



Press Release
For Immediate Release
June 18, 2008

CSA Membership Represented at the Digestive Clearinghouse Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.

Mary Schluckebier of Seward, Nebraska, Executive Director of the Celiac Sprue Association, represented CSA at the annual meeting of the National Digestive Disease Information Clearinghouse (NDDIC) of the National Institute of Health (NIH) at Bethesda, Maryland, near Washington, D.C. on June 11, 2008. The annual meeting up-dated the attendees on the activities of the NDDIC and NIH. The twenty national organizations relating to digestive diseases, including CSA, were also invited to present at this annual event.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Stephen P. James, Director of the Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition, NDDIK. The morning focus was presented by Dr. Michael B. Wallace, Professor of Medicine at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine with a presentation on *Colon Polyps*. Kathy Kranzfelder, Director, NIDDK, spoke on the *NDDIC Highlights and Activities*.

The meeting also featured Dennis Rodrigues, NIH Office of Communication and Public Liaison who presented "*Challenges for the Web Master*." Dr. Stephen P. James spoke on the *National Commission on Digestive Diseases*. CSA Executive Director, Mary A. Schluckebier participated in a presentation by patient support groups of digestive disease in the afternoon session. She summarized the scope of service and activities of CSA and their mission of "Celiacs Helping Celiacs." Dr. James presented concluding remarks and adjourned the annual meeting.

The NIDDK is a division of the National Institute of Health (NIH), with the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). The annual meeting is a result of the 1980 Public Law 99-158, authorizing the NDDIC to create the advisory board for research in digestive disease.

While in the Washington area, Ms. Schluckebier made contact with various area CSA representatives concerning legislation and policy involving celiac disease.

For more information on the meeting, contact CSA toll free at (877) CSA-4CSA or email at executivedirectorcsa@csaceliacs.org. The CSA national headquarters is located in Omaha, Nebraska.

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The Celiac Sprue Association (CSA) is a member-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to helping individuals with celiac disease and dermatitis herpetiformis worldwide through education, information and research.