursing consultations with patients, collaborating with other providers to systematically address common clinical issues seen in clinic, such as falls and depression. Thanks Susan for your bringing your skill and dedication to the PADRECC!

Faculty Accomplishments

Publications, Abstracts, & Grants Received

Cyrus Zebetian, MD received a VA Merit Review Award to begin October 2005 for research entitled "Analysis of Nurr1 Variants in Familial and Sporadic Parkinson's Disease." **Ali Samii, MD** is a co-investigator.

Movement Disorder Society's (MDS) 9th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders, New Orleans, LA:

Jay Nutt, MD

"Controversies Session: GDNF by intraputamural infusion is not a therapy for PD."

Ali Samii, MD

"Unilateral vs. bilateral subthalamic nucleus deep brain stimulation in Parkinson disease: preliminary results from staged bilateral stimulator implantations"

"Telemedicine for delivery of health care in Parkinson's disease"

"Intake of vitamin E, vitamin C and carotenoids and the risk of Parkinson's disease: systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies"

Matt Brodsky, MD and Kari Swarztrauber, M.D

"Treatment patterns for Parkinson's disease in the Pacific Northwest Veterans Health Network"

Jeff Kraakevik, MD and Matt Brodsky, MD

"Unusual reaction to deep brain stimulation electrode placement in Parkinson's Disease"

57th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Neurology, Miami, FL:

James B. Leverenz, MD

"Relationship between clinical symptoms and Lewy body distribution in subjects with Alzheimer's disease"

PADRECC Staff Corner

Team Perspective



Tara Muzyk, Pharm.D

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist

Tara Muzyk has worked for the VA for three years. In addition to her role as clinical pharmacist in the PADRECC Movement Disorder and Botox clinic, she wears many hats around the medical center, including chairing the Pharmacoeconomics Committee and working in the Neurology Seizure Clinic.

In the PADRECC clinic, Tara provides consultations to clinic providers, educates veterans and their caregivers, and serves as a resource to clinical staff for VA formulary issues. She is particularly adept in managing PD medications that require complicated dose titrations, striving for patients to receive the lowest therapeutic dose.

It is Tara's goal every week to ensure each patient has the most successful medication regimen for the treatment of his/her movement disorder possible, placing high priority on reducing or eliminating medication-related adverse events.

She enjoys the challenge of treating a population that often requires complex medication regimens and titrations, and finds her interactions with patients to be very rewarding. She is focused on providing high quality care and believes strongly that frequent follow-ups yield maximal therapeutic benefit for patients.

Tara is available during clinic times for medication titrations, drug information or general medication reviews by consult.

Education & Outreach

2005 VTEL Series

Look for updates soon on our upcoming VTEL series. Each session will take place on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 12:00 – 1:00PM and will feature talks given by PADRECC staff on topics related to movement disorders. See you there!

An Update on PD & Treatment Options

On February 4, 2005 the PADRECC hosted the first in a series of educational events for veterans and their caregivers on movement disorders. Over 75 people attended Penny Hogarth's presentation on "An Update on PD". We received very positive feedback and used the opportunity for members of the audience to suggest topics for future sessions.



Dr. Hogarth presents "An Update on PD"



Attendees at the PD Health Fair

Parkinson's Disease Health Fair

Members of the PADRECC staff joined forces to orchestrate the Parkinson's disease health fair at the Portland VAMC on April 1. It was a terrific event that focused on the resources provided by our interdisciplinary staff of experts. More than sixty veterans, caregivers and health professionals attended. The sessions were all interactive with lively discussion as participants moved from booth to booth. Information on medical aspects of PD was provided through the very popular "Ask the Doctor" format. Medications, physical therapy, speech, nutrition, VA, PCO, and community resources were busy sources of information. We also showed videos and helped individuals access the PADRECC website.

This activity was a learning event for all of us. We expected people to come and go, instead a good portion stayed for hours. When asked what we could improve, one satisfied patient stated, "Nothing, you seemed to know what you were doing. It was great." Another family was so impressed that he transferred his care to the VA.

As a result of this experience, we plan to do another health fair and will use the feedback of our patients and staff to offer improvements in the event.



Attendees at the PD Health Fair

Introduction to PADRECC Program

Susan and Ruth Ann were guests at a Parkinson's Resources of Oregon (PRO) support group meeting in March. Over 45 patients and consumers attended this meeting focusing on the PADRECC and the services it provides. Our information was well received. The audience was very interested in the topic and as a result of this meeting some attendees are now enrolled in the VA for services.

Huntington's Disease Symposium

The Portland VA Medical Center and OHSU Parkinson's Center of Oregon will jointly present the Third Annual Huntington's Disease Symposium on Sunday, May 15th. The Symposium is intended for those who have HD, family members, and caretakers. **Penny Hogarth, MD** and Vicki Wolff, LCSW, will both speak at the event as well as several other presenters for breakout group sessions. Topics vary, and include physical, occupational, and speech therapy options, legal issues, and genetics. The symposium is intended to provide practical information to those affected by HD, give an understanding of current HD research, and to provide a message of hope. If you would like to receive a brochure for the symposium, call Jeremy Cook at ext. 51091.



Dr. Gunzler and Dr. Chung take questions from the audience