

## Innovation in AAN Education Programming Will Enhance Annual Meeting

The Academy's leadership and staff work hard to refresh our education programming to respond to the evolving needs of our members. For the April 10–17 Annual Meeting in Toronto, new Education Committee Chair Cynthia L. Comella, MD, FAAN, and her group developed exciting new educational courses designed to provide innovative opportunities for learning. These new courses will be in addition to the traditional courses that have been so successful in past meetings. Dr. Comella explains the new features:



Cynthia L. Comella, MD, FAAN

"The first of these is the Morning Report, in which a single faculty member will present a variety of neurological cases over the course of an hour that will simulate neurology morning rounds. The participants will be asked questions about diagnosis, differential diagnosis, and treatment that are relevant to each case, and register their opinions using an audience response system. The answer to

these questions will be discussed by the faculty leader based on current evidence and their own clinical experience. Morning Report will offer participants a chance to test their own knowledge compared to their peers and to the faculty expert leading the discussion. This will be a uniquely interactive session.

"The second new educational opportunity is called Neuro Flash. This program is designed to provide an update on a topic area using a shortened format that headlines what is new over the past year in a particular neurology specialty, and how it impacts clinical practice. These programs will focus on multiple sclerosis, acute stroke, epilepsy, neurogenetics, child neurology, and neuro-ophthalmology.

"The third new program is the Neurology Skills Pavilion. These programs are half-day workshops in which participants will be divided into smaller groups. The groups will rotate through four to five learning stations. Each learning station will provide a demonstration of a particular aspect of diagnosis or methodology, and allow the participants the opportunity to ask questions directly to the teaching faculty. Topics to be covered are health information technology, neuromuscular disease, acute stroke, and the neurologic evaluation of ophthalmologic and vestibular systems.

"We hope you will enjoy and benefit from these new educational programs!"



Robert C. Griggs, MD, FAAN

Committee member Jennifer R. Molano, MD, explains how the new programs will complement the more traditional education approach:

"After the success of previous courses that were designed to be more interactive, neurologists planning the 2010 Annual Meeting have decided to offer many more programs that encourage audience participation. New educational formats such as Morning Report, the Neurology Skills Pavilion, and Neuro Flash are intended to supplement the lecture-style courses.

Adding these innovative programs not only will

reinforce the content presented in a more traditional way, but also will allow people to learn in multiple modalities. As with all educational opportunities, the ultimate goal of these new offerings is to promote the pursuit of lifelong learning in neurology."

Allison Brashear, MD, FAAN, amplifies the committee's desire to reach out to members and answer a broader spectrum of education needs while it also identifies budding leaders who can build upon these innovations:



Jennifer R. Molano, MD

"After attending my first Education Committee meeting, I left impressed that the committee members and staff have programs to meet the needs of different members. Neuro Flash and the Skills Pavilion are two ways to pack a lot of new and important information into different learning styles. Not all of us learn the same way and the AAN is providing different formats for all types of adult learners.

"The AAN is also dedicated to developing new leaders for the next generation of neurologists. The committee's effort to bring emerging stars into the education program and offer a diverse faculty for programs reflects the changing face of neurology."

The abundance of talent the AAN enjoys on its leadership level is reflected in spirited and out-of-the-box thinking of the members of the Education Committee. I hope you all will join us in Toronto next April to experience firsthand the fruits of their efforts.

Robert C. Griggs, MD, FAAN  
President, AAN