



MITOCHONDRIAL MEDICINE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

Dear MMS Members,

20th Year Anniversary

The MMS has celebrated its 20th birthday this year and we could not be prouder. Since its founding by Dr. Haas and Dr. Naviaux in 1998, the MMS has grown into a larger, more international physician society which remains true to its core value of advancing clinical mitochondrial medicine. During this year's MMS session in Nashville, Tennessee, Dr. Haas and Dr. Naviaux were both honored and received a well-deserved "Life-Time achievement award for outstanding vision, dedication, and commitment to mitochondrial disease". I have to say that seeing their surprised faces was priceless.

I am very grateful to have been elected President this year and realize that I have big shoes to fill. Under past presidencies, the MMS has become a leader in mitochondrial medicine guidelines publications, has attracted colleagues from across the globe and engaged the next generation of mitochondrial medicine physicians in collaborative projects many of which are underway.

Achievements

Our biggest achievement yet is the creation and successful launch of



the Mitochondrial Care Network (MCN) (<https://www.mitonetwork.org/>) in June of 2018. The MCN represents a group of physicians at medical centers across the US that have expertise and experience in providing coordinated, multidisciplinary care for patients with genetic mitochondrial disease. This launch was the product of a 3-year preparation which culminated in a collaboration with multiple US advocacy groups including the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation (UMDF), MitoAction and Foundation of Mitochondrial Medicine (FMM). We are delighted to have selected 18 Mitochondrial Medicine Centers and 3 Affiliate Sites after a rigorous review and vetting process.



Dr. Haas receiving his award from Dr. Karaa



Dr. Naviaux receiving his award from Dr. Karaa

MMS Board

The MMS will continue to build bridges with the international community, in fact for the first time since 1998, we have 2 international officers on our board: Dr. Michelangelo Mancuso from Pisa, Italy and Dr. Patrick Chinnery from Cambridge, UK. We are working with our Canadian, Australian, Asian and European colleagues as well to improve communication and collaboration on international projects. The new MMS board leadership include: President, Dr. Amel Karaa (MGH, Boston, MA), Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Mary Kay Koenig (UT Health, Houston, TX), Program Chair, Dr. Andrea Gropman (Children's National, DC) and Councillors: Dr. Chinnery, Dr. Ralitza Gavriloza (Mayo, Rochester, MN), Dr. Mancuso, and Dr. Fernando Scaglia (Baylor, TX and China). Dr. Amy Goldstein (CHOP, Philadelphia, PA) and Sumit Parikh (Cleveland Clinics, Cleveland, OH) continue to serve on the board as past-Presidents.

MMS Lecture Series

We understand that as interest in mitochondrial medicine grows, and as we attract more physicians and health care providers, we might need to also expand our clinical meeting presence at the UMDF annual symposium. This year, we initiated the first formal parallel MMS lecture series focusing on mitochondrial myopathy with emphasis on the definition, diagnosis, exercise intolerance...

and fatigue aspects. Renowned experts such as Dr. Mark Tarnopolsky (Ontario, Canada), Dr. Tanja Taivassalo (Florida, US), Dr. Grainne Gorman and Dr. Jane Newman (New Castle, UK) delivered exceptional presentations. The session attracted our highest attendance yet and we are looking forward to our 2019 session which will be integrated in the general UMDF symposium schedule with focus on Leigh syndrome. We hope to see you all there!



The Mitochondrial and Metabolic Medicine (M3) journal

Finally, we would like to bring your attention to our new MMS clinical journal: The Mitochondrial and Metabolic Medicine (M3) journal (www.mitomedicine.com). This journal was created to allow clinicians like yourselves to submit mitochondrial disease specific papers detailing interesting case report, cases series and anything that might benefit our community improve clinical diagnosis and management of our patients, expand our knowledge or redefine some of the known mitochondrial entities.

Cordially,

On Behalf of President Amel Karaa and the MMS Board

*Holiday greetings and best wishes for
a happy and healthy New Year!*

From The Mitochondrial Medicine Society