



April 19, 2007

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Mediterranean Society for Pelvic Floor Disorders

Elizabeth and Stephanie presented two lectures at the annual meeting of the Mediterranean Society for Pelvic Floor Disorders in Cairo, Egypt in April. Elizabeth presented *A New Approach to the Physical Therapy Management of Pelvic Pain* and Stephanie presented *Post-Operative Rehabilitation Protocol Following Pudendal Nerve Decompression Surgery*. The meeting was well attended by gynecologists, urologists, colo-rectal physicians, and physical therapists from around the world. The material we presented was new and exciting information for most of the attendees. As a result of our lectures we were propositioned to teach a seminar on pelvic pain for physical therapists in Egypt in 2008. In addition, at this meeting, the multidisciplinary team of urologists, gynecologists, colo-rectal physicians, and Elizabeth and Stephanie representing physical therapy, met again to continue their work on standardizing the evaluation and treatment of patients with pudendal neuralgia and pudendal nerve entrapment. During this meeting we began the process of devising a subjective questionnaire that our group will validate for patients with pudendal neuralgia. We agreed to create a database of all our patients with pudendal neuralgia. This database will consist of the objective findings from the various disciplines represented in the group.

National Vulvodynia Association Grassroots Advocacy Campaign

In April, the NVA had their 3rd annual Advocacy Campaign. This campaign involves women who suffer from vulvodynia and

clinicians who treat vulvodynia meeting with their Senators and Representatives to convey the urgent need for federal funding for vulvodynia research. It was through this campaign that language on vulvodynia was included in the House Appropriations Report for the first time in history in 2006. Elizabeth met with Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Deputy District Director, Melanie Nutter, to discuss this serious women's health issue. In the meeting Elizabeth explained the importance of urging the NIH to give greater priority to vulvodynia research. In addition, they discussed ideas to increase awareness of vulvodynia both in the local and medical community. Elizabeth and Stephanie look forward to further working with their local legislators and the NVA to support this cause.

Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates

In March, Elizabeth and Stephanie attended the Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates Annual Symposium on Sexuality, Intimacy, and Pelvic Floor Disorders in Colorado Springs, Colorado. There was a lot of interest in how physical therapy can help patients with pelvic floor pain and dysfunction, but unfortunately, physical therapy was not well represented at this meeting. As a result, Elizabeth and Stephanie were asked to sit on the editorial review board and to submit abstracts for SUNA's upcoming annual meeting in February 2008. The abstracts will cover male pelvic pain and dysfunction and the physical therapy management of patients with pudendal neuralgia.