Dysphagia Research Society in America's Finest City for the 18th Annual Meeting

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The Dysphagia Research Society held its 18th annual meeting March 3–6, 2010, in San Diego, California, at the recently renovated historic U.S. Grant hotel. This multidisciplinary conference provided a forum for presenting cutting-edge research in deglutition and its disorders, while the preconference provided updates on the applications of research findings for care of patients with swallowing disorders (with an emphasis on pediatric patients), eosinophilic esophagitis, and chronic cough.

Three hundred forty-two participants attended this year's meeting from a total of 18 nations. The largest group was obviously from the United States, followed by our colleagues from Japan, Canada, Brazil, and Australia.

The format for this year's meeting was altered somewhat to allow more oral presentations than past gatherings in response to comments from past participants. This allowed for 54 oral presentations from a total of 144 scientific abstracts that were submitted. Ninety-six abstracts were selected as poster presentations.

In light of its multidisciplinary nature, our Society was honored to have Fred (Mac) McConnel, MD, present the Dodds-Donner Lecture on "A Surgeon's Perspective of Pharyngeal Swallowing Gained from Manofluorography." This joined together anatomic form and function along with the fields of head and neck surgery and speech-language pathology in an interesting and entertaining presentation.

The "Point-Counterpoint" forum was spiced up with the use of an electronic audience response system for a discussion of the clinical bedside examination by Drs. Gary McCullough, Giselle Carnaby-Mann, and Catriona Steele. This interaction was both educational and quite a bit of fun.

One of the most challenging parts of our meetings is selecting the most outstanding work for our various awards. This year the University of Florida followed up their fine football season by dominating the DRS awards as well as demonstrating fine athletic prowess on a mechanical bull in the Gas Lamp district of our host city. The two top New Investigators were Michelle Troche, MA, and Karen Wheeler-Hegland, PhD, both from Gainesville; the remainder of our talented award winners are noted below.

The success of this year's meeting would not have been possible without the ongoing generous support of sponsors engaged in the field of dysphagia. Their commitment to the Society and its annual meeting will remain vital in these challenging economic times. I personally thank the Board of Directors and the Program Committee for their hard work in the organizing and planning of this meeting. I also thank Ms. Angela Davis and the rest of International Meeting Managers, whose organizational skills made the meeting possible.

I look forward to seeing many of you March 2–5, 2011, in San Antonio, Texas, for our 19th meeting at the Omni La Mansion Del Rio Hotel.

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Award Recipients

Chandylen Pendley, BS (Psych), of the University of Florida won the DRS 2010 Head and Neck Cancer Alliance Grant—*Dysphagia and Quality of Life Following Chemoradiation for Head and Neck Cancer*

Aaron Johnson, MS, of the University of Wisconsin-Madison won 1st Place for the DRS Scientific Abstract Oral Presentations—*Effect of Chronic Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation on Three-Dimensional Neuromuscular Junction Morphology in the Aging Rat Tongue*

Emily K. Plowman, PhD, of the University of Florida won 2nd Place for the DRS Scientific Abstract Oral Presentations—*Dissociating the Neural Substrates of Oral and Limbomotor Impairments in Parkinson's Disease*

William G. Pearson, Jr. of Boston University School of Medicine won 3rd Place for the DRS Scientific Abstract

Oral Presentations—*Disambiguating Muscular Forces Effecting Hyoid Movement in Pharyngeal Phase of Deglutition*

Aaron Johnson, MS, of the University of Wisconsin-Madison won the ASHA Division 13 Grant—*Effect of Chronic Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation on Three-Dimensional Neuromuscular Junction Morphology in the Aging Rat Tongue*

Karen Wheeler-Hegland, PhD, of the University of Florida won 1st Place for the Scientific Abstract Poster Presentations—*Submental Muscle Recruitment with Tracheal Occlusion in Anaesthetized Rats*

Phoebe Macrae, BSLT(Hons), of the University of Canterbury, Van der Veer Institute won 2nd Place for the Scientific Abstract Poster Presentations—*Manometric Pressures Within and Across 3 Sessions: Within-Subject Variance and Order Effects*

Julie Blair, MA, of the Medical University of South Carolina won 3rd Place for the Scientific Abstract Poster Presentations—*MBSIMP and Esophageal Manometry: An Analysis of Correlation and Predictive Value*

Michelle Troche, MA, of the University of Florida won 1st Place for the New Investigators Award for the presentation: *Attentional Resource Allocation and Swallow Function in Parkinson's Disease*

Karen Wheeler-Hegland, PhD, of the University of Florida won 2nd Place for the New Investigators Award for the presentation: *Cortical Gating of Oropharyngeal Sensory Stimuli*

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