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Contact Info

WI Sleep Society

PO Box 170798

Milwaukee, WI 53217

www.wisleep.org

info@wisleep.org

blog.wisleep.org

twitter.com/WiSleep

dtache@wisleep.org

pweber@wisleep.org

scasper@wisleep.org

lfredrick@wisleep.org

pvanert@wisleep.org

darnold@wisleep.org

shoefs@wisleep.org

chelling@wisleep.org

thonl@wisleep.org

jscherr@wisleep.org

Update from the Wisconsin Sleep Society

FROM THE WSS PRESIDENT

Hello to all in 2011. Hello to WSS members and visitors (to our website) alike! I am addressing you not only as a member of the WSS but as your newly-elected president, so first things first: "How 'Bout That Pack?" To win THE Super Bowl Title as did our beloved "Packers" just a few weeks ago or to advance the goals of our society requires a team with strong leadership and we have enjoyed and benefited from having had our Immediate Past-President, Pete Weber, RPSGT at the helm!

For those of us who know Pete, it is nearly impossible to overstate his importance to the WSS. Although he has *passed the gavel* we all have high hopes for his continued support and influence to make the WSS the most influential and effective state-wide sleep society in the nation!

Congratulations again to our new Officers: VP - Sandy Casper, Treasurer - Laurie Fredrick, and Secretary - Paula Van Ert and to our new Board of Directors: Dave Arnold, Sue Hoefs, Colleen Helling, Tom Honl, Jody Scherr and happily, our esteemed Immediate-Past President - Pete Weber. I look forward to coming to know you and work

with you all to the benefit of our society and our patients.

Most of my professional life has been devoted to the diagnosis and treatment of orofacial and TMD pain. Little did I understand until a few short years ago of significant prevalence of sleep disorders in my patient population. Little did I understand the suffering of many of our SDB patients because of their inability to tolerate the miracle of PAP Therapy and the essential role that Dental Sleep Medicine can play to augment PAP therapy through the application of cooperative Dental/Medical Therapy, sometimes referred to as "Combination Therapy" or "Hybrid" Therapy.

I look forward to advancing the understanding of the co-morbidities of disturbed sleep among our Medical and Dental colleagues. Improving the knowledge base of our peers will bring more of the vast number of the residents of Wisconsin who are yet to be diagnosed, to our centers for help. A better understanding of the co-morbidities of disturbed sleep will enable health care providers to treat the cause more often than just managing effects.

Advancing a better understanding of the potential role of Dental Sleep Medicine to enhance PAP-Compliance is about as big as it can be in the world of Sleep. Managing SDB problems cannot continue to be an "either/or" option i.e. PAP or Oral Airway Therapy nor does it need to be. Neither strategy enjoys BOTH high compliance and high efficacy. No they do not! Cooperation between specialists can truly be a ***sum of the parts being greater than the whole*** opportunity.

Soon, our BOD will meet to discuss the adoption of a "Pet Awareness Project" for the WSS; many of us are very excited about the potential for this project. In addition to this and other important matters, we will attempt to illustrate, utilizing Case Reports, the potential for enhanced efficacy and compliance when qualified sleep medical and dental clinicians come together in a cooperative effort to treat the SDB patient.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors met in January. It was decided that a face to face meeting would be held April 7 in Oshkosh.

