

UTCSP eNews
October, 2004
Volume 5, Number 8

Sessle On-line In Global Day Against Pain

October 11, 2004 marked “Global Day Against Pain”, co-sponsored by The World Health Organization (WHO), International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP), and the European Federation of IASP Chapters (EFIC), where experts gathered in Geneva, Switzerland to bring the latest news and views on pain understanding and management to the world’s attention. The campaign message – that the **Relief of Pain should be a Human Right** – was delivered to the largest ever audience worldwide via an innovative web-casting facility, bringing live news of research, opinion and thinking of the world’s experts to people’s homes and offices. The web cast included a global press conference, as well as a number of presentations and debates on key topics. A feature of this Day was that several of the world leaders in pain research, education, and management representing IASP and EFIC had joined forces with WHO to launch this initiative.

Among the international group of experts was Dr. Barry Sessle. Dr Sessle noted that “in a sense, the Global Day acts as a crucial springboard for many initiatives this month and next month at the local IASP national/regional chapter level to broaden public and government awareness of pain through their campaigns, for example events marking National Pain Awareness Week in early November in Canada being organized by the Canadian Pain Coalition”. Dr Sessle commented also that the various speakers and panel discussions were very effective in getting across some of the main messages inherent in this Global Day Against Pain. These included the high prevalence of pain, especially chronic pain worldwide; the major clinical and research challenge being to elucidate the mechanisms and improve the management of chronic/persistent pain; the undertreatment of pain, even in well-developed countries, and lack of appropriate pain management resources in many countries; chronic pain as a disease in its own right; and on of subject of 'right', that the relief of pain is an intrinsic human right, and indeed, WHO speakers noted that this is embedded within UN and international law covenants. Dr. Sessle also noted a view expressed by several speakers that many of these features underscore the need for greater transfer and application of current knowledge about pain and its management to all health care professionals and students, and for increasing the awareness of the public, government, and professional bodies to respond effectively on these matters (eg. through drug legislation, incorporation of pain management guidelines in standards of health care and accreditation guidelines. His own presentation in the session on 'Innovation in Pain Research and Treatment' emphasized several of these points as it pertains to 'Dental and Facial Pain'.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain will hold its Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, December 7, 2004** at 89 Chestnut Street Residence, Terrace Room, 3rd Floor. The Meeting will run from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Details regarding speakers and registration will be announced shortly.

As part of National Pain Awareness Week, which runs November 1-5, 2004, The University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain, along with the Canadian Pain Coalition, Wasser Pain Management Centre of Mount Sinai Hospital, Patient Advisory Group Wasser Pain Management Centre, Canadian Pain Society, and the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital presents:

“Pain and the Patient”

Wednesday, November 3, 2004

The symposium will take place at **89 Chestnut Street Residence**, located at 89 Chestnut Street (former Colony Hotel Downtown Toronto), Colony Ballroom, 2nd Floor, and is planned as follows:

Provisional Program

0730 – Continental Breakfast

0800 – Opening Remarks

0815 – “Why it is important to treat my pain”

The Patient Advisory Group of the Wasser Pain Management Centre

0845 – Discussion and questions

0900 – “Using opiates for chronic pain” – Roman Jovey

0930 – “Managing pain and addiction” – Doug Gourlay

1000 – Discussion and questions

1030 – Coffee Break

1045 – “Does cannabis work for chronic pain?” – Mark Ware

1100 – “What is neuropathic pain?” – Allan Gordon

1115 – “Cognitive behavioural therapy for chronic pain” – Ted Robinson

1130 – Panel discussion and questions

1215 – Closing Remarks

1230 -Lunch

Registration is required for anyone wishing to attend this event. A fee of **\$25.00** is required with your registration and is payable by either VISA or Mastercard only. To register, fill out the registration form (attached) then mail, via regular post, to:

The University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain
c/o Faculty of Dentistry
124 Edward Street, Room 374
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1G6

Please note that the deadline for registration is October 25, 2004 without exception.

This event is generously sponsored by Purdue Pharma & Janssen-Ortho Inc.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

New Books:

Luis Villanueva, Anthony H. Dickerson, Helene Ollat (eds), **“The Pain in Normal and Pathological States: A Primer for Clinicians”**, IASP Press, ISBN 0-931092-53-1

Book Info: The last decade has seen much progress in understanding the mechanisms of pain, and advances in basic science have seen translational research leading to volunteer studies and clinical trials. Despite this drawing together of molecules and maladies, the basic science can appear overly complex and impenetrable for clinicians. This book aims to cover key topical molecular, anatomical, physiological, and pharmacological studies on the basic science in a straightforward and accessible manner for all medical and allied professionals with an interest in pain. The book is dedicated to Jean-Marie Besson, who has always attempted to further dialogue between clinicians and basic scientists.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/SYMPOSIUMS/LECTURES/CONFERENCES:

Wasser Pain Management Centre – Headache Rounds

October 20, 2004 – Dr. Ralph Kern, Neurologist – “Rare birds and unusual headache syndromes”

Wasser Headache Rounds are held from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. in Room 1163, Wasser Pain Management Centre, Mount Sinai Hospital, 600 University Avenue

National Pain Awareness Gala Dinner

Featuring Mary Walsh of *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*

November 3, 2004 – 6:30 p.m. to 12:00 midnight

Toronto Downtown Marriott Eaton Centre Hotel

525 Bay Street

For further information and registration information, visit the website at:

www.painhurtscanada.ca

GRANTS/AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS – CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS/NOMINATIONS

Macnab/Larocca Research Fellowship Award

The ISSLS has established an annual Research Fellowship to promote and extend research activities into the cause and cure of low back pain. A prospective applicant should have completed formal training in a medical or allied specialty and should be involved in an

investigation of a specific problem which would be furthered by travel to a location other than his/her own. An applicant should be sponsored by a member, or must be a member of ISSLS. A stipend of US\$15,000 will be granted to the recipient. The recipient of the award will be announced at the annual meeting in New York, NY USA, May 10-14, 2005. The recipient of this award should be prepared to present a report of his/her efforts to the 2006 annual meeting in Bergen, Norway. **Submission deadline: March 1, 2005.**

International ISSLS Fellowship

The ISSLS was founded in 1974 to bring together individuals who were involved in the areas of research and clinical study and interested in lumbar spine in health and disease and to serve as a forum for exchange of information on low back pain and disability. This had been accomplished by holding annual meetings throughout the world. Unfortunately, there are many countries that are not represented. The purpose of the International Fellowship Fund is to identify appropriate individuals in under represented/underdeveloped areas and financially sponsor their attendance. ISSLS is accepting applications for its meeting in New York, NY, USA, May 10-14, 2005.

Submission deadline: December 1, 2004.

ISSLS Wiltse Lifetime Achievement Award

With the support of the Stryker Corporation, the ISSLS sponsors an annual award for exceptional achievement in the spinal field. The nominee should be an outstanding individual scientist, clinician or basic science researcher who has made a major contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field of spinal disorders. The recipient of this award will receive US\$50,000. This award will be presented for the sixth year at the annual meeting of the ISSLS in New York, NY, USA, May 10-14, 2005. The recipient should be prepared to travel to the meeting at his/her own expense to receive the prize. **Submission deadline: February 1, 2005.**

For further information on these awards, contact:

ISSLS, Sunnybrook and Women's Health Science Centre,
Room MG 323
2075 Bayview Avenue,
Toronto, ON M4N 3M5
Tel: 416-480-4833
Fax: 416-480-6055
Email: shirley.fitzgerald@sw.ca

UTCSP eNews is a monthly newsletter published by the **University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain**

For further information or comments about UTCSP eNews, please contact:
University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain

University of Toronto
Faculty of Dentistry
124 Edward Street
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1G6
Tel: (416) 979-4762
Fax: (416) 979-4936
e-mail: pain.director@utoronto.ca