



## PSG eNEWS/Winter 2016

Greetings colleagues!

It has certainly been a busy year for PSG progress and prospects, thanks to you all. We'd like to share some updates and our best wishes in this holiday season. We hope you and your colleagues will join us at our group's 2017 educational events from our [PSG-Cleveland Clinic CME symposium on PD Controversies](#) in March in St. Pete to our [PSG Annual Meeting](#) and [Symposium on Immunotherapy for PD](#) in September in Sanibel!

### Highlights from the PSG Annual Meeting in Portland, OR

- Over 250 PSG coordinators, investigators and allied professionals of the PSG and our partnering institutions exchanged ideas for 3 days packed with PD research.
- Jr Investigator Training -- Through an NINDS R13 grant the PSG provided travel awards for 15 early career investigators and a rich educational experience including our Mentoring Committee's grant-writing workshop and a patient advocacy session through our ongoing PDF PAIR collaboration.
- Recognition of all our PSG committee members' service as reflected the timely 'good fight' metaphor adopted to thank outgoing Executive Committee members Stewart Factor and Mark Stacy. Becky McMurray was a good sport and accepted the "punch" for Stewart!\*
- Celebration of Biostatisticians, silent heroes of clinical research, with career recognition award to Shirley Eberly by Ira Shoulson.\*
- Steering committees and site staff for our active phase 2 and 3 trials convened.
- Seven PSG Working Groups meeting and buzzing with projects and progress.
- [Annual Symposium](#) spanning a wide range of 'big data' perspectives in PD research.

\*Pictures from the annual meeting are on the PSG home page at [www.parkinson-study-group.org](http://www.parkinson-study-group.org).

### PSG Election

The election results were announced at the PSG Annual Meeting and the winners, **David Simon** and **Kelvin Chou**, were welcomed into the Executive Committee. It was a spirited election and we thank candidates *Eric Molho* and *Marie Saint-Hilaire* for their participation. We also appreciate all the PSG members who took the time to vote.

### PSG Trials update

[SYNAPSE](#): "SYN120 a Dual 5-HT6/5-HT2A Antagonist Proof of Concept Study to Evaluate Its Safety, Tolerability and Efficacy in Parkinson's Disease Dementia"— Thanks to the full and concerted efforts of the Steering Committee, NCRI, Biotie/Acorda and MJFF, we have added 8 new sites (to the original 12 sites) for this trial and the group has now screened over 100 subjects and successfully enrolled 54 out of 80 subjects needed in this important trial! Our retention rate has been exceptional in this study. Congratulations to everyone for their dedication and effort!

[STEADY-PD III](#): "Phase 3 Double-blind Placebo-controlled Parallel Group Study of Isradipine as a Disease Modifying Agent in Subjects with Early Parkinson Disease" — 336 subjects are currently enrolled. Recruitment has been successfully completed 6 months ahead of the schedule. The study duration is 36 months. The study retention has been excellent (>98%). The last subject is expected to complete the study November 2018.

**NIC-PD:** “A Randomized, Placebo-controlled, Double-blind, Multi-centre Trial to Assess the Disease-modifying Potential of Transdermal NiCotine in Early Parkinson's Disease in Germany and the USA” - has completed all studies activities at PSG and German PSG sites. Data is in the analysis phase with anticipated formal results to be presented at the MDS Congress June, 2017.

**SURE-PD3:** “A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Trial of Urate-elevating Inosine Treatment to Slow Clinical Decline in Early PD” has gotten off to a solid start. Since the summer PSG Coordinators and Investigators at the 60 active SURE-PD3 sites listed by state on [ClinicalTrials.gov](http://ClinicalTrials.gov) have consented and screened over 200 candidates (people with early PD and not yet taking dopaminergic medication except that MAO-B inhibitors are allowed). This month the trial reached 25% enrollment of the projected 270 subjects, and is on track to enroll 50% of them by February. A substudy called Smart4SURE is expected to be introduced early in 2017 to explore how smartphone measurements compare to standard clinical outcomes and their changes over years in a *de novo* PD trial cohort.

### **Early investigator training/funding opportunities**

- The **PSG Mentored Clinical Research Award** supported by the Parkinson's Disease Foundation (PDF) deadline for applications is **Monday, January 6, 2017**. More information read [here](#).
- **PSG Futures in Clinical Research Mentoring Session at AAN, 4/24/17, 5-6:30 PM.** Registration is required. If you are interested in attending contact [Roseanna](#).
- **PSG Advisor Program** is available for new investigators who are initiating a research career or continuing work in an existing research area. We have a bank of PD experts waiting to help you! For more information and how to apply, read [here](#).

### **Request for Proposals**

- PSG SRC next review cycle – deadline to submit proposals is 4/1/17.
- PSG DATATOP biospecimens research: For projects requiring access to the DATATOP biospecimen repository a separate proposal review and funding mechanism is available in collaboration with MJFF and the NINDS PD Biomarkers Program (PDBP). SURE-PD and other PSG study biospecimens and databases are also expected to be available soon through these mechanisms.

### **Parkinson's Disease Foundation (PDF) Resources for Patient Engagement in Research**

A [survey](#) by the Parkinson's Disease Foundation Parkinson's Advocates in Research (PAIR) program found that engaging people with PD in each step of the research process reduces barriers to participation in research and speeds trials. PDF offers financial support for academic researchers to work with people with PD and care partners to incorporate community needs and priorities in research through [Leadership Awards](#). To learn more about this, tips for patient engagement and how PDF can help, or to find a patient partner, contact Karlin Schroeder, Associate Director, National Programs at [kschroeder@pdf.org](mailto:kschroeder@pdf.org) or 800-457-6676 x7541.

To you and yours best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

***Hubert, Donna, Michael and Roseanna***