



Newsletter

NP/PA Special Interest Group of the American Headache Society

Newsletter—The Co-Chair's Corner

Since our creation we have created workgroups with specific objectives and leaders; conducted two membership surveys and have applied for a pre-course specific to the education and practice of NP/PA headache specialists. Section members have presented on headache diagnosis and treatment at national venues and have published on the topic as well.

As you know, our section is the only section identified and defined by professional practice; it is provider focused and not patient/diagnosis focused. This unique identity provides an excellent forum through which we can develop and refine our role as key opinion leaders in both practice and academic environments. As NP and PA headache management specialists, we have the opportunity to establish standards in headache education and practice for NPs and PAs. To that end, our fourth work group, The Professional Practice Group, will focus on the creation of evidence based practice protocols and NP/PA curriculum elements specific to the art and science of headache diagnosis and treatment. Out of these we hope to move onto NP/PA credentialing in headache medicine. This new work group will be coordinated by Cas and Mike, but we need team leaders for both the academic and professional practice teams. If you have interest in being part of any of these groups, please contact us..

Another major undertaking was the application for the NP/PA specific pre-course at the annual Scottsdale meeting this fall. The title of the proposed pre-course is *From Generalist to Expert: Defining and Refining NP/PA Practice in Headache Management*. These applications are competitive and will be reviewed the week of April 15th. Hopefully ours will be selected.

We are also working on a fact sheet for the AHS membership which will be a one page document detailing specifics of NP/PA practice. Hopefully, this will provide clarification and correction of misconceptions regarding our professional preparation and practice.

And all of this has been accomplished in the first year! However, there is much more to be accomplished, but together we can do it. Please invite your colleagues in practice and academics to join the AHS and the NP/PA Section. Let us each one reach one! Cas and Mike

Tell Us Your Experience!

Are you pursuing anything novel or exciting in your headache practice? We'd love to hear about it. Please send an e-mail to newsletter editor Eric Schuman at ericpa3@comcast.net

Workgroups

Yeah! We have workgroups. We hope to be forming a couple more soon.

Quarterly Newsletter:

Leader: Eric Schuman, MPAS, PA-C

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PUBLISHING CORNER

What have you published recently?

Please send us the citations for any articles in which you are listed as an author in any journal. We'd like to include them in the newsletter. Send your citations to newsletter editor Eric Schuman at ericpa3@comcast.net

NP/PA Authors Published in the JI Headache, 2008

Predictors of Response to Botulinum Toxin Type A in Chronic Daily Headache, Lori Meadors, PA-C, February 2008.

Botulinum Toxin Type A for the Treatment of Nummular Headache: Four Case Studies, Lori Meadors, PA-C, March 2008

Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants: Colleagues in Headache Medicine, Eric Schuman, MPAS, PA-C, June, 2008

Another Comment on "Drug Induced Refractory Headache," Eric Schuman, MPAS, PA-C, September, 2008

Trendelenburg Position: A Tool to Screen for the Presence of a Low CSF Pressure Syndrome in Daily Headache Patients, Robert Hamel, PA-C,

Besides papers and posters at the Scientific Meeting or Congress, we encourage our section members to be the first authors on Research Papers, Brief Communications, Clinical Notes, Review Articles or Letters-to-the Editor in the *Headache Journal*. (See: http://www.headachejournal.org/detailed_guidelines.asp) By writing and presenting we not only help the headache community but shine a light on what we do as NPs and PAs

Practice Spotlight— Maureen Moriarty RN,MS, APRN



When I completed my Master's degree in 1985, I joined the combined internal medicine/headache practice of William G. Speed III, a physician at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. I had little knowledge of headache at the time, and thought working in this setting might challenge me for a year or two. Dr. Speed was a leader in the field of headache - a phenomenal clinician and mentor. I learned a great deal during my years

practicing in Baltimore, and while there I conducted both biofeedback and hypnotherapy.

When Dr. Speed retired in 2001, I accepted a position Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., where I worked for 3 years. While there, I helped manage headache patients and conducted clinical research. Later, I joined the Mid-Atlantic Headache Institute, where I have continued to work in headache management and research. I have always found teaching endeavors worthwhile, and have spent many years helping fellow clinicians and patients learn more about the nature of headache and ways to achieve healing.

Work with AHS has been especially rewarding for me. I first joined in 1988, and spent my early years lobbying for inclusion of allied professionals in the organization. I had the privilege of serving on the editorial board of "Headache" from 2001-2002, and I served on the board of directors of the American Council for Headache Education (ACHE) from 2002-2004.

I am passionate about travel. I've visited 48 of the 50 states in our great nation. I visited Italy two years ago, and last summer the upper peninsula of Michigan. Thankfully my husband shares my passion for travel, and trying new food. We often travel alone, but sometimes we have our seven kids in tow!

Currently I am enrolled in the Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program at Johns Hopkins, where my capstone project addresses the dilemma of how to improve telephone triage of medical complaints in an ambulatory headache center. My goal is to continue as a clinician, advocate, and educator for patients with headache.

Maureen

Concerns/questions/ideas about our special interest section, please feel free to contact us:

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