



PADRECC Insider



May/June 2005



Sandy Neuburger, Speech Pathologist, at recent PADRECC event. See pg. 2.

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

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

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>

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.

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.

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!

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.

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).

Samii A, Ransom BR. Movement disorders: overview and treatment options. *Pharmacy and Therapeutics* 2005;30(4):228-241.

Samii A, Slimp JC, Goodkin R. Unilateral Subthalamic nucleus deep brain stimulation contralateral to thalamic stimulation in Parkinson disease. *Parkinsonism and Related Disorders* 2005;11(4):257-258.

Samii A, Slimp JC, Hogan PJ, Goodkin. Deep brain stimulation in a patient on immunosuppressive therapy after renal transplant. *Parkinsonism and Related Disorders* 2005;11(4):259-260.

Etminan M, Gill SS, **Samii A**. Intake of vitamin E, vitamin C, and carotenoids and the risk of Parkinson's disease: a meta-analysis. *Lancet Neurology* 2005;4:362-365.

Samii A, Ryan-Dykes P, **Tsukuda RA**, Zink C, **Franks R**, and Nichol WO. Telemedicine for delivery of health care in Parkinson's disease. *Movement Disorders* 2005;20 (suppl 10) :S74.

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!



Dr. Hogarth at the HD 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.

PADRECC Staff Corner

Team Perspective



Sandra Neuburger, Speech Pathologist

Sandra (Sandy) Neuburger, MS, CCC, has been at the PVAMC since 1980 when she began her Clinical Fellowship in speech pathology. Initially involved in Research (1981-88), she has been a Staff Speech Pathologist doing clinical work since 1988. She is in Vancouver 4-days a week seeing both in-patients on the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Unit and NSCU as well as out-patients. On Fridays, she has specialty out-patient clinics in Portland.

Sandra provides evaluation and treatment for patients with a variety of diagnosis including PD patients who have speech, language, swallowing, and cognitive problems.

In 2003, Sandra was certified in the Lee Silverman Voice Treatment Program. Research has shown that the intensive techniques of the LSVT Program help individuals with reduced vocal loudness make their voice "come alive." PD graduates of the LSVT program meet once a month for a voice "tune up" session in an education and support group led by Sandra. In her clinical experience, she has found that patients who are referred to speech therapy early after being diagnosed with PD are able to learn techniques to maintain their voice and avoid the vocal loudness decline common in approximately 89% of PD patients.

If you have a patient who could benefit from Sandy's expertise, please make a consult in CPRS using her name as the provider.