First World Parkinson Congress, Washington, D.C.

In February 2006, representatives from all sectors of the international Parkinson's community will convene for the very first time at the World Parkinson Congress in Washington, D.C. More than 3,000 researchers, patients, and caregivers will participate in this four-day event showcasing the most important new developments in the world of Parkinson's disease. This year, the PADRECC and the VA Parkinson's Disease Consortium have established themselves as Organizational Partners with the WPC. Unprecedented in scale and diversity of offerings, the Congress will provide an interdisciplinary forum for addressing medical and scientific research, education and training, care initiatives, and “quality-of-life” issues. An extensive program of plenary sessions, symposia, and workshops will feature presentations and discussions devoted to prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and the future of Parkinson's disease research. The program will also include coursework for CME and CEU credits.

To receive more information via email, visit www.worldpdcongress.org

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**Calendar Items**

**PADRECC Executive Meeting**
PVAMC Bldg. 100, Rm. 7D-153
Thursday, July 7, 8:30-9:30 AM

**Patient Education Event**
Vancouver Campus, Columbia Rm.
Tues, July 12, 10-11:30 AM
"Better Now: Rehabilitation in PD"
Ron Blehm, PT

**VTEL**
PVAMC, Wed, July 13, 12-1:00 PM
"Management of Early PD"
Jay Nutt, MD

**Journal Club**
PVAMC, Th, July 14, 8:30-9:30 AM
“The use of mini-cog for a dementia screening test in PD”
Soo Borson, MD

**VTEL**
PVAMC, Wed, July 27, 12-1:00 PM
“All the Symptoms Nobody Talks About”
Gordon Campbell, FNP

**VTEL**
PVAMC, Wed, August 10, 12-1:00 PM
“Sleep Disorders in Patients with PD”
Steve Gunzler, MD

**VTEL**
PVAMC, Wed, Sept. 14, 12-1:00 PM
“Caregiving”
Julie Carter, MS, ANP

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**PADRECC in PROGRESS**
Announcements & Current Events

PVAMC Research & Development will be hosting **Visiting Scientist, Soo Borson, MD** from the University of Washington. She will be presenting on: “The use of mini-cog for a dementia screening test in PD.” The lecture will be on Thursday, July 14th at 8:30am in Bldg 100, 7D153. Refreshments will be served.

http://depts.washington.edu/psychweb/divisions/faculty/BorsonSoo.html

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Now introducing the **PADRECC loan library** for patients and staff! Intended as a supplementary resource, the collection includes a broad range of books, tapes, and handouts on subjects of interest to people with Parkinson's disease, their caregivers, and health care providers. All books and tapes are located in 7D-151b (Nicole’s office) and are available for a free loan of up to one month.

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**Seattle PADRECC staff**, in collaboration with the Washington State Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA), recently produced an educational DVD entitled ‘Parkinson's Disease: Straight Talk and Honest Hope’. This 90-minute program was designed to provide comprehensive information and realistic expectations to newly diagnosed patients with Parkinson disease. These will be available for patients through the new PADRECC library.

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Join us September 25, 2005 at Willamette Park for the Parkinson’s Resources of Oregon’s **Sole Support Fundraising and Awareness Walk** for PD. The NW PADRECC is participating for the first time and is currently forming a team to take part in the walk. Please see **Susan O’Connor** for more details or to sign up!

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**Jeff Kraakevik** and **Steve Gunzler** are each currently pursuing research studies at the PVAMC. Jeff’s topic will look at defining the prevalence of PD patients’ inability to stand up after a fall and identify associated risk factors. This study will also gather data for a future study to determine the effects of physical therapy on one’s ability to rise after falling. Steve’s project investigates why some people feel worse after taking Levodopa, exploring whether more people have “beginning-of-dose” worsening than is presently known.

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*Sandy Neuberger, Speech Pathologist, at recent PADRECC event. See pg. 2.*
Faculty Accomplishments
Publications, Abstracts, & Grants Received

In May 2005, an article co-authored by Susan O’Connor and entitled “Metabolic Patterns Associated with the Clinical Response to Galantamine Therapy: A Fludeoxyglucose F 18 Positron Emission Tomographic Study” appeared on the cover of Archives of Neurology. This study was a site-initiated protocol that Susan began with her colleagues at UCLA and continued working on after moving to Portland. (Vol. 62, pg. 721-728).


Education & Outreach

Huntington’s Disease Symposium
The annual HD Symposium was held on May 15, 2005 in the Vey Conference Center at Doernbecher Children’s Hospital. Presented jointly by the PADRECC and PCO, over 80 people attended to hear talks on legal issues, housing transitions, genetics, and the various therapy options available to people with HD. We received very positive feedback and are already in the beginning planning stages for next year’s symposium!

2005 PRO Conference
Recently, the PADRECC was invited to attend the 2005 Parkinson’s Resources of Oregon Conference in Newport, OR. Held over the weekend of May 21-22, Susan O’Connor, Ruth Ann Tsukuda, and Jeff Kraakevik attended the event, where Jeff gave a talk on cognitive changes in PD. In all, about 200 patients and consumers attended this seminar, which offered informational booths, educational talks, and Q&A sessions, all in a great setting at the beach!

Dystonia Support Group
On April 27 the PADRECC hosted the first support group, offered for patients with Dystonia and their caregivers. About ten people attended the meeting, which was facilitated by Susan O’Connor and patient Dee Linde. Matt Brodsky gave an informal talk on Dystonia before opening the session up for questions. Dee Linde will continue to conduct support groups for the Dystonia community.