Shapiro to Receive Viste Award in San Diego

The 2013 Kenneth M. Viste, Jr., MD, Patient Advocate of the Year Award will be presented to Robert E. Shapiro, MD, PhD, at this month’s Annual Meeting. The neurologist from the University of Vermont College of Medicine in Burlington, VT, has participated in several Palatucci Advocacy Leadership Forums as an advocate, advisor, and faculty. Shapiro, a member of the AAN Section on Headache and Facial Pain and the Harold Wolff-John Graham Award Subcommittee, drew from his experiences attending the AAN’s Neurology on the Hill to launch Headache on the Hill, which lobbies members of Congress on issues related to headache research and treatment.

The Viste Patient Advocate of the Year Award recognizes one neurologist who exemplifies Dr. Viste’s leadership and commitment to advocating for the patient community. The selection committee for this year’s award cited Shapiro for going “above and beyond to advocate for others. Your success creating Headache on the Hill is appreciated for going “above and beyond to advocate for others. Your success creating Headache on the Hill is appreciated and recognized on a national level. Your efforts are making a dramatic difference for the countless and growing number of neurologists and patients around the United States. The passion, dedication, and enthusiasm you have for patient advocacy is evident, and we salute your accomplishments.”

For more information on the Kenneth M. Viste, Jr., MD, Patient Advocate of the Year Award, visit www.aan.com/view/VisteAward.

Annual Meeting Provides Advocacy Learning, Networking Opportunities

Academy members who attend the Annual Meeting will be able to learn more about the Government Relations Committee and its actions in representing neurology in Washington, DC. Members who have been involved with AAN advocacy activities are encouraged to attend receptions honoring key supporters.

- Government Relations Committee Meet and Greet
  - Monday, March 18, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Sails
  - Open to any AAN members interested in learning more about the Government Relations Committee

- Palatucci Advocacy Leadership Forum Reception
  - Monday, March 18, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Marriott, Rancho Santa Fe 2 and 3
  - Reception for Palatucci Forum alumni only; Kenneth M. Viste Advocate of the Year Award will be presented

- BrainPAC Reception
  - Tuesday, March 19, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Marriott Marquis and Marina Presidio Rooms
  - Reception for 2013 BrainPAC donors who have donated $100 or more starting January 1, 2013

Johnson Named 2013 Palatucci Advocate of the Year

Neurologist Nicholas Elwood Johnson, MD, of Rochester, NY, was named Palatucci Advocate of the Year in January for his work in developing a national resident curriculum in advocacy and public policy. Johnson accepted the award at the recent Donald M. Palatucci Advocacy Leadership Forum, from which he graduated in the 2011 advocacy class and served as an advisor at the recent 2013 Forum. He has been a member of the AAN since 2008.

Johnson’s goal for his Palatucci Forum project was to create a comprehensive educational program for neurology residents to learn health policy. He developed a pilot study of a health policy curriculum in webinar format and presented it to neurology residents at the University of Rochester, Mayo Jacksonville, and the University of Florida. The webinar topics include introduction to advocacy; compliance coding; and documentation development; insurer relations; federal and state legislative and regulatory process; health information technology; patient safety and quality improvement; and pharmaceutical development and pricing. Additional webinars include medical law. Participants received pre-tests and post-tests to measure results of the webinars. The tests are divided into several questions assessing overall interest and comfort with the subject and a knowledge-based exam. For the knowledge questions, the average percent correct on the pre-test was 67 percent and 77 percent on the post-test for the first three lectures presented. On the six interest questions, 17 responders rated their interest/skill level more favorably on the post-test. Following this pilot, Johnson’s objective is to offer this series to all residency program directors for use.

Johnson is a member of the AAN’s Government Relations Committee, the Graduate Education Subcommittee, and the Neuromuscular Section. He is also a member of the AAN delegation to the AMA as a Resident and Fellow Section delegate and as an alternate delegate.

For more information about the Palatucci Forum, visit www.aan.com/go/advocacy/active/palff.