

**American Headache Society
Women's Issues Special Interest Section Meeting
Scottsdale, Arizona
November 2, 2001**

Present: Gretchen Tietjen, MD (Chair), Mary Baird, ARNP and Elizabeth Loder, MD

Staff: Karen Talarico

- Dr. Tietjen opened the discussion by commenting on the purpose of the Section, which is to focus on scientific issues around headache that affect women. Headache issues, which exclusively affect women, include the role of female reproductive hormones in the pathogenesis, treatment and consequences of headache. Other issues, which predominantly affect women, include domestic violence. The section encourages participation of all interested AHS members.
- Dr. Loder suggested that the Section needs to come up with ideas for speakers and programs for the AHS meetings. Dr. Tietjen suggested putting together a program of different topics and inviting speakers who were not necessarily headache specialists, but who had expertise in pregnancy, pre-menstrual syndrome, the hormonal cycle, the effects of estrogen on the CNS, and the safety of drugs in pregnant and lactating women. (Names that were mentioned included James Liu, David Rubinow and Dawn Marcus, who is also a headache specialist). This program could be offered during the annual June meeting of the AHS and possible topics include: 1) the effects of estrogen on the CNS and vasculature; 2) The safety of drugs used in headache treatment during pregnancy and lactation; 3) The relationship of migraine and PMS; 4) Anxiety and mood disorders during PMS; 5) Hormonal changes during pregnancy and menopause; 6) the risk of stroke in migraineurs on OCP and HRT
- It was agreed that the listserv on the AHS website would be used to solicit recommendations for speakers. If anyone knows of a great speaker please submit their names
- It was also suggested that a library of programs with accompanying slides could be placed on the website for members to have access to them. This would be a valuable resource for AHS members in lecturing to students, residents and colleagues. Possible topics include:
 - Menstrual migraine
 - Migraine in pregnancy
 - Migraine in menopause
 - Migraine/stroke in women
 - Migraine & contraceptives

- Members of AHS who have slides on some or all of these topics and who would like to participate in this project should submit their name through the listserv and Dr. Tietjen will coordinate the effort.
- The Diary Study project was also discussed. It was agreed that a work group would be formed to develop the tools needed for the study. The group would decide on the data to be collected, the format of the diary, and design the diary database. Palm pilots would be used to collect data. An instruction videotape will be made for instruction of the participating patient. Databases will be set up and decisions about data analysis will be made up front. The workgroup will apply for a \$15,000 grant for AHS sections for the development of this project. A pilot study could then be funded by monies from industry. The goal would be to have a large-scale study to include daily urinary hormonal levels funded by the NIH. Persons with expertise in statistics and study design who would like to part of the initial workgroup may submit their names through the listserv.
- A desire for some training for members on how to use the members-only Section of the website was expressed.