



www.AmericanHeadacheSociety.org

**Behavioral Issues Special Interest Section
Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2005
4:45 Pm – 6:30 PM**

Present: Gay L. Lipchik, Ph.D. (chair), Robert Nicholson, Ph.D., (secretary)
Stephen Baskin, Ph.D., Jan Borkum, Susan Bronner, Dawn Buse, Ph.D., Connie Cottrell, Ph.D.,
Jana Drew, Ph.D., Sutapa Ford, Ph.D., James Griffith, MD, Ken Holroyd, Ph.D., Tim Houle,
Ph.D., E. Amy Janke, Ph.D., Ron Kaiser, Ph.D., Joanna Kempner, Ph.D., Alvin Lake, III, Ph.D.,
Morris Maizels, MD, Belinda Morley, Ph.D., Justin Nash, Ph.D., Donald Penzien, Ph.D., Scott
Powers, Ph.D., Jeanetta Rains, Ph.D., Kathleen Romanek, Ph.D., Frederick Taylor, MD., John
Wendt, MD

I. Elections

Dr. Lipchik and Dr. Penzien stated that the section rules required an election for the President (2 year term). When Dr. Lipchik was elected as chair 2 years ago, the Secretary should have been elected for 1-year term in order to keep the positions staggered, providing overlap. However, the secretary was elected for 2-year term. Thus, it was agreed to elect the Secretary for a 1-year term at this meeting. Dr. Lipchik was nominated and elected for a second term as President. Dr. Nicholson was nominated and elected for a first term as Secretary.

II. Workgroups Update:

Clinical trials. (Dr. Penzien- workgroup chair) The Guidelines for Trials of Behavioral Treatments for Recurrent Headaches were published in a supplement to the May, 2005 issue of *Headache*. A special series on Headache Research Methodology was published in the May, 2005 issue of *Headache*. The clinical trials guidelines are being distributed for free by Blackwell and will be available for free download at either the AHS or Blackwell website for an indefinite period. The same is true to for the special series on Headache Research Methodology. Dr. Penzien briefly explained the development of the guidelines, which began in 2003.

Headache screening for comorbidity – Special issue/Supplement of *Headache* Dr. Alvin Lake will serve as the supplement editor. A workgroup is in place to finalize the list of manuscripts. Blackwell has given approval for the supplement to proceed without external funding in place.

IV. AHS grant to the Section: (Dr. Penzien, Chair)

Dr. Penzien stated he program is currently under development with the goal to design self-management materials that can be distributed using a variety of distribution vehicles; however, a web-based intervention offered through physician offices will be the main focus. These efforts have been merged with ongoing efforts for a similar delivery system being created by Dr. Nicholson. Once the initial “proof of concept” has been completed, section members will be invited to participate in further evaluation or utilization of the materials.

V. **New Business**

1. Proposal for more formal guidelines for section elections: Dr. Nash. After a brief discussion, the decision was made by the section to maintain the current process.
2. Core curriculum of behavioral pain management principles for non-pain behavioral clinicians: Dr. Maizels. Dr. Maizels discussed his experiences at Kaiser Permanente, where there is a recognized need for more comprehensive pain management, but also some resistance emanating from a lack of knowledge of behavioral management options. Dr. Penzien suggested a core curriculum could ultimately be disseminated on a broad scale. It was recommended that a workgroup be formed; workgroup members will be solicited via the listserv.
3. Representation of behavioral issues at AHS meetings: Dr. Penzien. Discussion ensued concerning a possible mechanism to encourage AHS program chairs to include biopsychosocial topics into the 3 AHS annual meetings. The section agreed that support for behavioral sciences is evident during the annual scientific meeting but less so in the other two meetings.
4. Behavioral issues as a regular feature of *Headache*: Dr. Frederick Taylor. Dr. Taylor suggested including a section on behavioral and complimentary/alternative medicine as a regular feature of *Headache*. Dr. Maizels, Holroyd, and Lake expressed concern about combining behavioral and complimentary/alternative medicine as there are significant differences in their treatment approach as well as their evidence base. Drs. Taylor, Holroyd and Maizels agreed to work together on this issue.
5. Psychologists as certified headache specialists: Dr. Farmer (via email, but unable to attend). Dr. Farmer expressed concern over the lack of opportunity for psychologists to be certified as headache specialists. It was explained that this is not an AHS issue, but instead is part of an academic accrediting organization, thus precluding psychologists from being eligible. Dr. Lake suggested that those interested in being recognized as a headache specialist apply for fellowship within AHS.
6. Reimbursement issues in behavioral management of headache: Dr. Ken Holroyd. Dr. Holroyd discussed the crisis in reimbursements. It was agreed to establish a workgroup to put together a packet including an evidence report and instructions on how to work with managed care. Consider asking AHS to support lobbying efforts. Contact Health Psychology division of the American Psychological Association and the Society of Behavioral Medicine as both APA and SBM would likely be helpful in the development and dissemination of such materials. A workgroup was established including Drs. Lipchik, Rains, and Holroyd. Dr. Lipchik encouraged everyone interested to participate.

VI. **Meeting adjourned**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Robert Nicholson, Ph.D.