

PSG eNEWS/Annual Meeting 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS:

2/8-9/2014: 2nd Annual PSG CME Program, Las Vegas, NV
REGISTER TODAY! www.cfcme.org/shapingPD14

9/18-20/2014: PSG 26th Annual Meeting & Symposium, St. Louis, MO

Michael Schwarzschild, Chair of the PSG Executive Committee summarized the State of PSG at the General Meeting, highlighting progress in pursuing PD trials, educational initiatives, working group projects, foundation partnerships, and administration & finance plans:

- **Pursuing PD trials:** STEADY-PD and SURE-PD recently concluded with promising phase II trial results, NIC-PD (with James Boyd as PI of PSG arm) is ongoing, and MOVE-PD is just starting (with Ron Pfeiffer as PI). Thanks in good measure to shoe-leather networking by Hubert Fernandez PSG EC Co-chair, some two dozen industry programs were re-introduced to the PSG this past year, with several that are in active discussions over phase II studies...stay tuned. In addition, opportunities for collaboration across the globe with our counterpart PD trials networks in Sweden, Germany, UK, China, India and South Korea are actively being pursued, as are potential NINDS/NIH-supported phase II (NeuroNEXT) and III (U01) trials.
- **Educational initiatives:** PSG continues to engage and cultivate new investigators through the proven value of prior programs like the annual PSG mentoring session of the AAN Futures in Clinical Research program and our Mentored Clinical Research Award — both thanks to the continued backing of the Parkinson's Disease Foundation (PDF). This year we also received an NINDS/NIH R13 grant to facilitate a dozen junior investigators' participation in our annual symposium. The symposium of course was another major educational endeavor at our annual meeting along with our in-house Clinical Trials Course for junior investigators/coordinators — both much appreciated events in Montreal based on the great turnout and feedback. New this past year was a PSG effort to educate a broader swath of healthcare professionals over PD clinical research through a CME course, a "Comprehensive Review of Discoveries and Clinical Trials" held in Las Vegas, with its success now warranting our planned 2nd Annual CME event of the same title for Feb 8-9, 2014 once again in Las Vegas — mark your calendars and spread the word! Of note participating PSG faculty continue to donate their time to also help make this a financially viable as well as educationally valuable endeavor.
- **Working group projects:** Our WG's continue to be animated idea exchanges and incubators for focused PSG interests within PD translational and clinical research, generating numerous projects and proposals, which have been advanced to our Scientific Review Cmte for their valuable review and vetting as well as to outside funding agencies. This past year we have welcomed the first new WG since the original 6 were promulgated, with the approval of the Healthcare Outcomes & Disparities WG led by Allison Willis and filling a major gap in our field. A brief summary of the working group meetings is on the PSG website at: Working Group Summaries.
- **Foundation partnerships:** Similarly fulfilling an increasingly appreciated imperative of PD clinical research is the inclusion of PD patient and caregiver voices in our clinical research at multiple levels. Accordingly and together with our long-standing PDF partners and their PAIR (Parkinson's Advocates in Research) program we have begun an initiative more fully integrating PAIR program graduates into our annual meeting, WGs, project SCs and clinical sites. Other growing foundation partnerships include our collaboration with The Michael J. Fox Foundation to curate and widely disseminate resources from PSG trials to ensure continued contributions to research advances.
- **Administration & Finance plans:** There's no doubt our bright prospects result in good measure from our outstanding R & D efforts, which of course refers to those of Roseanna Battista & Donna

Moszkowicz whose professionalism, skill and spirit keep our engine humming. Happily with the support of Karl Kieburtz and the University of Rochester, we're able to retain the services of R&D who are in Rochester despite this past summer's transitioning of the PSG headquarters to Mass. General Hospital (MGH) in Boston. This past year the PSG Exec Cmte also has approved a new credentialed Biostatistics Center at Columbia University and a new Coordination Center at MGH, increasing the numbers in each center category in keeping with our growing flexibility and options for conducting clinical studies led by any PSG member.

Despite the promise of these varied projects and programs, it's actually more the people of PSG -- you the coordinators, investigators and allied members, your expertise and your enthusiasm that are the basis for our realistic hopes of making major contributions to improved therapies for those living with PD. Looking forward to achieving these advances together.

-Michael, on behalf of the PSG Executive Committee

Coordinators Corner:

The annual All Coordinators Meeting took place on Monday 9/30/13 in Montreal. Those attending heard from Karen Williams from Northwestern University on the issue of recruitment and figuring out why people stay away from participating in research and Julia Spears from the University of Toledo on "Who's Who on the 1572". Also, Claire Meunier from The Michael J. Fox Foundation presented on "PSG Recruitment and Retention". After the meeting, the slide presentations were emailed to all PSG coordinators and now they are posted on the PSG website at: <http://www.parkinson-study-group.org/parkinson-research/coordinators-corner>.

-Deborah Fontaine, on behalf of the PSG Executive Committee

Research Funding Opportunities:

[Access Data & Biospecimens](#) - DATATOP biospecimens and tissue resources. Applications accepted anytime; Letters of Intent for December review are due November 25, 2013 - 6 p.m. ET. For more information on all MJFF funding opportunities, visit <https://www.michaeljfox.org/research/apply-for-grant.html> or email research@michaeljfox.org.

[Mentored Clinical Research Award](#) - Applications due January 4, 2014.

PSG publications:

STEADY-PD trial primary paper has been published. *Read more...* <http://www.parkinson-study-group.org/parkinson-research/publications-2>.

SURE-PD trial primary manuscript has been accepted for publication in *JAMA Neurology*.

REGISTER TODAY! Upcoming CME Program:

The 2nd Annual PSG CME Program will be held on February 8-9 at the Vdara Hotel & Spa in Las Vegas, Nevada. For a program overview and to register, please go to www.cfcme.org/shapingPD14.

PSG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Michael Schwarzschild, MD, PhD, Chair

Hubert Fernandez, MD, Co-Chair

The Parkinson Study Group (PSG) is a non-profit, cooperative group of Parkinson's disease experts from medical centers in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico who are dedicated to improving treatment for persons affected by Parkinson's disease.

*email: roseanna.battista@chet.rochester.edu
www.parkinson-study-group.org*