

Pillars



YOUR QUARTERLY NEWS & UPDATES July - 2016

Foundation of CMSC Welcomes New President of the Board of Trustees - Gary Cutter, PhD

Dr. Cutter is a Professor of Biostatistics, Department of Biostatistics, in the Section on Research Methods and Clinical Trials (RMCT Section) at the UAB School of Public Health. Dr. Cutter has a major interest in design, analysis and interpretation of clinical trials, epidemiologic studies and evaluation research and has a heavy focus on MS. He directs several coordinating centers and is the director of the data center for the NARCOMS registry funded by the Consortium of MS Centers. He is on the editorial board of the Multiple Sclerosis Journal and contributing editor to Neurology: Clinical Practice and is the statistical reviewer for many other journals.



Gary Cutter, PhD

We would also like to thank Dr. Robert Lisak for his outstanding leadership of the Foundation for the past two years! Thank you!

Welcome to the Foundation's new Executive Director - Elia Desruisseaux, JD



The Board of Directors of the Foundation of the Consortium of MS Centers welcomes Elia as the new Executive Director of the FCMSC. Elia comes to us with extensive experience as a Development and Fundraising Executive with a successful background in supporting healthcare and medical research. Elia's broad experience managing special events, campaign strategies, and donor relations will enhance the work of the Foundation. We welcome her to the FCMSC Team!

Third MS Mentorship Forum

The level of interest, engagement and commitment to develop the best young professionals and attract them to MS care was everywhere in evidence at the 3rd gathering of the CMSC Foundation-sponsored MS Mentorship Forum. A significant reflection of the Foundation's ongoing commitment to foster the next generation of MS specialists and researchers, the Forum was an adjunct to the Consortium of MS Centers Annual Meeting in June. Twenty-one participants from MS Centers across North America, Lebanon, Canada and Puerto Rico were joined by five faculty members and three peer mentors. After a welcome by Dr. Corey Ford, and CMSC CEO June Halper, the varied sessions included updates on immunology, MS diagnosis, disease modifying treatments and symptom management. Faculty presenters included Drs. Ford, Nancy Sicotte, Scott Newsome and Jennifer Graves.



Nancy Sicotte, MD, FAAN

Of equal importance to the presentations was time allotted to practical information about the nuts and bolts of applying for fellowships, how to manage the early years of practice and academics, as well as tactics for carving out time to write grants and improve productivity. One particularly popular session was moderated by peer mentors; recent training program graduates in the early stages of their career. Drs. Yasir Jassam, Veronica Penyak-Cipriani and Meredith Frederick shared honest insights into their career paths. The Mentorship Forum

wrapped up with a lively exchange about the newly created "Professionals in Training" Special Interest Group (PiT-SIG) and an invitation to join the best and the brightest MS healthcare providers in their efforts to advance the field. A two-year strategic plan outline was developed including development of a standard neuroimmunology curriculum, outreach to other healthcare professionals and processes to ensure leadership continuity. It was a fun and productive day!

Nancy Sicotte, MD, FAAN
Co-Chair, MS Mentorship Forum
Cedars-Sinai MS Clinic, Los Angeles, CA



Evdokia Eleftheriou, MD

PROFILE: Evdokia Eleftheriou, MD - Participated in the 2016 FCMSC MS Mentorship Forum

With the support of the Foundation, I have been fortunate to participate in unique experiences that have not only strengthened my knowledge in MS and career planning resources, but also led to valuable friendships and partnerships with other young professionals in training. As a third year neurology resident, in January 2015, I attended the initial MS Mentorship Forum in New Jersey with the help of my mentors, Dr. Carolina Ionete and Dr. Peter Riskind at the University of Massachusetts MS Center. The initial Mentorship Forum offered particularly valuable information regarding education in the field of MS, but more important, resources regarding career pathways, fellowship availability and funding. This meeting was truly unprecedented; we received advice and guidance on real life and career experiences from academic experts in the MS field. In addition, the Forum stimulated the creation of a specialized interest group, now known as the MS Professionals-in-Training (MS-PiT).

With ongoing support by the Foundation, I received a scholarship to attend my first CMSC annual meeting in May 2015 in Indianapolis, where I was exposed to a fascinating realm of MS education and on-going research. The initial MS Mentorship Forum attendees met again to discuss the initiation of our MS-PiT interest group which was formally recognized at this year's CMSC meeting in National Harbor. The strong involvement in this group of young professionals from physical, occupational and speech/language therapy training programs provide an essential understanding of each specialty's contribution to the complex, multidisciplinary care of MS patients.

In addition to my own mentors, the Foundation has been instrumental in offering support and guidance through the Mentorship Forum, which has made my transition into fellowship only easier. I am eagerly looking forward to many more gatherings of the Mentorship Forum and MS-PiT group, when friends and colleagues meet, sharing our own experiences and mentoring the next group of prospective MS professionals.

MS Mentorship Forum in Action



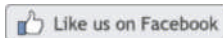
Share your story!

We want to hear from you for the next Pillars issue! Share with us your pathway to a career in Multiple Sclerosis care; give a shout-out to your mentor; tell us a funny story; give us suggestions for future articles in Pillars. Please submit to info@cmscfoundation.org by September 1st.

This newsletter has been supported through independent educational grants from:



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