



American Headache Society

Women's Issues Special Interest Section

Friday, November 18, 2005

7:00 – 7:30 AM – Tempe Room

Camelback Inn, Scottsdale, Arizona

MINUTES

Present: Susan Hutchinson, MD, Chair. Dawn C. Buse, PhD, Vice-Chair. Sheena K. Aurora, MD, Anne H. Calhoun, MD, Alvin E. Lake, II, PhD, Sylvia Lucas, MD, PhD, Vincent Martin, MD, Barbara-Jean Ottley, MD, Gretchen E. Tietjen, MD, Ira M. Turner, MD.

Staff: Leslie McGeoch

I. Welcome

Susan Hutchinson, MD welcomed those present. Introductions were made. Dr. Hutchinson stated that she had been elected Chair at the Philadelphia meeting in June, and that Dawn Buse, PhD was elected vice-chair.

II. Educational Programs

Dr. Hutchinson reviewed the feedback from the Section Symposium held on the Sunday morning of the Philadelphia meeting, which was titled Headaches & Hormones: Combining Art & Science. The Symposium had 109 participants, with very few leaving the program early. The speakers were all rated at 4 or above on a scale where 5 is the best.

Dr. Buse gave an update on the proposal for a Pre-Course at the AHS 2006 Annual Meeting. No decision has been made yet as to which proposals were accepted. The proposal came about as the Women's Issues Section brainstormed at the Philadelphia meeting, and decided that the topics of most interest were lifespan and comorbidity issues. Alvin E. Lake, III, PhD reported that the Section's proposal was well-received at the Education Committee meeting, and that the final decision would be made based on the availability of space for the proposed programs. Dr. Hutchinson suggested that the Pre-Course be promoted by inviting local OB/GYNs, internists, and family practitioners, with a goal of not only greater attendance for the Pre-Course, but also greater exposure to AHS for the non-specialist.

III. Research Projects

Gretchen Tietjen, MD gave an update on the Palm Pilot/Chronic Daily Headache Study. One study has been finished, and Dr. Tietjen has submitted the ongoing study to the National Institutes of Health for a grant offered for research in psychiatry. Funds will be awarded in February or March. The study has also been submitted for the \$15,000 grant offered by AHS. The questionnaire has been reworked for men and women with primary headache, and asks about depression, anxiety, childhood trauma, and comorbidities such as chronic fatigue, irritable

bowel, and fibromyalgia. These changes will allow for more stratified information, collected from a wider audience that is more geographically & ethnically diverse. The questionnaire is completed one time during a patient visit, has no identifiers, and requires verbal informed consent. The questionnaire allows questions to branch, so that irrelevant questions are not repeated. The target sample for the study was 2,000 participants. There are currently twelve participating sites.

IV. Including Women/New Members in AHS Activities

Dr. Hutchinson read an email from a female attendee at the AHS 2005 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia regarding support for women attending the AHS meetings. In conversation with other attendees, this woman found that many female attendees feel that the meetings are not an inclusive atmosphere, and recommended social gatherings to make the meetings friendlier.

Dr. Hutchinson announced that she would be holding a wine and cheese reception on Saturday, November 19 at 6:00 PM in Room 158, so that Section members and any other interested attendees could meet informally then walk to the Western Cookout on Mummy Mountain together.

Those present discussed whether this was truly a male/female issue, or whether it was related to entering a new organization where relationships are already formed. It was suggested that the Section put forth a proposal for an introductory social event at the AHS 2006 Annual Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Leslie McGeoch