



## *President's Corner*

*Michael W. McDermott, MD, UCSF, Dept. of Neurosurgery*

Dear Colleagues:

It is my pleasure to serve you as the President of the San Francisco Neurological Society for the term 2004-2005. The annual meeting that we just attended had an outstanding scientific program, as well as an excellent social program. We were delighted to see one of our current members, Dr. Thomas Kenefick, at the meeting, and enjoyed his presentation about his new ventures in winemaking.

The Executive Committee for the Society has changed, with the addition of new members including members from the Kaiser Health Care System. ***Our aim is to promote fellowship and participation amongst multiple specialties in the neurologic sciences, including neurology, neurosurgery, neuropathology, neurophysiology, and hopefully this year, neuroscience nursing.*** We will strive to have equal participation from the three regional academic centers, UCSF, Stanford, and UC Davis.

This year we also will rely more heavily on our website for the dissemination of information, and less on printed materials. I invite any of you who wish to provide us with articles or comments on a neuroscience issue or political issue as it might affect neurosciences to submit these for consideration.

Our quarterly business meetings will continue as before, and the first will be at San Francisco's first Vietnamese restaurant, Thanh Long Restaurant. Our speaker will be **Dr. Sandeep Kunwar** from UCSF Neurosurgery, who will be speaking to us about a promising new therapy for brain tumors, **convection enhanced delivery**.

I look forward to serving you this year as your president, and hope that I can continue the outstanding job done by most recent predecessors, Jerry Barakos and Eric Denys. ❖

## *Past President's Letter*

*Jerome Barakos, MD, California Pacific Medical Center, Dept. of Radiology*

As immediate past president, I look back on this last year with fond memories. Building upon the formative work of our past-presidents our organization has demonstrated considerable growth and revitalization. Working with our board members has been inspiring as their commitment and dedication to our society is truly moving.

Our recent annual meeting in Sonoma was a tremendous success, largely based on the Herculean efforts of our executive secretary Joan Oefner. We were blessed with fantastic weather, outstanding guest speakers, and the kids greatly enjoyed the pool. I look forward to the continued success of our Society in the coming year. ❖



## *Thanks to SF Neurological Society Supporters!*

The San Francisco Neurological Society gratefully acknowledges support for its 2004 educational and scientific activities from the following generous contributors.: **PLATINUM:** Pfizer and UCB Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; **GOLD:** Accredo Therapeutics, Allergan, Baxter, Bayer, Biogen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Endo Pharmaceuticals and Janssen Pharmaceutica; **SILVER:** Novartis and Teva Neurological Sciences; **FRIEND:** NeoPharm, Inc. ; **EXHIBITOR:** GlaxoSmithKline.

# *SF Neurological Society – Past, Present and Future*

*Eric H. Denys, MD, California Pacific Medical Center, SF Neurological Society President 2001-2003*



The San Francisco Neurological Society was formed 50 years ago by academic and community neurologists and neurosurgeons with the goal of fostering neurological education and scientific exchange. It has continued this tradition and thrived over all these years with the inclusion of neuropathologists, neuroradiologists and neuroscientists. The society has greatly benefited from the presence of three internationally renowned universities, which have enabled it to organize two day annual meetings of unparalleled quality. In addition, physicians in practice have found a forum to present observations of clinical importance, some of which were first presented at these meetings before reaching wider audiences. But more importantly, the San Francisco Neurological Society is accomplishing its mission in the most elegant way possible, by selecting special meeting places that allow for social interaction as well as educational activities. In years past we visited the Ahwahnee, Pebble Beach Lodge, Silverado, Meadowwood, Monterey Plaza, Seascape, Claremont Resort and recently The Lodge at Sonoma. There is no better place to share the joys and frustrations of practicing, to have an opportunity to meet each other's family and to widen our horizons by discovering the hidden talents in our fellow members. If you are not a member, what are you waiting for? *Eric H. Denys, MD (member since 1974).* ❖

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## *Member News: Malpractice by Legislators*

*Robert L. Weinmann, MD, President of the Union of American Physicians and Dentists (UAPD), Neurologist, San Jose, CA*

Physicians and lawyers sometimes bungle cases. They pay for their errors. It's called malpractice. Legislators, by contrast, may pass laws that harm the public. That's malpractice, too. Only the difference is that they don't pay. We do.

### **WORKERS' COMPENSATION REFORM, SB 899 (Poochigian)**

SB 899 takes away the patient's right to choose his own doctor and simultaneously restricts the injured workers' access to specialty care. The designation of treating doctors is now entirely in the hands of employers and the insurance companies. This legislation's mantra is that "if it can't be measured, it doesn't exist." During the debates on this bill, I lobbied for the Union of American Physicians and Dentists. I met with legislators and explained about acute or nociceptive pain and chronic or neuropathic pain. The points were understood. The legislators were sympathetic, yet only three legislators in the Assembly and three in the Senate voted on behalf of injured workers. Senator Poochigian, arguing in support of his bill, stated that doctors were unduly influenced by patients' complaints of pain. He indicated that doctors were persuaded whenever patients winced with pain. After the vote passing SB 899, Senator Alarcon wryly stated that this legislation now made chronic pain illegal or non-existent.



### **PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD AND EMG**

At the same time that the legislature was wrestling with Workers' Compensation, the Physical Therapy Board was considering the following disclaimer: "The findings in this report do not represent diagnostic interpretations or medical diagnosis." Charles K. Jablecki, MD, and the undersigned, both representing the UAPD, submitted formal objections on 7 May 2004. Doctor Jablecki pointed out that inserting needles through the skin constitutes medical practice. He pointed out that physical therapists are not licensed to treat complications of procedures. He cited a letter dated 26 June 2000 from the Legislative Counsel of California stating that needle EMG is the practice of medicine and results in diagnosis of nerve, neuromuscular junction, and/or muscle pathology.

### **MALPRACTICE FOR LEGISLATORS?**

You bet. At the same time that the legislature was voting in a law to increase the burden of proof for objective standards of injury identification, a state board, seeking to enlarge the scope of practice for its own practitioners, was seeking to compromise the same standards. It's time for the public to enact malpractice legislation for legislators. All we need is another initiative for the ballot. ❖

## Upcoming SF Neurological Society CME Meetings:

### **Spring Dinner Meeting Thursday June 17, 2004**

Thanh Long Restaurant

4101 Judah Street, on the corner of 46th Avenue, San Francisco, Tel. 415.665.1146

**VALET PARKING:** Valet is on 46th Avenue - \$10 (see Society website for directions & map)

**“Phase I study of Convection Enhanced Delivery of IL13PE38 for the treatment of malignant gliomas: Innovative drug, unique delivery system and novel results”, Sandeep Kunwar, MD, UCSF, Dept. of Neurosurgery**



Dinner will be served “Family Style” and will include the restaurant’s signature dishes, **Roasted Crab** and **Garlic Noodles with Tiger Prawns**, as well as **Salmon**. A one-hour cocktail reception with appetizers will precede dinner & lecture. For a detailed description of Dr. Kunwar’s presentation, please visit the web site at [www.sfneurological.org](http://www.sfneurological.org). Pre-registration deadline is **June 14** for the discounted fee.



This is an activity offered by a CMA-accredited provider. Physicians attending this course may report up to **1 hour** of Category 1 credit toward the California Medical Association Certificate in Continuing Medical Education and the American Medical Association’s Physician’s Recognition Award.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** The San Francisco Neurological Society gratefully acknowledges support for its Spring Dinner Meeting from the following generous contributors:



### **AIRD Dinner Meeting Thursday November 4, 2004 in San Francisco**

**Allan H. Ropper, M.D., Professor and Chairman of Neurology, Tufts University School of Medicine, Remond Chief of Neurology, St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, Boston** is the 2004 AIRD Lecturer and will be the speaker at the SF Neurological Society Annual AIRD Dinner meeting on Thursday November 4, 2004. This meeting is part of the UCSF Dept. of Neurology's Robert B. Aird Visiting Professorship that was established in 1972. The SF Neurological Society is grateful for this opportunity to join with UCSF faculty and residents for this special dinner meeting. More details will follow.

### **Annual Meeting March 11-13, 2005 in Monterey, California**

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Monterey area March 11-13, 2005. **M. Sean Grady, MD, Professor and Chair, Neurosurgery, University of Pennsylvania Hospital**, has been chosen to give the **Annual Boldrey Lecture** at UCSF and will give the Keynote Address at the SF Neurological Society Annual Meeting. More details about the program, golf tournament and venue will be coming soon.

#### **San Francisco Neurological Society Board of Directors:**

**Officers:** Michael W. McDermott, MD, *President*; Jack Rozance, MD, *President-Elect*; Oscar N. Abeliuk, MD, *Secretary-Treasurer*; Jerome A. Barakos, MD, *Immediate Past-President*

**Board Members:** Brian Andrews, MD, *Director of CME*; Eric Denys, MD, Michael Gibbs, MD, Donald C. Kitt, MD, Barton Lane, MD, Gerald Silverberg, MD, David C. Tong, MD

### **San Francisco Neurological Society**

Joan Oefner, CAE, Executive Director, 930 Edgecliff Way, Redwood City, CA 94061 – Tel. 650-216-6621 FAX 650-556-1678

E-mail: [joefner@sfneurological.org](mailto:joefner@sfneurological.org) Website: [www.sfneurological.org](http://www.sfneurological.org) **NEW!!!**

**SF Neurological Society Registration Form**  
**SPRING DINNER MEETING**  
**Thursday June 17, 2004**  
*Thanh Long Restaurant, San Francisco, CA*

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Specialty  Neurology  Neurosurgery  Neuroradiology  Neuropathology  Other  
 Institution \_\_\_\_\_ Dept/Mailstop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address/Suite \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*E-mail: (VERY IMPORTANT) \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fees** (please check the appropriate boxes)

	<b>Rec'd by June 14</b>	<b>After June 14 and onsite</b>
<b>SFNS Members &amp; Guests:</b>		
Dinner Meeting (1 CME Credit)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60.00
<b>Non-Member Physicians &amp; Guests:</b>		
Dinner Meeting (1 CME Credit for physicians)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85.00

**Name(s) of Guest(s):** (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Payment Method:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **MAIL** the registration form with a check made out to San Francisco Neurological Society, 930 Edgecliff Way, Redwood City, CA 94061-1160. **After June 14** please FAX or e-mail your registration and bring a check to the meeting.