AASM Issues Interim Statement on Portable Monitoring

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine Board of Directors recently approved an interim statement on the use of portable monitoring devices in the diagnosis of obstructive sleep apnea. The interim statement is published in this issue of Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine.

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine Board of Directors convened an expert task force to examine the circumstances in which portable monitoring devices can be used in the diagnosis of obstructive sleep apnea and how the procedures should be performed by sleep specialists. Members of the task force include Nancy A. Collop, MD, chair; W. McDowell Anderson, MD; Daniel J. Gottlieb, MD; Michael J. Sateia, MD; and Richard J. Schwab, MD. This task force has been meeting regularly and its progress will be reported in future editions of the Weekly Update and Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine.

AASM Introduces Provisional Accreditation Status for Sleep Facilities

As the demand for the diagnosis, treatment and care of sleep disorders patients at sleep centers increases, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine recognizes the concern that there are not enough accredited centers available to treat existing patients and individuals seeking care.

To address this concern, the AASM recently announced a new category for accreditation – provisional accreditation. In addition to addressing the issue of current and potential patient demand for quality care, provisional accreditation allows centers and laboratories that acquire this designation to make contracts with insurance carriers and receive reimbursement for services immediately.

Provisional accreditation is available for three types of sleep facilities: new, start-up centers or laboratories; existing AASM-accredited centers or laboratories opening a new facility; and existing, unaccredited centers or laboratories (this offering is only available until July 1, 2008). As outlined in the new policy, a site visit is not required to obtain provisional accreditation. Facilities granted provisional accreditation by the AASM will then have six months to apply for AASM accreditation, using the same application.

More information on provisional accreditation is available online at www.aasmnet.org/PDF/ProvisionalAccreditation.pdf. Contact Sally Neely, MD, at (708) 492-0930 or via e-mail at sneely@aasmnet.org for more information about provisional accreditation.

AASM Accredits First Group of A-STEP Providers

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine Board of Directors recently approved accreditation for the first group of A-STEP Providers. The two-year accreditation allows programs to offer STEP 1, an 80-hour intensive didactic course, at their facility or institution.

The following facilities received status as an accredited A-STEP Provider: Intermountain Sleep Disorder PSG Technologists Training Program, Salt Lake City, Utah; Texas School of Sleep Medicine and Technology, San Antonio, Texas; New York School of Sleep Medicine, Kew Gardens, N.Y.; Greenville Technical College, Greenville, S.C.; Sleepcare Diagnostics Training Program, Mason, Ohio; and New Mexico Center for Sleep Medicine, Albuquerque, N.M.

The AASM offers accreditation to sleep centers and academic institutions that provide sleep technologist training within its sleep center or community classroom. A-STEP (Accredited Sleep Technologists Education Program) can be offered by an AASM-accredited sleep center or affiliated academic institution to local sleep technologists.

A-STEP includes both an 80-hour didactic course (STEP 1) and an 18-month on-the-job training program supplemented with 14 e-learning modules (STEP 2). Information about A-STEP is available online at www.aasmnet.org/ASTEP/.

SLEEP 2006 20th Anniversary Meeting is a Success

More than 5,300 sleep medicine specialists, sleep researchers, sleep technologists, allied health professionals and other health care professionals gathered in Salt Lake City, Utah, for SLEEP 2006 20th Anniversary Meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies.

SLEEP 2006 commenced on Monday, June 19, 2006, with the plenary session and the keynote address of Allan Pack, MBChB, PhD, “The Impact of Genomic on the Future of Sleep Medicine.”

At the plenary session, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and the Sleep Research Society recognized members of the field for their professional achievement, contributions to the field and dedication to the AASM and SRS. The AASM presented John Shepard Jr., MD, with the Nathaniel Kleitman Distinguished Award; Robert McCarley, MD, with the William C. Dement Academic Achievement Award; R. Bart Sangal, MD, with the Mark O. Hatfield Public Policy Award; and Judith A. Owens, MD, MPH, with the Excellence in Education Award. The SRS presented the following awards: Distinguished Scientist Award to James Krueger, PhD; Outstanding Scientific Achievement Award to Emmanuel Mignot, MD, PhD, and Masashi Yanagisawa, MD, PhD; and Outstanding Educator Award to William C. Dement, MD, PhD.

Throughout the course of the meeting, attendees enjoyed the scientific program, which included stimulating, relevant and educational courses, lectures and workshops.

The AASM also hosted a general membership meeting to report the respective state of the each organization and also to honor young investigators in the sleep medicine and sleep research. New
The AAS Movement Disorders Section is a venue for the discussion of restless legs syndrome, periodic limb movement disorder, sleep related leg cramps, sleep related bruxism, sleep related rhythmic movement disorder, unspecified sleep related movement disorders related to substances or medical conditions. The chair for 2006-2007 is John Winkelman, MD, PhD.

The AASM Narcolepsy Section advances awareness, research and improved clinical diagnosis and treatment of sleep disorders that are defined by their primary complaint of daytime sleepiness, but are not related to disturbed nocturnal sleep or misaligned circadian rhythms. Medical testing related to determining daytime sleepiness, e.g. the Multiple Sleep Latency Test and the Maintenance of Wakefulness Test are also within the purview of conversation in the Narcolepsy Section. The section chair for 2006-2007 is Lois Krahm, MD.

The AASM Parasomnias Section encompasses topics of abnormal sleep related to movements, behaviors, emotions, perceptions, dreaming and autonomic nervous system functioning. The section chair for 2006-2007 is Carlos Schenk, MD.

The Sleep Deprivation Section explores the effects of reduced sleep duration on behavior and physiology. Various causes of sleep deprivation are discussed, including experimentally-induced deprivation as well as the effects of sleep disorders that restrict or disrupt sleep. The section chair for 2006-2007 is Michael Russo, MD.

The Sleep Related Breathing Disorders Section provides a forum for discussion of all aspects of sleep related breathing disorders and their various treatment options related to continuous positive airway pressure devices, oral appliances and head and neck upper airway surgeries. The chair for 2006-2007 is Carolyn D’Ambrosio, MD.

Additionally, the AASM has created a discussion forum for each section, which is a valuable tool for members and the section chair to easily facilitate communication. Members and the section chair can post activities of the section, engage in an online discussion of topics related to the section mandate and reply to comments.

The revised sections held inaugural meetings at the SLEEP 2006 20th Anniversary Meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies to learn about the mandates and goals for the sections, introduce new chairs and discuss the online section forum.

Members are encouraged to join a membership section to connect with colleagues and share specialized interest. To join a member section, logon to the members’ only section of the Web site, www.aasm.net, and choose your section preferences. Please note that you can update your membership with sections annually.

Foundations Present Grants

The American Sleep Medicine Foundation and the Sleep Research Society Foundation presented grants for the 2006 awards cycle at the fourth annual Discovering the Secrets of Sleep research dinner, which was held on June 18, 2006, in conjunction with the SLEEP 2006 20th Anniversary Meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies.

The American Sleep Medicine Foundation presented three grants in the Faculty Career Advancement category for 2006; a total of 10 proposals were submitted in response to the RFP. The ASMF Faculty Career Advancement award is intended to foster initial funding, and each recipient will receive a two-year grant for up to $60,000 in funding.

Margaret Park, MD
Rush University Medical Center
Chicago, Ill.
Daytime Sleepiness and Parkinsonism in Patients with Mild Alzheimer’s Disease
The Sleep Research Society Foundation presented five grants for 2006; 18 proposals were submitted in response to the two RFPs. The SRSF presented four grants in the category of the Christian Gillin, MD, Research Award and one grant in the category of the Elliot D. Weitzman, MD, Research Award. Each award is funded for one year in an amount up to $20,000.

2006 J. Christian Gillin, MD Awards
Fernando Louzada, PhD
Federal University of Parana
Parana, Brazil
Home Electric Lighting Effects on Circadian Rhythms

Camellia Clark, MD
University of California, San Diego
San Diego, Calif.
Sleep Deprivation, Polysomnography and Functional MRI in Minor Depression

Jonathan Wisor, PhD
SRI International
Menlo Park, Calif.
Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate for Narcolepsy: Role of the Iocus coeruleus

Jonathan Emens, MD
Oregon Health and Science University
Portland, Ore.
Determination of Intrinsic Circadian Period in Blind Individuals with Non-Entrained Circadian Rhythm Sleep Disorders

2006 Elliot D. Weitzman, MD Award
Thomas Scammell, MD
Harvard University
Boston, Mass.
Orexin and the Control of Cateplexy

Call for Contributions to ICSD-2 Casebook

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine’s Nosology Committee is developing the ICSD-2 Casebook, and is seeking contributions from sleep specialists.

The ICSD-2 Casebook is designed to illustrate the proper use of the ICSD diagnostic criteria and differential diagnosis, and it is expected to be a valuable resource for those preparing for sleep medicine board examinations, residents rotating in sleep centers and physicians in pulmonary, neurology, internal medicine, and psychiatry who wish to learn sleep medicine in a case-based format.

Specialists are encouraged to contribute actual cases or an amalgamation of several cases. Initial submissions should be an abstract of the case no longer than one page of double-spaced text and should include:

• A description of the symptoms
• Approach to the patient
• Final diagnosis and treatment plan
• Teaching points

The Nosology Committee will review all submissions to determine which should be included in the ICSD-2 Casebook; not all submissions will be included. When considering whether to submit a contribution, it is important to note that the final version is expected to be between five and ten double-spaced pages, including figures. A member of the Nosology Committee will contact you with details of the submission requirements if your case is selected for inclusion in the casebook. All contributing authors will be asked to sign a copyright assignment form. Final versions should include:

• Detailed history
• Physical examination
• Differential diagnosis
• Polysomnographic testing (when appropriate)
• Record fragments are encouraged
• Additional tests (if needed)
• Actigraphy, sleep logs, imaging studies and other relevant data

Those who submit cases that are chosen for inclusion in the ICSD-2 Casebook will be recognized as contributing authors.

Please submit contributions to Richard Rosenberg, PhD, Nosology Committee Coordinator, American Academy of Sleep Medicine, One Westbrook Corporate Center Suite 920, Westchester, IL 60154, or by e-mail to rrosenberg@aasmnet.org.

Mini-Fellowship Program for International Scholars

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine is now accepting applications for the 2007 Mini-Fellowship Program for International Scholars. The program provides practical training in clinical sleep medicine to international physicians, which allows them to develop and improve sleep health care in their home country.

Up to ten selected candidates will spend three weeks at an AASM-accredited sleep facility followed by attendance at the SLEEP 2007 21st Annual Meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies in Minneapolis, Minn. from June 9-14, 2007.

Six sleep physicians participated in the 2006 Mini-Fellowship Program for International Scholars: Maria Eugenia Toro of Columbia spent three weeks under the tutelage of Robert Thomas, MD, at the Sleep Center at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Mass.; Sang Myeong Cheon of Korea trained for three weeks with Safwan Badr, MD, at the Sleep Disorders Center at Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich.; Rafael Pelayo, MD, of the Stanford University Sleep Disorders Clinic in Stanford, Calif. hosted Natte Raksadawon of Thailand; Biljana Zvezdin of Serbia and Montenegro was hosted by Phyllis Zee, MD, PhD, at the Sleep Disorders Center at Northwestern University in Chi-
Sleep Medicine Receives Taxonomy Codes

The National Uniform Claim Committee developed a new healthcare provider taxonomy code (HPTC) for sleep medicine. The sleep medicine taxonomy codes, which will be included under internal medicine, pediatrics, otolaryngology and psychiatry and neurology, take effect October 1, 2006.

The NUCC on July 1, 2006, published a revised version of the Health Care Provider Taxonomy code set with the addition of separate sleep medicine taxonomy codes. The sleep medicine codes are classified as a Level III code; which is a more focused area of classification that allows a provider to identify a more specific level of specialization.

Listed below are the 10-digit codes for sleep medicine located within their respective Level II classifications:

Internal Medicine - Sleep Medicine 207RS0012X
Otolaryngology – Sleep Medicine 207YS0012X
Pediatrics – Sleep Medicine 2080S0012X
Psychiatry & Neurology – Sleep Medicine 2084S0012X

The AASM encourages all sleep medicine specialists to identify sleep medicine as their primary specialty when designating their status as a provider with Medicare.

CMS Releases Proposed Medicare Inpatient Rule

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released the proposed 2007 payment rule for inpatient care. According to CMS, the 2007 proposed rule is the first significant revision of the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) since its implementation.

Further, the Association of American Medical Colleges reports that teaching hospitals training 100 or more residents can expect average per case payments for 2007 to increase by 2.1 percent, which is lower than expected originally. Other teaching hospitals and non-teaching hospitals can expect increases of 2.6 percent and 4.8 percent, respectively, while rural hospitals can expect an average increase of 6.7 percent.

The proposed rule is available in its entirety for review on the CMS Web site at www.cms.hhs.gov/.

Welcome New Accredited Center Members

Here is the listing of all new accredited center members since March 1, 2006. If you would like for your accredited center to take advantage of these benefits and more please contact the membership department at bfairchild@asmnet.org or (708) 492-0930.

Sleep HealthCenters Bedford
Drexel Sleep Center
Drexel University College of Medicine
Northwest Community Hospital Sleep Lab
Northwest Community Hospital
Proctor Hospital Sleep Clinic and Diagnostic Laboratory
Proctor Hospital
Comprehensive Neurologies and Sleep
Sleep Disorders Center of Wyoming Valley, LLC.
Athens Center for Sleep Disorders
Dr. Clarence Glenn Sleep Center
Decatur Memorial Hospital
The Kazmir Center for Sleep Disorders at Saint Barnabas Medical Center
Labette County Medical Center
Hawaii Center for Sleep Medicine, LTD
SleepMed of Niles
Respiratory Physicians of Southwest Washington Sleep Disorders Center
Georgetown Sleep Center, P.A.
Mid-West Center for Sleep Disorders
Vanderbilt Sleep Disorders Center
Vanderbilt University
Sleep Services of Jasper, LLC
Sleep Disorders Center
Geauga Sleep
Regional Sleep Center, Memorial North Park
Memorial North Park Hospital
Desert Sleep Disorders Center
Nevada Lung Center
The Center for Sleep Medicine
The Center for Sleep Medicine
Lake Forest Hospital Outpatient and Acute Care
Richardson Regional Medical Center Sleep Disorders Center
Richardson Regional Medical Center
Hardin Memorial Hospital Sleep Center
Hardin Memorial Hospital
Sleep Disorders Center
Ochsner Clinic Foundation Baton Rouge

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Lewistown Hospital Sleep Center
Lewistown Hospital

The Sleep Lab at Riverview

RMH Center for Sleep Medicine
Rockingham Memorial Hospital

Providence Everett Sleep Disorders Center
Providence Everett Medical Center

Sleep Center
The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

The Sleep Center at Southpark

Sentara Bayside Sleep Disorders Center
Sentara Bayside Hospital

Lincoln General Hospital Sleep Center
Lincoln General Hospital

Somnus Sleep Clinic of Central Mississippi, LLC

Sleep Disorders Center
Mount St. Mary’s Hospital and Health Center

Monticello - Big Lake Community Hospital

Gritman Sleep Laboratory
Gritman Medical Center

Peninsula Sleep Center, Inc.

Sleep Centers of Iowa

Northwest Sleep Health

Sleep Center of the Coast

University of North Carolina Sleep Disorders Center
University of North Carolina Hospitals

Woodland Medical Center Sleep Lab

Stevens Sleep Center
Stevens Pavilion

Clear Lake Sleep Center
A Houston Pulmonary Medicine Accoc. PA Facility

Ohio Sleep Disorders Centers, LLC-Medina

Spartan Sleep Studies

Sleep Center for Children
St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children