



Dear PNS Member,

We hosted our first virtual event from 27-30 June. While we were disappointed that we were not able to meet in Miami as planned, we believe that this new venture for the Society was a great success with over 650 registered for the live event and many more viewing the recorded content on-demand. This year, we had a unique opportunity to reach new members and broaden our visibility around the globe. We are excited to share the PNS has representation from 46 countries.

We want to thank the Scientific Program Committee for their help planning an exceptional educational program. A special thank you to the 2020 Scientific Program Committee Chairs, Drs. Charlotte Sumner & Luis Querol who led this effort and did an outstanding job to prepare for the meeting.

During the virtual program we had the opportunity to present several awards. The prestigious Alan J Gebhart Prize for Excellence in Peripheral Nerve Research was awarded to Professor Guido Cavaletti from the University of Milan in Italy. The award recognizes his important longstanding work on chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathy, and his ongoing contributions to our mission of “improving the lives of people with peripheral neuropathies throughout the world”. A CMTR Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Professor James Lupski from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, USA for his very important contributions to the field of hereditary peripheral neuropathy. We also awarded Mrs. Estelle Benson, Founder of the GBS CIDP Foundation International with a special PNS award recognizing her long-term support of patients with GBS or CIDP all over the world, and the ongoing support of the Peripheral Nerve Society. The Society would not be what it is today without her contributions.

As many of you know, organizing a meeting of this caliber would not be possible without the support of our industry partners. We especially thank our year-round partners, Akcea Therapeutics, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, CSL Behring, and Grifols for their ongoing support. Please be sure to stay tuned for their [virtual symposia programs](#) that will be hosted by the PNS this Fall.

2020 has been a year of growth and reflection for the Society. This year, the PNS adopted new mission and vision statements and developed a three-year strategic plan. As part of the priorities outlined in the new strategic plan, we formed a new Communications and Website Committee, expanded our partnership with the European Academy of Neurology (EAN), and expanded our PNS Executive Office Staff. Our Society's strategic plan will center around three core strategies:

- *To build on the PNS' governance structure to increase communication, engagement, and accountability between Board members, staff, and membership.*
- *To further position the PNS as the authority in peripheral neuropathy and expand the PNS' visibility and outreach throughout the year.*
- *To expand the Peripheral Nerve workforce to meet the future needs of patients and their caregivers.*

In the year ahead, we look forward to bringing the following Society initiatives and projects to completion. Please stay abreast for ways you may get involved as a PNS Member, including a [Call for Committee Involvement](#) this Fall.

- Formation of Neuropathic Pain Special Interest Group
- Creation of Post-Doc Fellowship Grant Opportunities
- Release of EAN/PNS CIDP and GBS Guidelines
- Launch of [New Committee Structure](#)
- Release of On-Demand Education Center (*Online Lecture Library*)
- Unveiling of New Career and Resources Center on the PNS Website
- Expansion of PNS Membership opportunities for those from Low-Income Economies
- Exploration of Expansion of PNS Annual Meeting Rotation to other parts of the world (Asia) and combinations with virtual opportunities

Lastly, we want to thank the [PNS Board](#) for their outstanding contributions, dedication to expanding society initiatives, their strategic insight, and time. We look forward to exciting endeavors in the year to come. Running the PNS and organizing our meetings is a lot of work, and we especially would like to thank our PNS [Executive Office Staff](#) for their help in keeping new and existing projects running on our behalf.

We look forward to seeing you all again in person at the 2021 PNS Annual Meeting at the Bella Sky Convention Centre in Copenhagen, Denmark on 27-30 June. And hopefully we will see you as well at the 2022 PNS Annual Meeting at the InterContinental in Miami, FL USA from 25-28 June.

Sincerely,



Pieter van Doorn, MD, PhD  
*President, Peripheral Nerve Society*



Richard Lewis, MD  
*President-Elect, Peripheral Nerve Society*