

Message From The President December 2012

Dear colleagues,

As the year 2013 comes closer, it is a great honor for me to greet all members of the Society wishing you happy holidays and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Furthermore, I would appreciate it if you could spare a few minutes and have a look at the following society-related issues:

Membership

Membership dues are pivotal to the PNIRS; it enables us to promote the development of the science and new PNI scientists. If you have not yet paid your dues, please go to the website and do so. We are counting on you.

Annual Meeting 2013

Our annual meeting will be held from 5th to 8th of June in Stockholm, Sweden, at a venue that is delightfully located in a green and leafy area of Stockholm, just 5 km from the city centre with easy access to all places of interest in the Stockholm area (www.pnirs.org/meetings/index.cfm). Mats Lekander and his team from the Karolinska Institute and the University of Stockholm are doing their very best to make this meeting a great success. This meeting follows the successful structure of our previous meetings including free oral sessions, three symposia (Neurobiology of Placebo/Nocebo Responses; Sleep, Brain and Immunity; Host Defense & Psychiatric Disorders) and key note addresses from most distinguished scientists.

Here are some important deadlines for 2013:

- **January 7th**: Online abstracts submission and meeting registration opens
- **March 8th**: Closing date for submitting individual abstracts for oral or poster presentations; trainees must submit an abstract to be eligible for a scholar award
- **March 31st**: Last day for early bird registration
- **May 27th**: Online registration closes

Please announce our PNIRS meeting and distribute the meeting information amongst your colleagues, coworkers and scientific societies in order to also attract colleagues from outside PNIRS!

PNIRS Scholars Award Program

As we had to learn, unfortunately the NIH cancelled the support for trainee programs in general. Thus, we will not be able to attract NIH funding for our successful trainee program. However, depending on the financial situation, as the meeting comes closer next year, the Society will be able to cover travel awards, although most probably not as extensive as in previous years with NIH support.

Trainees interested in the PNIRS-Scholar Award Program must register for the conference, submit an abstract, and check the designated box indicating an interest in this award when submitting their abstract online.

Ader & Cousins Award Nomination

When meeting registration and abstract submission opens for the Stockholm meeting on January 7th 2013, the PNIRS will be accepting nominations for the Dr. Robert Ader New Investigator Award and the Norman Cousins Award. The deadline for these nominations will be May 15th 2013. The outline for nomination requirements and eligibility will be summarized soon in the official "Call for Award Nominations" on the PNIRS website.

Initiating local PNIRS groups

With the purpose of promoting scientific exchange and collaboration between PNI research laboratories and institutions across Illinois and its surrounding states, Keith Kelley and colleagues from the University of Illinois initiated and supported the "Brain, Behavior, and Immunity Meetings of Illinois." This initiative, held in Chicago around the first weekend of December, has been very successful. Their 5th Annual Meeting was held November 30-December 1, attracting over 100 scientists.

This initiative can be taken as a prototype for further local initiatives and I was happy to hear that our colleagues in California and Colorado are currently considering a similar activity. The **German-Endocrine-Brain-Immune-Network** (GEBIN) was founded 15 years ago as a similar local (national) PNI-group with regular meetings and scientific activities. It is my experience over the years with GEBIN that these local groups are of extremely great value to promote local networking and subsequent scientific benefits. Please do not hesitate to contact the PNIRS if we can be of any assistance in initiating and supporting these local PNI-activities.

PNIRS at the Neuroscience Meeting in New Orleans 2012

Supported by PNIRS, BBI and Elsevier, Staci Bilbo, Jonathan Godbout and Jonathan Kipnis organized the 1st annual *Neuroimmunology Social* at the Society for Neuroscience Meeting in New Orleans, October 14th 2012. This initiative was a great success and an excellent public relations event for BBI and our Society. Thank you very much

Staci, Jon & Joni! I very much hope that this initiative will be continued in the years to come since this is one important route to advertize PNIRS and our Society Journal.

BBI & Psychosomatic Medicine

Members of the American Psychosomatic Society (APS) and PNIRS share many research interests. Thus, it has recently been decided that PNIRS members can now receive both weekly/monthly alerts of articles accepted for publication in *Psychosomatic Medicine* as well as an electronic version of its Table of Contents (eTOC). Vice versa, APS members are now able to sign up for alerts and eTOC from *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*. This great opportunity traces back to Michael Irwin when he was President of the APS. Many thanks Michael for making this possible!

To opt in, just enter your e-mail address at http://bit.ly/PSY_for_BBI. *Psychosomatic Medicine* publishes 9 print issues per year. You will receive an e-mail as soon as each issue becomes available online.

Best Regards,



Manfred Schedlowski

President, PNIRS

Gayle G. Page

Secretary/Treasurer

