

ATTENDEES: Kitty Trejo (PM) and Marti Wright; Rich Stevenson (IBM); Judy Larson (DM); Janis Tjader (IBM) and Gary Tjader; Phil Hyland (IBM) and Audrey Hyland; Craig Burgi (IBM) and Corrine Burgi; Janene Scovel (IBM) and Tom Scovel; Jason Scovel; Gina Goodman (DM); Carol Lesdesma (DM); Marlene Wesson (IBM) and Richard Wesson; Jackie Salas; MaryAnne Hunt-Valencia (IBM) and Alfredo Valencia; Anne Nevard; Suzanne Shukuru Sanders (DM);

Thanks again to Judy Larson who brought wonderful cookies, and to the Scovels who brought wonderful brownies!

The meeting opened with the announcement that next years annual conference of TMA will be held at the Peppermill in Reno, Nevada, September 4-7. Room rates are good, parking is free, and who knows, maybe one of us will strike it rich!

Rich Stevenson gave a presentation on how to navigate the TMA website, highlighting how to get to various KIT group meeting pages including our own. Many useful links were pointed out, such as educational information, research pages, finding the lecture slides from the annual conference, finding blogs where you can confer with other members, and locating the online version of "The Outlook". We visited a Florida KIT group site to check out their newsletter, and noted that if you want to find a KIT group in another state you should have the Zip code handy! It was also pointed out that some areas of the TMA website require that you join the TMA (it's free now!) and get a log in password. Everyone is encouraged to do this, as many dynamic events, such as the online 'ask the expert' sessions, require logging in to participate.

Kitty Trejo chose to review some of the major advances in myositis by going over the talk given by Dr. Fred Miller entitled "TMA: Twenty Years Later: Progress in understanding myositis-". In reviewing his slides (which all can do by going to the TMA website), attention was called to the advances in genetic knowledge towards helping distinguish myositis from other diseases, as well as advances in therapies. A new blood test (anti-cytoplasmic 5' nucleotidase) might soon be widely available to help distinguish IBM from some of the muscular dystrophies, and a possible new therapy for IBM (Novartis BYM338) is in early trials. Very exciting!

There is ongoing identification of auto-antibodies in DM and PM, and classification by antibodies can sometimes help with predicting course and treatment success for these diseases.

After lunch we broke into disease-specific discussion groups, lively and helpful as usual!

Great news! Thanks to our new member, Gary Tjader, who has volunteered to help us write a newsletter. More to follow! Hope you can join us for our next meeting, probably in April of 2014!

Happy Holidays and a Great 2014,

Kitty
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