



Dear Member:

In 1987 the American Sleep Disorders Association was formed – through a merger of the Association of Sleep Disorders Centers and the Clinical Sleep Society – to address the professional needs of practitioners in the sleep medicine field and facilities that treat patients with sleep disorders. Over the course of 22 years, the association, which is now the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), has evolved into the artery for our field, fostering our clinical, advocacy, research and education lifelines.

With more than 7,000 individual members and more than 1,600 accredited facilities, the AASM has a strong foundation that brings together a robust body of scientific evidence and practitioners with diverse professional backgrounds. Earlier this year you received a copy of the 2008 Annual Membership Report and each week as a benefit of membership you receive the Weekly Update; both of these communications summarize initiatives and accomplishments of the AASM and keep you abreast of the field. As it is apparent through these communications, we have achieved a great deal for our field and a solid foundation is in place to expand in the future.

At this juncture, it is important for our leadership to ensure the AASM is firm in its position as the authoritative voice of sleep medicine so the association is poised to further influence policy and expand its programming to meet member needs. A careful assessment of our organization's current activities balanced with a vision for the future gives a clarion picture of the infrastructure required to assume these challenges and achieve even greater goals for sleep medicine.

Supporting the infrastructure of our association with a solid foundation requires investment of resources and capital, and our Board of Directors has recognized this reality. As President, I am pleased to announce the AASM has purchased a parcel of land in Darien, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, on which a new national headquarters for the organization will be constructed.

As we have continued to grow – and expect and desire this growth to continue – the Board of Directors arrived at the inescapable conclusion that owning our own building is a smart long-term investment for the AASM as it gives us the resources we need to best serve our members. An official, professional national headquarters also serves as a symbol of what we have achieved as an organization and a field, and serve as a promise of our future as a recognized subspecialty in the medical community.

Working with Wight Construction, we are designing a modern, state-of-the-art facility that will allow the AASM to accommodate current and anticipated staff needs with increased space and improved technology, and will enable the AASM to conduct some programs on-site, which will be a long-term cost benefit for the entire membership. Recognizing the importance of being responsible to our environment, we are working with Wight to ensure the headquarters will be constructed to meet certification requirements under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. This rendering gives you an approximation of the look and feel of the national headquarters.



Our Board of Directors has always been responsible custodians of our organization's finances and has exercised sound judgment in budgeting, which has enabled us to invest in a national headquarters. The real estate market has experienced a downturn this year, and this fact is not lost. However, the current market conditions allow us to construct the building in an economically and environmentally sound manner that is to our advantage. The Board of Directors remains committed to financial prudence, which is a primary tenet of our governing principles, and will adhere to its current conservative fiscal management approach.

Certainly this is a new chapter for the AASM that is not only memorable and exciting but also a sound decision. As construction of the building progresses, I will keep you abreast through my regular letters to the membership.

I welcome you to your new home.
Sincerely,

Mary Susan Esther, MD
President