


# Society News- June 2009

## **2010 Officer Elections** **John Kane, M.D.**



As we draw closer to the 2010 meeting in Florence, I look back over the past years and am proud of what the Officers and Board have accomplished. We have developed an international society that strives to improve the lives of our patients, produced a successful 2008 international meeting, and grown a diverse and talented membership of over 500 investigators. As prescribed by our Bylaws, it is time for the members of the society to choose the next group of officers and board members. The process is underway to name a group of 5 members to the Nominating Committee.

You should have received an email by now with a link to the ballot for you to vote. If you have not already voted, please do immediately. The e-polls close on June 18th. The Nominating Committee will develop a slate of candidates for officer and board positions. The chair of the committee will solicit nominations from the membership in the coming month and we hope you will respond. It is crucial for the success and growth of the society that we have talented members with the time and passion to serve. Elections will take place in September, 2009, and those elected will take office at the 2010 meeting.

Thank you for supporting the society.

## **Amendments to SIRS Bylaws** **John Kane, M.D., President**

At our last Board Meeting we carefully reviewed the Bylaws and decided to make some important amendments. With elections for 2010 fast approaching the Executive Board members decided that we should change the composition of the board to make it a twelve member board including 4 officers and 8 at large board members, all of whom will be elected in accordance with procedures described in Article XII of the Bylaws. This change eliminated designated Board positions for those who represent a journal or meeting associated with the society. However, the Executive Board may decide to invite representatives from any professional meeting or journal it chooses to sit on the board as an ad hoc member, with the right to fully participate in discussions but without an official vote. The current officers and board members will be eligible to be nominated for re-election to the Executive Board, however after this election, the officers and board members will rotate off the board at designated intervals by design. Half of the board members will rotate off every two years. This process will allow for rotation on a biennial basis to coincide with the SIRS conference. The new structure will allow the board composition to be determined by a popular vote of the membership and allow for flexibility as the society grows.

The process for naming a Nominating Committee was also amended. The new process allows the Executive Board to recommend candidates for the Nominating Committee who are selected from the International Advisory Committee members. The membership will then vote for 5 of those candidates to comprise the committee.

The Nominating Committee is required by the amendment to solicit nominations for officers and board members from the membership before naming a slate of candidates for officer and Executive Board positions. The membership will then vote on the final slate of candidates.

The section of the Bylaws about the Executive Secretary was edited to add language that authorizes the Executive Board to engage a management company. However, the option of having an Executive Secretary is still there and the Executive Board could still choose that option at some point if that was determined to best meet our needs.

Finally, Article XII, Point 4 and 5 were amended to describe how the rotation of board members will be initiated. Term limits were also instituted on the Secretary and Treasurer positions. Executive Board members will be eligible for re-election after vacating the position for at least one term, as is true for officers. The other changes were minor editorial matters. [Click here](#) for a complete copy of the bylaws. Please contact [Ronnie Wilkins](#) or [Sarah Timm](#) in the Executive Office with any questions or concerns.

## **Abstract Submissions**

### **Eve Johnstone**

The Program Committee is looking forward to assembling the most cutting-edge schizophrenia research at the 2nd Biennial Schizophrenia International Research Conference taking place April 10 – 14, 2010 in Florence. Abstract Submissions are now being accepted on the conference website, [www.schizophreniaconference.org](http://www.schizophreniaconference.org). A complete list of categories being accepted for submission is also available on the website.

Three different program proposals are being accepted: symposia, oral presentations and poster presentations. Symposia are panel sessions that may have up to 6 participants. The participants include a chair, and/or co-chair who may also participate as a speaker, up to four speakers and a discussant. The deadline to submit an abstract for symposia is September 1, 2009. Oral presentations will include one presenter but may include multiple authors. The presentations will be 10 minutes with an additional five minutes for discussion. The third type of abstracts being accepted are poster presentations. The deadline for poster submissions is also December 1, 2009. Like the oral presentations, the poster presentations will include one presenter, but may have multiple authors.

All symposia, oral presentations and posters will be reviewed by a Program Committee. SIRS members and schizophrenia researchers are encouraged to submit proposals for consideration. I look forward to seeing you in Florence!



## Florence, Italy in April – Join Us!

The organizers of the 2010 SIRS meeting hope you are looking forward to experiencing an exceptional scientific meeting, as well as the beautiful city of Florence. April is one of the more favored times of the year to visit because of the Mediterranean climate which averages a high of 68°F/20°C and a low of 46°F/8°C. Florence has a population of approximately a half million people and spreads on the banks of the Arno, between the Adriatic and Tyrrhenian seas, almost in the middle of the Italian peninsula. It is a city which bustles with industry and craft, commerce and culture, art and science.



Florence is located 172 miles/277 km north of Rome, and 185 miles/298 km south of Milan. There are frequent direct flights from many European cities as well as convenient intercontinental connections to the “A. Vespucci” airport of Florence, located 5 km from the city center. For those landing at “Galileo Galilei” Pisa airport, direct shuttle trains or buses to “Santa Maria Novella” railway station in Florence are available with an average travel time of 60 minutes. For train schedules please check [www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com).

Typical, regional Italian food is served everywhere in Florence. Tuscan cuisine is not too rich, and its true character is given by high-quality ingredients, whose flavor is enhanced by simple but tasty recipes. Grilled meat from Chianti, fish from the Tyrrhenian Sea, vegetables, cheese and salamis from the countryside are the basis of the traditional Florentine meals. You can find excellent pizzerias, bars and coffee shops offering sandwiches as well as first and second courses. The pleasure of outdoor dining is offered by most restaurants, quite often within the extraordinary scenery of beautiful squares, palaces or monuments.



Florence is a favorite display place for many famous fashion brands and all the most celebrated international fashion designers have set up their shops in Via Tornabuoni, Via della Vigna Nuova or Via Calzaioli. Many well-known designers also have factory outlets in the Florentine area. Furthermore, handicraft shops offer a wide selection of goods whose quality is high; special hand-milled paper, ceramics, perfume and toiletry goods, leather clothes, silverware and jewelry, and last but not least, very precious antiques. Two such handicraft specialty shops include Scuola del Cuoio, and I Mosaici di Lastrucci. Francesca Gori, proprietor of Scuola del Cuoio has created a line of exclusive hand stitched original bags made unique by decorative accents that she personally chooses from a variety of semi precious stones and silvers. Scuola del Cuoio is located Piazza Santa Croce, 16, [www.leatherschool.com](http://www.leatherschool.com). Natural stone inlaid work is an important aspect in the Florentine art history from the 15th century. I Mosaici di Lastrucci, located Via de Macci, 9, is a gallery where you can admire and purchase beautiful artworks and creations in natural stone.

We look forward to seeing you in Florence.

