Chair Report

Welcome to the first ENSIG Newsletter. I plan to communicate with the ENSIG members through this forum on a quarterly basis. It will also be an opportunity for members to communicate about upcoming ECT and Neurostimulation meetings, presentations, visiting speakers, proposed research collaborations etc. I hope you all make time to read this and contribute.

Firstly, I am delighted to introduce you all to the ENSIG Committee Members:

Dr Patrick Clarke  South Australia
Dr Nisar Contractor  Wellington, New Zealand
Dr Taryn Cowain  South Australia
Dr Shane Gill  South Australia
Dr Salam Hussain  Western Australia
Prof Colleen Loo  New South Wales
Dr John Reilly  Queensland
Prof John Tiller  Victoria
Dr Susan Waite  South Australia
Dr Matthew Fasnacht  Tasmania

I am looking forward to getting to know them all better over the rest of this term. I also look forward to us delivering some tangible benefits to the ENSIG Membership.

I would also like to take the opportunity to introduce you to Trudy Lisk, ENSIG Coordinator. Many of you will have already had contact with Trudy. We are extremely fortunate to have her working with us.

Now to some recent business:

- I would like to thank Colleen Loo for organising and presenting at the Neurostimulation Symposia at Congress this year. Paul Fitzgerald, Cherrie Galletly and others also presented in what were interesting and lively sessions. Salem Hussain is also planning a similar program for Congress in Perth in 2014, and I look forward to bringing you news about this as his plans develop.
- I am pleased to report that John Tiller and I have been lobbying for increased reimbursement for ECT from Medicare. This was supported by General Council and I look forward to providing you with updates on the progress of this action.
- I understand that the new edition of the “Australasian Guidelines” is about to be released and encourage all of you to buy a copy. It is required reading for any Neurostimulation Psychiatrist in Australia and New Zealand and should be on your bookshelf.
- I would like to congratulate Paul Fitzgerald for organising the inaugural Australasian Brain Stimulation Meeting in July in Melbourne. This provided a wonderful showcase for neurostimulation research in Australia, not only in psychiatry, but also in neurology, rehabilitation and a variety of other specialities. Hopefully this meeting will become a regular event. I encourage ENSIG members to consider attending future ABS meetings. I bring to your attention that Paul has organised a Certificate course in TMS in Melbourne in November, and you can find more information about this on the Webpage, under Events.
Trudy and I are in the process of setting up the first ENSIG Conference to be held in the Barossa Valley in August 2014. I am anticipating a stimulating program as well as some enjoyable social events and hope it will be well attended.

That’s all for my first ENSIG Newsletter. I look forward to corresponding with you on this webpage in the future.

Cheers,
Patrick Clarke
Chair, ENSIG
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