



Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Report of the CNS Executive Committee

November 4, 1999

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As we bring to a close the 1999 CNS Annual Meeting, it is my pleasure to provide the CNS Executive Committee report and a summary of CNS interests, efforts, activities, and accomplishments over the last year. At no time in our now 49-year history has the CNS offered such comprehensive and diversified member service than it does today. At no time in our history has the CNS been as strong, more financially secure, and more involved in the myriad of issues and activities which face our neurosurgical membership.

The CNS is about education. It is about member service. It is about promotion of the art and science of neurological surgery and it is about the development and the fostering of young neurosurgeons. The CNS is an organization which relies on individual effort for contributions to a greater team approach, directed by the spirit of initiative and volunteerism. Through the efforts of many, many CNS members, the CNS has expanded the breadth and depth of its educational offerings and membership services to areas and levels never before attained. The value of CNS membership has never been greater and, accordingly, the number of CNS members has never been greater, now exceeding 4700 members. Due to the intelligence, altruistic nature, and volunteer efforts of CNS members, we as an organization have been able to accomplish more in a shorter time and in a more cost-effective fashion, than any neurosurgical organization in the history of organized medicine. The distinction between membership in the CNS and the value derived therefrom compared to membership in other medical and neurosurgical organizations has never been more apparent.

The exceptional educational offerings provided by the CNS are highlighted by this year's terrific Annual Meeting, led

by Annual Meeting Chairman Issam Awad and his Committee, and Scientific Program Chairman Vincent Traynelis and his Committee. This has been our finest Annual Meeting ever. It offers the greatest and most comprehensive compilation of contemporary science and neurosurgical innovation in a broad spectrum of educational offerings. Never before have more members reached the podium to deliver scientific presentations. Never before has such effort been made to include neurosurgeons, their related medical field colleagues, and their spouses in the content and fabric of the Annual Meeting. At comparatively low Annual Meeting registration rates, the CME return on member investment is very, very high.

The official journal of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, *Neurosurgery*, has enjoyed expanded circulation and increased numbers of quality scientific contributions under the leadership of the Editor, Michael Apuzzo. The present journal is a work of science and art in evolution. Dr. Apuzzo, along with his skilled and dedicated staff, continually strive to create the best possible format for the presentation of scientific information, innovation and technology. This year our journal is not only available in printed form, but is available on-line. Past volumes of the journal are available on CD-ROM. The number of pages of scientific information, the circulation, and the prosperity of the journal have continued to flourish.

The Education Committee, led by Chairman Vincent Traynelis, is presently in the process of re-certification of the CNS with the ACCME. This cumbersome task is made easier by the fact that the Congress strictly adheres to the principles outlined by the ACCME, developing educational symposia and Annual Meeting content according to the needs and wishes of the membership. Dr. Traynelis and his Committee have recently completed the impressive task of creating a Core Curriculum in Neurological Surgery, providing a template for program directors, neurosurgeons, and residents in training for educational content suggested during the training process. This template will help residents and neurosurgeons gain knowledge

about the art and science of neurosurgery in general and focused areas, and may serve as an outline to program directors in refining their neurosurgical residency educational offerings.

Neurosurgery://On-Call, the jointly supported, jointly owned web-site of organized Neurosurgery has been completely revamped and made cost-effective by the individual efforts of William Friedman, Past President of the CNS, John Oro, former Editor, and Joel MacDonald, the current Editor. CNS input and leadership in Neurosurgery://On-Call has made it one of the premier web-sites in organized medicine today.

The Publications Committee of the CNS has been recently revamped and reorganized by the Congress of Neurological Surgeons Executive Committee. This Committee provides a broad and diverse number of educational member offerings including *Concepts in Neurological Surgery*, *Video Perspectives in Neurological Surgery*, Directories of Neurological Surgery including the CNS-developed, directed, and produced, *World Directory of Neurological Surgeons*, and the *Young Neurosurgeons' Directory of Residents and Fellows in Training in North America*. The CNS Newsletter has been reorganized and is now entitled *Neurosurgery News*. It is an expanded magazine format which includes important CNS organizational information, membership offerings, member candidates and bylaws changes. It also includes other important, newsworthy reports and represents a forum in which Section activity may be reported and by which the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies can reach the CNS membership at large.

The Leadership Development Committee, led by Chairman Paul Camarata continues to promote and encourage Resident members and young neurosurgeons to become involved in the workings and leadership of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Dr. Camarata and his Committee recruit young neurosurgeons and other CNS members to a variety of Committee responsibilities to enhance the number

and quality of CNS member service and educational opportunities provided. This effort serves to groom future leaders of organized Neurosurgery for even greater responsibilities.

The Resident Committee led by Richard Ellenbogen and the Placement Committee led by P. David Adelson offer resident members and young neurosurgeons a variety of terrific benefits, opportunities, research awards, and prizes to encourage participation in the CNS and to enhance the scientific effort by these young, developing neurosurgeons. Resident members of the Congress pay a one-time membership fee of \$25.00. They receive free registration at the Annual Meeting, free hotel accommodations at the Annual Meeting, and in the year 2000, free annual subscriptions to the official journal of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, *Neurosurgery*. There are a variety of resident prizes and awards available to stimulate our young neurosurgeons to participate in the process and science of the Annual Meeting. The CNS placement service helps to link young neurosurgeons with career opportunities within North America.

The Congress of Neurological Surgeons is proud to offer a variety of exceptional educational opportunities to its membership in the form of Fellowships. Douglas Kondziolka has chaired this Committee with energy and enthusiasm. He has developed a standardized, unitized approach for application. There are now seven different types of fellowships available to CNS members.

- CNS Clinical Fellowship
- CNS Public Policy Fellowship
- CNS Clinical Investigation Fellowship
- Two CNS Neuroendovascular Surgery Fellowships (in conjunction with AANS)
- CNS International Fellowship
- CNS Traveling Fellowship

Next year we plan to add yet another. The budget for fellowship support on an annual basis now exceeds \$260,000. The CNS leadership and the CNS Marketing Committee are working diligently to secure corporate support and endowment dollars as a means of fellowship support, reducing individual member dollar contributions for these educational opportunities.

The Congress of Neurological Surgeons has an important leadership voice in organized Neurosurgery's response to the government, to state regulatory agencies, to third-party insurers, and to the FDA. The CNS provides half of the leadership and half of the financial support for the important jointly sponsored Washington Committee. The Washington Committee, led by former CNS President Arthur Day, has had the task of organizing a concise, firm, consistent neurosurgical response to changes in Medicare fee schedules. Their efforts have been essential in protecting neurosurgical interests in this arena. The Washington Committee now has multiple liaisons with government agencies, regulatory agencies, third-party insurers, and the executive and legislative branches of the United States government. The focused voice of organized Neurosurgery, now directed through the potent Washington Committee has never been stronger, better organized or more persuasive. Support of the Washington Committee is now the single greatest budgetary item in the Congress of Neurological Surgeons annual budget. As far as dollars spent for service to the CNS membership, these are some of the best-spent dollars in our annual budget.

The CNS provides support to half of all joint activities offered by the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. This includes support of the Washington Committee, Joint Officers, the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies, Neurosurgery://On-Call, the seven Sections of the CNS and AANS, and several other joint activities. The Finance Committee, led by Treasurer Stephen Papadopoulos, has shown that while

expenses for joint activities are increasing, the Congress' input to the budgetary process and operational control of these activities has been lacking. In fact, issues raised by CNS leadership and the Finance Committee have contributed to the recent restructuring and reorganization of the AANS National Office. The Congress of Neurological Surgeons is working to develop a new organizational strategy to improve our interface with the AANS. Our goal is to provide greater member service and less duplication of activity in a more cost-effective fashion. These negotiations are ongoing and have been quite productive. As the CNS attempts to insure a "checks and balances" system on the growing expenses involved in joint activities, our efforts are being rewarded by efficiency and reorganization within both the CNS and the AANS.

The efforts and activities of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons are led by the Mission Statement of the Congress and the fabric of the CNS Strategic Plan. The Strategic Planning Committee, led by President-elect Daniel Barrow, has worked tirelessly over the last year to rewrite the Strategic Plan of the CNS to make it a more contemporary and effective tool of organizational guidance. The CNS is a distinct, important, and powerful organization in medicine and in Neurosurgery. It is unique, different than the organization of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. The CNS has a different focus and a different mission. The essence of the CNS is education, member service, the promotion of the art and science of neurological surgery, and the promotion and development of the young neurosurgeon. To that end, the CNS has a vested interest in the future and an even greater responsibility to neurosurgeons practicing in North America today. We have our entire lives before us and virtually our entire careers ahead of us. It is critically important and entirely appropriate that the youthful CNS provide equal input, leadership, and action to the voice of organized Neurosurgery in North America. Because of the organizational and cultural differences between the CNS and other neurosurgical organizations, the CNS voice is one which must be heard and

should be heard. When appropriate the CNS voice will join those of other organizations in Neurosurgery. There will be times however, when because of our cultural differences, the CNS voice may be distinct, alone, or different than that offered by other neurosurgical organizations. In this circumstance the CNS response should not be construed as divisive or disruptive, but merely an expression of the differences in the culture, history, and mission of the organizations. As the CNS approaches its 50th birthday, to be celebrated under the Presidency of Dr. Daniel Barrow, in San Antonio in the year 2000, the CNS voice has become a thoughtful, constructive, mature and powerful voice. It is the voice of representation, speaking clearly for greater than 4700 CNS members.

The spectrum of educational offerings outlined above, the variety of member services touched on previously, and the important, expanding joint activities provided by the CNS is all accomplished with the lowest dues structure in organized medicine. The Congress of Neurological Surgeons will raise its annual dues by \$20.00 this year, the first such increase in 15 years. This \$20.00 increase reflects only the added increase of our subscription to *Neurosurgery*, to adjust for inflation and to provide the journal on-line. At \$285.00 per year, active membership in the Congress of Neurological Surgeons represents the best bargain in medicine today.

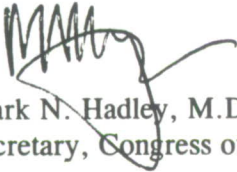
Before I conclude this report, I would like to ask a moment of silent recognition for the following CNS members who have died since our last Annual Meeting.

George Ablin, MD
Gerd Fischer, MD
John F. Flood, MD
Wallace B. Hamby, MD
Louis O. Manganiello, MD
Jorge Picaza, MD
Bruce Ralston, MD

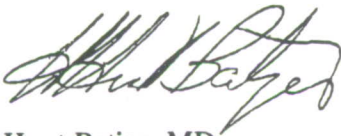
Ferdinand Rossmann, MD
Jacques Schaerer, MD
Charles Perry Shank, MD
William Tice, MD
Geoffrey Vanderfield, MD
David V. Wray, MD

I have appreciated providing you this summary of the focus, health, and activities of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons over the last year. I hope you will enjoy the remainder of your stay here in Boston and I hope you will plan to participate in next year's meeting, our 50th Anniversary, in San Antonio, Texas.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Hadley', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mark N. Hadley, M.D.
Secretary, Congress of Neurological Surgeons

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Hunt Batjer', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

H. Hunt Batjer, MD
President, Congress of Neurological Surgeons

MNH/HHB/dhm