

INDIANA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

1100 WEST MICHIGAN STREET
INDIANAPOLIS 7, INDIANA

Bylaws



NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

L. W. FREEMAN, M.D.

J. R. RUSSELL, M.D.

R. F. HEIMBURGER, M.D.

May 9, 1958

Dr. Richard L. DeSaussure, Jr.
899 Madison Avenue
Memphis 3, Tennessee

Dear Dr. DeSaussure:

Enclosed are data which I hope will assist in making decisions about some of the proposals for revision of the Bylaws of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. These data were readily available to me through my work with the Survey Committee. I am taking the liberty of distributing the data to Doctors Bland W. Cannon, Courtland H. Davis, Philip Gordy, Thomas Marshall, Irwin Perlmutter, Frederick Rehfeldt, Martin P. Sayers, Raymond K. Thompson, Edward Weiford, and John R. Williams.

The first mimeographed sheet lists the percentage of neurological surgeons in each state who hold membership in the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. The average for the country is about 37 per cent. It is apparent that there are several states with large rosters of neurological surgeons who do not hold membership in the Congress. The representation of the entire West Coast is poor. In the East, Massachusetts and New York State are poorly represented.

The second mimeographed sheet gives essentially the same data but with the States listed alphabetically so that they may be found easily. Also listed is the State's rank. The higher the rank the poorer the representation in the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. There are only 29 ranks because several states had identical percentages of neurological surgeons holding membership.

Enclosed also are three graphs analyzing the membership of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. The first graph analyzes the membership as of September 1951, just prior to the first annual meeting. It will be noted that there was a preponderance of uncertified neurological surgeons in the Congress at that time. Nearly all of these consisted of men recently out of residency. Nearly all of these men subsequently became certified. There were five men in a doubtful category. That is, they were young (under 40 years of age) and had been graduated from medical school less than 15 years, but it was doubtful if they would achieve certification. The third bar in the graph shows that there was only one man not certified by the Board of Neurological Surgeons who was over 40 years of age or had graduated from medical school over 15 years previously. To the right of the dotted line it will be seen that the certified members of the Congress constituted a group of comparatively young men, with the exception of one man who had been certified in 1941. The small numbers within the white bars on the graph indicate

the year in which the men were certified. Above the white bars are horizontal lines which indicate the total number of Board certified men for each particular year.

The second graph analyzes the membership of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons as of November 1951, at the time of the first annual meeting. It will be noted that less than half of the members were certified. As in the first graph most of these men consisted of neurological surgeons who had only recently finished their training. The increase in Board certified members was due in large part to the fact that several members had passed their examination in October 1951. Again the horizontal lines on the right half of the graph indicate the total number of Board certified men for the given year. It will be noted that nearly one-half of the men certified in 1951 had become members of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons by November of that year. The Congress of Neurological Surgeons was obviously a group of comparatively young neurosurgeons at the time of the first annual meeting.

The third graph analyzes the membership of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons as of January 1958. Only those members residing in the United States are included because men residing outside the United States do not have so much incentive for acquiring Board certification. It will be noted that the Congress is now composed largely of Board certified neurosurgeons. Note that the number of men recently out of residency and not yet certified has fallen to 19, as compared with 50 in November 1951. The doubtful category remains small (8 men). However, there has been a marked rise in the number of uncertified men who are over 40 years of age or have been graduated from medical school more than 15 years. There are 26 men in this category. Only the exceptional man in this category will ever become Board certified. On the right hand side of the graph (to the right of the dotted line) is an impressive array of Board certified men. Again the horizontal lines above the bars of the graph indicate the total number of men certified by the Board for the given year. It will be noted that the Congress obtained the highest percentage of all those certified in the years 1951 and 1952. Since that time there has been a little fall-off in the percentage of Board certified neurological surgeons admitted to membership in the Congress.

Personally I am distressed by the considerable drop in number of recently trained neurological surgeons joining the Congress. There are certainly well over 100 men in the United States who have completed residency training within the last two or three years who have not become members of the Congress. It is my feeling that there should be an actual effort to recruit these men.

If the proposed revision of the Bylaws of the Congress is adopted I fear that there will be decreased incentive for the men who have just completed residency to join the Congress. Thus the process of aging which is already evident in the Congress will be further hastened. If the Congress tries to imitate the Harvey Cushing Society by limiting membership to those with Board certification, I fear that the Congress will always be second best. If, on the other hand, the Congress continues to cater to the needs of the very young neurosurgeon, it will fulfill the unique purposes for which it was founded and will continue to prosper.

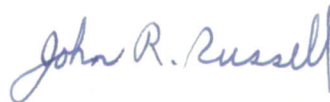
Dr. Richard L. DeSaussure, Jr.

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I would like to propose that the very young neurosurgeons be enticed into the Congress by offering Junior Memberships to neurosurgical residents. This plan has apparently worked satisfactorily in the American Academy of Neurology. The junior members could be limited to residents (my preference) or could include residents and uncertified men who have completed residency (which would be more in accord with the proposed changes in the Bylaws).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John R. Russell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "R".

John R. Russell, M. D.

JRR:gg
Encs.