

## Scientific highlights

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### **Sleep Medicine Highlights at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Neurology, Philadelphia, PA, May, 2001**

The American Academy of Neurology held its Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in May, 2001. Sleep featured prominently at the conference, with several courses, two platform sessions, and two poster sessions highlighting sleep. This year, sleep was chosen by the Academy as one of the vertical integration topics, enabling many of the sleep-related sessions to be held on the same day. Courses included Sleep Disordered Breathing in Neurologic Disorders (Sudhansu Chokroverty), the Neurology of Sleep (Michael Silber), Sleep Disturbances in Parkinson's Disease: Case Management (Cynthia Comella), Sleep Disorders in Children (Ronald Chervin), Sleep in the Older Person (Alon Avidan), and Recent Advances in the Understanding of Narcolepsy (Michael Thorpy).

The platform sessions were Restless Legs Syndrome and Sleep Disorders. Within the Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS) session, Wayne Hening and colleagues presented information related to the reliability and validity of the International RLS Study Group Rating Scale and Richard Allen's group discussed the validation of a separate questionnaire for the diagnosis of RLS. Mary Wagner discussed the prevalence of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and oppositional defiant disorder in adults with RLS and Juliane Winkelmann presented evidence for single gene and autosomal dominant inheritance of RLS. Trials of ropinirole (Alan Freeman) and

pergolide (Claudia Trenkwalder) in RLS were also presented.

Within the Sleep Disorders session, Claudio Bassetti presented data on 20 patients with idiopathic hypersomnia and narcolepsy without cataplexy, Eve Rogers discussed the link between obstructive sleep apnea and narcolepsy, and Beth Malow outlined the impact of vagus nerve stimulation on sleep-disordered breathing in 16 epilepsy patients treated with the device. Giuseppe Plazzi showed that a polymorphism of the prior protein gene may influence sleep, and Ramin Khatami discussed intracortical inhibitory mechanisms in normal sleep.

The two poster sessions were planned in collaboration with the subtopic of movement disorders, and included areas of research relevant to both fields. These included posters on the epidemiology and pharmacological treatment of restless legs syndrome, sleep disruption in Huntington's disease, and the relationship between 'sleep attacks' and antiparkinson treatment.

A complete listing of all abstracts presented is available in *Neurology*, 2001, 56: supplement.

The American Academy of Neurology Sleep Section is comprised of over 400 individuals with an interest in the neurological aspects of sleep medicine. Members of the sleep community are encouraged to submit abstracts this fall for the 2002 meeting and to attend next year's April 2002 meeting in Denver, Colorado. For more information about the American Academy of Neurology and its Sleep Section, please contact Dana Bolgrin at [dbolgrin@aan.com](mailto:dbolgrin@aan.com) or visit the website at [www.aan.com](http://www.aan.com).