Preface

Message from the SMS Secretary

International Journal of Impotence Research (2003) 15, Suppl 5, S3. doi:10.1038/sj.ijir.3901080

This special supplement to IJIR summarizes the proceedings of two meetings of the Sexual Medicine Society of North America. In support of the International Society of Sexual and Impotence Research (ISSIR), SMSNA has agreed to alternate meeting formats. As such, the proceedings from our fourth scientific meeting are composed of state-of-the-art lectures and reports on sexual education in United States Medical schools. The proceedings of our fifth scientific meeting are peer-reviewed abstracts in basic and clinical sciences of male and female sexual dysfunction (MSD/FSD). Although the preponderance of submissions for 2003 were in the field of MSD, there is a clear trend among SMSNA scientists to model and explore the pathophysiology and molecular basis of FSD. This is a good trend and reflects favorably on the reality of FSD, which is a true medical problem with an organic basis, unique clinical demographics, significant psychologic and sociologic impact.

Much thanks is warranted to Drs Ronald Lewis and Lawrence Hakim, who have been the society's 'dynamic duo' for these two meetings. As outgoing Secretary of the SMSNA, I have had the opportunity to see each of these efforts composed, constructed and executed. I personally extend my thanks to the organizers.

The Board of Directors remains committed to ensuring the growth and vitality of the SMSNA. Dr Ira Sharlip as Past President of SMSNA and Secretary to ISSIR has been instrumental in negotiating funding at the international level from

industrial sponsors. Those resources, in turn, have now been distributed to the regional affiliate societies of the ISSIR. With SMSNA's allocation comes financial security and the obligation to do more. As part of that initial effort, the SMSNA has initiated an 'outreach program' directed at two critical groups: Urology Residents in training and Family Medicine Physicians. This year's meeting in Denver will see the first of what the BOD hopes will be at the very least biannual symposia: Surgical Symposium in Penile Implantation and Peyronie's Disease and a Family Practice Symposium on Sexual Health. During our BOD meetings in Denver, we will be addressing the issues of research funding and a teaching slide set, both of these projects are only be possible through the infusion of operating funds from the ISSIR.

Finally, I encourage all members to go online to www.smsna.org to review our bylaws changes. The bylaws have been amended specifically in the area of membership categories: to extend membership to more health-care providers interested in sexual health. Simultaneously, the new bylaws will ensure that leadership roles in SMSNA are maintained by our core members with a strong history of contribution and interest in the field of erectile dysfunction.

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