



SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH INTO HYDROCEPHALUS AND SPINA BIFIDA

Dr. Hazel C. Jones
Hon Secretary

Gagle Brook house
Chesterton
Bicester
Oxon, OX26 1UF, UK
TEL/FAX: +44 (0)1869 243614

Web Page: <http://www.srhsb.org>
Registered Charity No. 256115.
E-mail: srhsb@btinternet.com

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2008

Dates for your diary 2008

10th May: Last Date for reduced registration fee for Providence meeting and for guaranteed hotel bookings.

11th June: Start date for Providence meeting.

Providence Meeting: 11-14th June 2008

The provisional program is available on the Website and can be viewed or saved as a pdf file.

The abstracts will be available on the website shortly.

Contact information:

Administrative: Roselee Rego, Neurosurgery Foundation Inc., 55 Claverick Street, Suite 100, Providence, RI 02903 USA, Tel: (401) 490 4161 or FAX (401) 455 1292. E-mail: RRego@lifespan.org .

Academic organisation: Conrad Johanson, Department of Clinical Neurosciences, Brown Medical School, Providence, RI02903, USA. Tel: (401) 444 8739, FAX (401) 444 8727, E-mail:

Conrad_Johanson@brown.edu .

Directions and travel information are on the website.

The **Scientific meeting** will take place in the Smith-Buonanno Hall, 95 Cushing Street, a beautifully restored site on the Brown Campus that originally was the gymnasium on the old Pembroke College campus, starting on Thursday morning at 8.45 am.

The **Annual Business meeting** will take place at the same venue on Weds 11th June at 17.00h. All members are encouraged to attend since this is your opportunity to have a say in the organization of your Society. If any member wishes to have an item included in the agenda, please submit it in writing to the secretary at least four weeks before the meeting.

Casey Holter Memorial Lecture: The society is very happy to welcome Professor Andrew Copp, Professor of Developmental Neurobiology, Institute of Child Health, University College London, as the Casey Holter Memorial Lecturer for 2008. His topic will be the 'Genetics and Embryology of Neural Tube Defects'.

Special lecture: Dr. Barabara Stonestreet, Professor of Pediatrics and Neonatologist, Brown University Medical School, will give a lecture on 'Intraventricular Hemorrhage in Premature Infants'.

Registration: The registration form is attached to this Newsletter and is also available on the web site. Please give names for accompanying persons when you complete the form.

Poster Boards: these will be 96 inches (244 cm) wide x 44 inches (112 cm) high.

Accommodation: Downtown (central) Providence, close to the Brown campus, will be a convenient venue for lodging, with rooms reserved at the Marriott Courtyard and Biltmore hotels (\$149/night) and Westin hotel (\$199/night). More information is available on the website and delegates are asked to make their own reservations by contacting the hotels and mentioning the SRHSB. Transport will be provided to reach the meeting venue or it can be reached by walking (about 20 minutes).

A limited number of university campus dormitory rooms are available for lodging at \$55/night. To book Dorm rooms contact Jody Reich at: Phone - 401-863-9257, FAX - 401-863-3955 or by E-mail jody_reich@brown.edu .

Social program:

The **Welcome Reception** on Wednesday evening June 11th will be held in the Brown University Faculty Club, 1 Magee Street, at 19.00h. There will be transport back to the hotels following the reception.

The **Society's Outing** on Thursday to Newport Island will feature a ferry ride across Narraganset Bay, a tour of the Newport mansions, a trek on the Cliff Walk overlooking Narraganset Bay, and a traditional clambake at Blithewold.

The **Gala dinner** on Friday will take place in the Federal Reserve Building in downtown Providence.

Accompanying Persons Program:

Thursday 12th June: a morning tour of Providence to include: Roger Williams Monument and Park, Rhode Island School of Design, First Baptist Church and selected Brown University Campus buildings.

Friday 13th June: A full day tour to Plymouth, Massachusetts, the site of the first New England settlement by the Pilgrims. The day will include: a tour of the Mayflower (replica), the Plimouth Plantation, and a Cranberry Museum, together with lunch and time to explore or shop in Plymouth. More details are on the website.

Animal Hydrocephalus Informal Meeting: In response to popular request, an animal hydrocephalus meeting will be held this year in the lecture theatre in the Smith-Buonanno Lecture Theatre from 8.00 am until 1.30 pm on Wednesday 11th June. The aim of this meeting is to give researchers involved with experimental hydrocephalus an opportunity to present their research in greater detail than time allows at the main meeting. The objective is to promote discussion and collaboration among researchers. We have a good response this year with nine speakers. Anyone who is attending the main meeting is welcome to come and participate in the discussions.

Subscriptions

A message from the Treasurer, Roger Strachan: rogerstrachan@hotmail.com

The current situation with subscriptions is much improved, but payments for 2008 (and in some cases 2007) still remain outstanding for some members. Hazel Jones has continued to email those members whose subscriptions remain out of date, and I apologise to all for the constant irritation that such emails must bring, but it is essential to the Society that subscriptions remain up-to-date, as this is one of our major sources of income.

The Subscription Fee Payment forms have worked quite well, but some remain difficult to read, and I would encourage all who use this form of payment to fill in the forms accurately and legibly (or be faced with another email!). Once again, security numbers on the back of the card can be emailed to me separately, if you are concerned about this, or the forms sent by post. I am in the process of sending every member a receipt for their payment, but this has been a slow process, but should be much more efficient next year. I would still ask all members to check that they have a reliable means of paying their subscriptions at the beginning of each year, and check their credit card/bank statements this year that a payment for 2008 has been made. Please email me if you have any queries.

I have received a number of applications for bursaries for the Annual Meeting in Providence, and while the Society hopes to offer support to all those applicants, we have to limit funds for this purpose. The closing date for any applications will be May 1st. Preference will be given to those that are first-time applicants, and those whose need is regarded as the greatest.

Executive Committee:

The committee is seeking nominations for a President Elect, to serve for one year before taking over the presidency from Ray Fitzgerald in 2009. Nominations are welcome. Please send nominations to Hon Secretary prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Publication of 2007 Proceedings: The proceedings for the 2007 Cambridge meeting were published online as a supplement in *Cerebrospinal Fluid Research* (www.cerebrospinalfluidresearch.com) similar to last year. Access to the supplement is free to anyone with Internet access. The complete pdf file can be downloaded at: <http://www.cerebrospinalfluidresearch.com/supplements/4/S1>

Publication of reviews and research papers: Research papers can be submitted to *Cerebrospinal Fluid Research* (www.cerebrospinalfluidresearch.com/manuscript) or any other BioMed Central journal (www.biomedcentral.com) for peer review and rapid online publishing. The article processing charges will be waived for members provided they obtain the SRHSB code from the Hon Secretary for use when they submit papers. If members are already exempt through their home institution, then the SRHSB code will not be needed.

Deaths: The death has been announced of Gesine Menardi 13th November 2007. Dr. Menardi was the organizer of the Innsbruck meeting in 1986. The death has also been announced of Cyril Noble, 14th February 2008, previously Consultant Paediatrician, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, and former member of the Society.

Future meetings of interest to Society members:

National Hydrocephalus Association Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, 19-22 June 2008

Barriers of the CNS, Gordon Conference, Tilton, NH, USA, 22-27th June 2008

Hydrocephalus 2008, Hannover, Germany, 17-20th September 2008.

First World Congress on Spina Bifida Research and Care, Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort, Orlando Florida, March 15-18th 2009.

Future Meetings of SRHSB:

2009: June 24-27th: Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK, at the invitation of Mr. Stephen Brown, Mr. Alan Bailie and Nan Hill.

2010: July 7 –10th: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, at the invitation of Dr. William Arnold and colleagues.

2011: Nottingham, UK.

I look forward to meeting you all in Providence, Rhode Island.

Hazel Jones
Hon Secretary.