



E-Bulletin

issued quarterly

JUNE 2017

President's Message

Darrel S. Brodke, MD



It is truly an honor to serve you as CSRS' 44th President. I am extremely privileged to stand in the company of the 43 preceding CSRS Presidents and am grateful for all of their contributions. I am also thankful to all of you for your interest, commitment and involvement in CSRS activities. 2017 is well under way with the cyclic activities that comprise each year.

We received a very strong response to our Spring call for research grant applications with more than 50 abbreviated submissions competing for the \$350,000 dollars in research funding that is available this year.

We are very grateful to Medtronic for their continued support of the \$100,000 Medtronic CSRS Named Grant, which was first launched last year. As the premier organization in the field of basic and clinical research of the cervical spine, we greatly appreciate Medtronic's vision and commitment which speaks directly to the reputation our Society has achieved in terms of funding high level research.

I also extend my sincere appreciation to John Rhee as the Chair of the Research Committee for the last three years. He implemented a number of organizational changes within the committee which increased its functionality and capitalized on the expertise of the Committee Members. This is truly a hard working team as there are several layers and review processes involved in determining which grants should be funded.

Zoher Ghogawala has agreed to serve as new Research Chair through 2019. His Subcommittee Chairs include Scott Daffner, Brandon Lawrence and Paul Arnold. They are now working with their respective committee members determining which projects to select for full manuscript submission.

I am pleased to report that we received almost 475 scientific abstracts submitted for presentation at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Hollywood, Florida. The Scientific Program Committee, under the direction of Lou Jenis as Chair, are currently grading abstracts. The abstract site is now closed. Many thanks to all who submitted. *(continued on page 2)*

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President's Message (cont.)

This year's Annual Meeting location in Hollywood, Florida promises to be ideal for our group. Located on the beach with newly renovated sleeping rooms and meeting space, it is only 10 minutes south of Fort Lauderdale and 20 minutes north of Miami. Everything you might want to see or experience in South Florida is just moments away, along with easy access through the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL).



The Diplomat Beach Resort, Hollywood, FL, is the venue for the 2017 CSRS Annual Meeting.

Once again this year the meeting will be preceded by the one-day instructional course under the direction of Mike Daubs as Program Chair. At this time, it is early in the planning stages and program information will be available over the summer.

I am pleased to report that Col. Lynn Scheel, USAF has agreed to be my Presidential Guest Speaker. Col. Scheel is a former F16 fighter pilot with combat experience. He has also been a squadron commander during wartimes and currently teaches tactics and leadership at the Army War College. He is an excellent speaker and will address leadership, check-lists, safety, as well as some interesting stories with great videos. It is amazing how many parallels there are between the life of a fighter pilot and a spine surgeon. I believe he will be a great fit.



Col. Lynn I. Scheel will be the Presidential Guest Speaker at this year's meeting.

Please save the dates of November 29 through December 2 to attend the CSRS 22nd Instructional Course and 45th Annual Meeting in Hollywood, Florida. Access the link [here](#) to reserve your hotel accommodations.

I hope to see all of you there.



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Board Proposes Bylaws Amendment

At the CSRS Board of Directors meeting held on March 15, 2017 in San Diego, discussion took place regarding the addition of a CSRS Candidate Membership category. This new category would address the gap that exists from the time a surgeon completes his or her training and the time they become Board Certified.

It was agreed that it is important to engage physicians in professional associations earlier rather than later when young clinicians are more likely to become actively involved. The addition of a Candidate Membership category would also certainly increase the number of Neurosurgical applications since Neurosurgeons must currently wait five years for Board certification after completion of training.

After much discussion, it was agreed that CSRS incorporate a Candidate Membership into its membership structure. This involves a Bylaws change which must be voted on by the general membership at the Dec 1, 2017 Members' Business Meeting at the Diplomat Hotel in Hollywood, Florida. The proposed amendment is below.

Candidate Membership

Shall include individuals from North and South America who show an active interest in disorders of the cervical spine. Individuals shall be within 5 years of completing their training program and be Board eligible. Upon completion of Board Certification, Candidate Members are required to apply for full Active Membership.

Candidate Members have no voting rights and are not eligible to hold office. Attendance at a CSRS meeting is required within 3 years.

Submit Your Nominations

Deadline August 31

Submit your Officer nominations for Vice President and Treasurer

Current officers are:

Darrel S. Brodke, MD – President

Jeffrey C. Wang, MD – President Elect

Alexander Vaccaro, MD, PhD – Vice-President

Christopher I. Shaffrey, MD – Treasurer

Please submit nominations to csrs@aaos.org by Thursday, August 31.

In Memoriam

As many of you are aware, José Casamitjana of Barcelona, Spain died tragically in a biking accident in May. He was a valuable CSRS member for many years and served as European Section President. He was a wonderful family man and deeply committed to CSRS.

Our sympathy is with his family.





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Support CSRS Research & Education

CSRS gratefully acknowledges all of our individual and corporate donors who have given to the CSRS 21st Century Research & Education fund. All your donations are used only for research funding.

CSRS received more than 50 Letters of Intent for 2017. The breakdown includes: Medtronic: 18 applications; 21st Century: 11 applications; Seed Starter: 12 applications Resident Fellow: 14 applications.

Manuscript invitations will be sent in June. Research award papers are reviewed after the annual meeting podium presentations have been finalized.

Please consider a gift this year to mark our 45th Anniversary year. Log in using the link [here](#) to donate.

Access 2016 IC Course Content

The CSRS 2016 Instructional Course program audio tapes are posted on the Members Only pages of the CSRS website. For 2016, the entire program was recorded. Each presentation can be “viewed” separately along with the presenter’s slides. Access the site [here](#). Your CSRS Username and password is needed to log in.

CSRS Congratulates CSRS Asia Pacific Leadership

CSRS Asia Pacific Section

Congratulations to Professor **Masatoshi Sumi, MD, PhD** on his successful Presidential year, as well as the recent Asia Pacific Annual Meeting held in Kobe, Japan in March.

Congratulations are also extended to new Asia Pacific President, **Shanmuganathan Rajasekaran, MD, PhD** on assuming the role of President.



*CSRS incoming Asia Pacific President
Shanmuganathan Rajasekaran*

Fellows Conclude European Travel

Congratulations to all six of the 2017 CSRS Traveling Fellows. Travel took place in May to four sites in Europe culminating at the European Section meeting in Salzburg, Austria. The Fellows are Ahmad Nassr, of Rochester, Minnesota; Addisu Mesfin of Rochester, NY; Takashi Kaito, MD, PhD, Suita, Japan; Feifei Zhou, MD, Beijing, China; Caroline Scemama, MD, Paris, France and Eduard Tornero Dacasa, MD, Barcelona, Spain.

The Asia Pacific Section will host the Fellowship in 2019. Applications will be solicited in Spring 2018.



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Peggy Wlezien, CSRS Executive Director Retires

Sincere Thanks

As most of you are aware, after 23 years, it is bittersweet that I announce that I am leaving the AAOS and CSRS in May 2017. It has been my honor and privilege to have worked with all of you on behalf of CSRS.

All of my efforts would not have been possible without the dedication of the CSRS leadership and members as well as the outstanding CSRS team who work daily keeping activities moving forward.

Through the years there have been many successes. For me - along the way it was fun, challenging, and personally fulfilling. I am extremely grateful and appreciative of the opportunity and all of your kindness.

Thank you and I wish all of you continued success.

Gratefully,
Peggy



Membership Application Deadline September 15

If you have colleagues or friends at your institutions or practices, please consider recommending them for CSRS membership. The criteria is listed below.

Active Membership Criteria:

- Demonstrated interest in the cervical spine
- Advanced degree for nonclinical specialists or Board Certification for clinical specialists
- Three letters of recommendation from CSRS members
- Attendance of at least one of the CSRS US Section Annual Meetings prior to consideration of your application

Author or co-author on a paper or poster presented at one US Section CSRS Annual Meeting prior to consideration of your application.

Corresponding Membership Criteria:

- Practice outside the United States, Canada and South America
- Demonstrated interest in the cervical spine
- Advanced degree for nonclinical specialists or Board Certification for clinical specialists
- Three letters of recommendation from CSRS members

Attendance of at least one of the CSRS US Section Annual Meetings prior to consideration of your application.

**Presentation of a paper at an Annual Meeting is not a pre-requisite for Corresponding membership consideration.*

Visit the CSRS [website](#) for additional information.