

Society News

September 2012 Volume 3, Issue 2



President's Letter

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John Kane, M.D.

As we approach the end of 2012, we can reflect back on the accomplishments of the Society during the past year. First, we owe a debt of gratitude to Robin Murray, our former President, and all of the other members of the SIRS leadership team and our partners at Parthenon Management who have worked so diligently to serve the Society and the field.

The 3rd Biennial Schizophrenia International Research Society Conference took place in Florence, Italy, April 14-18, 2012. The meeting drew 1616 attendees from 54 countries including 36 young investigator travel awardees.

The Organizing Committee and the Program Committee chaired by Jim van Os and Dawn Velligan did a superb job in creating the framework for our most successful meeting to date, which was both educational and inspiring on many levels. The increased globalization and quality of research was clearly

recognizable as an important message of the meeting. In addition, the extent of networking that took place and the new collaborative opportunities that were discussed was a wonderful by-product.

The four plenary sessions covering Psychological and Social Treatments, Genetics, Models from Immunology and Experimental Medicine, and New Treatments were all excellent and well-received.

The Society committees continue to take on important roles in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the Society. The Education Committee, for example, will be addressing the important challenge of preparing and helping to orchestrate global and regional initiatives to inspire, engage, train, and facilitate the career development of young investigators around the world – our greatest asset.

We welcome the membership's continued suggestions and contributions to all of these efforts.

Please feel free to contact me or Lyn Sholl at the Executive Office with any suggestions.

Biennial Conference Executive Summary

Attendance to the 2012 Biennial Conference increased by approximately 100 participants from the 2010 conference. There were 1,616 attendees represented from 54 countries compared to 1,504 attendees from 54 countries in 2010. Student attendance was approximately 22% of total attendance, up from 18% at the 2010 Biennial Meeting. There was an increase in attendees from Brazil in 2012, 29 attendees compared to 10 attendees in 2010.

Saturday featured an Italian symposia session and family forum resulting in an increase in attendees from Italy to 68 in 2012 compared to 35 in 2010. Attendance from Belgium, Greece, Lebanon and Spain decreased in 2012 compared to attendance from these countries at the 2010 conference. Attendees from China in 2012 increased to 41 from 13 at the 2010 conference.



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*4th Biennial Conference
5 - 9 April, 2014
Florence, Italy*

Member Spotlight

Jim van Os, MD, PhD, MRCPsych is Professor of Psychiatric Epidemiology and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology at Maastricht University and Visiting Professor of Psychiatric Epidemiology at the Institute of Psychiatry in London.



From April 2010 through April 2012, Prof. van Os served as SIRS Program Committee Chair for the Society. Under his leadership, the Program Committee developed an outstanding scientific program for the 3rd Biennial Schizophrenia International Research Society Conference. Prof. van Os and the conference Organizers selected topics and speakers for the plenary sessions and invited Philip Campbell, Editor in Chief, *Nature Publishing Group*, to lead the opening of the conference with the Keynote Address. Prof. van Os spent countless hours in program development to make the 2012 conference memorable.

In addition to serving as Program Committee Chair, he chaired the Elections Committee to identify and confirm the slate for Officer and Board Member elections. He led this committee through the process and selection of Society leadership who will guide the Society through April 2014. We are immensely grateful to Prof. van Os for his leadership and continued dedication to the Society.

Meet Lyn Sholl, CMP your SIRS Project Manager

I began my career in the hotel business at the Hyatt Regency Dallas, after graduating from Southern Methodist University with a Bachelors of Business Administration. After moving to Chicago, I worked as a Catering Manager for the Ritz-Carlton Chicago. I began work in association management at Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) as Director of Meetings in 1991.

In 1996, I elected to stay at home and raise my two daughters. I re-entered the workforce in 2006 as Administrator for the Tennessee Chapter of Meeting Professionals International. I joined PMG in 2009 as Project Manager for SIRS and later, the International Society of Psychiatric Genetics (ISPG). I manage the day to day operations of both societies and work with the Board of Directors and Committee's. I have planned both SIRS Biennial conferences in addition to the first regional meeting of the Society in August 2011 in São Paulo, Brazil.

Lyn
Sholl



I studied International Business for one semester of college at the University of Copenhagen. I was fascinated with learning about other cultures and practices in the business world and in an international arena. For the first 10 years of my career I had hoped to be able to apply some of what I learned but resolved that I likely wouldn't be given an opportunity to do so. Many years later, I am fortunate to work with members from all over the world and plan international meetings for two premier societies in the field of mental illness research. It is a privilege to work with researchers and clinicians who have dedicated their lives to understanding the causes of and develop treatments for psychiatric disorders.

Executive Summary Continued . . .

The Conference Evaluation form included 38 questions:

14 relating to scientific content

6 relating to the performance of the speakers

2 relating to off-label or investigational use of drugs

9 relating to the impact of the meeting in terms of changing the way the re-

spondent practices.

9 questions relating to meeting administration and logistics

This year we had 424 respondents to the evaluation. Of the 424 completed evaluations, 82 respondents, 19% requested CME credits. There were 39 applications for ACCME and 43 applications for EACCME credits.

80% of respondents ranked the Schizophrenia International Research Society Conference "clearly superior" or "better than most conferences".



SIRS Members

in the News:

Cyndi Shannon Weickert, [The brains of people with schizophrenia may attempt to heal from the disease.](#)
August 2012

Herbert Meltzer, [Brain & Behavior Research Foundation Invests \\$11.9 Million in NARSAD Grants for a New Generation of Mental Health Research.](#)
August 2012

Samuel Siris [Watch for Heavy Smoking in Schizophrenia.](#)
August 2012



SIRS Committees 2012-2014

Awards Committee

Philip Harvey, Co-Chair
John Waddington, Co-Chair

Education Committee

John Kane, Chair
Robin Murray, Co-Chair

Ethics Committee

Anthony David, Chair
Birte Glenthøj, Co-Chair

Finance Committee

Anthony Grace, Chair
Marco Picchioni, Co-Chair

History Committee

Lynn DeLisi, Chair
Robin Murray, Co-Chair

Membership Committee

Lynn DeLisi, Chair
Mark Weiser, Co-Chair

Meeting Affiliations

Jean Addington, Co-Chair
John McGrath, Co-Chair

Program Committee

Anissa Abi-Dargham, Chair
Jonathan Rabinowitz, Co-Chair

Publications Committee

Celso Arango, Chair
Mary Cannon, Co-Chair



Awards Committee