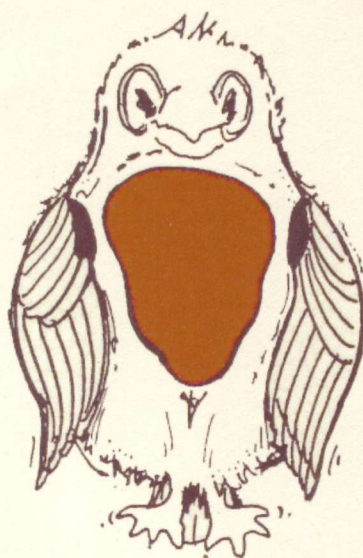
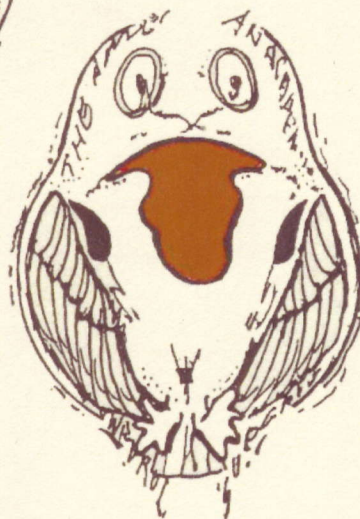
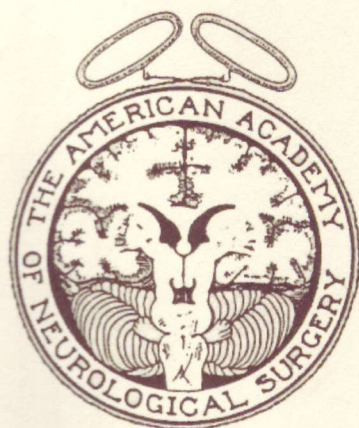


THE NEUROSURGEON



THE ROUND ROBIN LETTER
OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

October 2007

Round Robin of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery

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July 9, 2007

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Re: Round Robin Letter

My Fellow Academicians,

Greetings from Lynchburg, VA! My first 15 months working with partners George Hurt, Mac McCrary and Shawn Clark have been very rewarding. I certainly miss training residents, but I enjoy being immersed in the patient care experience the way I have been without the residents around. Centra Health has been very supportive – they want a strong Neuroscience group. We are currently in the final stages of installing a Varian Trilogy Stereotactic Radiosurgery system, and should be treating patients with it in the next few months.

Holley and I are enjoying the community at large, and especially the medical community here. They have frequent social gatherings which allow us to really get to know some of the other medical couples and their children.

Eben IV, age 19, just finished his freshman year at the University of Delaware, where he is studying chemistry and biology. He is working as an attendant in the Operating Rooms at Lynchburg General Hospital this summer, which will certainly influence him one way or the other in any future decisions about possible matriculation to medical school. He has not declared a strong commitment along those lines at this point – he is still playing the field. He was particularly interested in energy cycles (such as Krebs's and Calvin's) and their possible manipulations. He just returned from a three week trip to visit a very good friend in Bogota, Columbia, which included hiking and canoeing in the Amazon rain forest. They spent several nights 45 meters up in the jungle canopy.

Bond, age 9, had a good 3rd grade year at his new school here in Lynchburg. He is active this summer in karate, tennis and swimming, and loves having his big brother at home for the summer months.

We are all excited about our annual beach week in Litchfield, SC at the end of July hosted by my mother. She is in very good health and looks about 15 years younger than her age. She is still able to travel, and participates in bridge and book clubs. I think she

has adapted fairly well to losing Dad in November, 2004. We all miss him a lot, but the beach was not one of his favorite places. He always seemed happiest when he was going to work every day. Fortunately, he was able to do that right up until the day he died.

Holley and I are hoping to see all of you October 31 at Lake Las Vegas!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eben Alexander III". The signature is written in black ink and includes a circular flourish at the end.

Eben Alexander III MD, FACS
ealexanderiii@earthlink.net

THE LEADING GEN!TM

*What will you do with the rest of your life?*TM

Dear Academician,

June 22, 2007

This year marked the culmination of 2 years of research and work, principally for Carolyn in writing, producing, and acting in a television pilot. The program is aimed at the 40-100+ market and is entitled: "The Leading Gen"TM- "What will you do with the rest of your life?" Since the name, "Senior" is not liked, we renamed this fastest growing segment of the USA population, "The Leading Gen"TM. This group consists of over 125,000,000 people, many of whom are ill prepared to meet the challenges they will face for the remainder of their extended life spans. For some, retirement is not an option. Over 2/3 of these people want to continue to work, many for financial reasons. However, most want to work because they want to be active, challenged, and lead a different exciting life as they age. Companies and the entertainment industry mostly ignore this market as they focus on the 18-34/49 ages. "The Leading Gen"TM has different values and mental development and processing than the younger groups and must be reached accordingly. The pilot features human-interest stories showing what others have done with the rest of their lives.

The pilot, in which Carolyn serves as one of the anchors, has been shown on PBS stations across the country and in Canada, and may be seen by one out of six people in "The Leading Gen"TM in many major markets. Since we have been asked to make this program into a series, the challenge is to find sponsors. So, much of our time has been devoted to this project over the past two years.

I am fortunate to be able to work with Neil Martin and his staff at UCLA from 3 to 4 months a year where I enjoy the teaching and doing surgery with the residents. This year they honored me with the best teacher award. I continue to edit SURGICAL NEUROLOGY, which has seen its submitted manuscripts double, as have other journals. I am still serving on the Board of Directors of Somanetics Corporation, a mid-cap biotechnology company giving me insight into the business world. Its principal product is a transcutaneous oximeter that is used to measure tissue oxygen changes principally in the brain but also in muscle and kidney in adults, pediatric, and neonatal patients. The time I spend in healthcare consulting has been more limited this year because of all the other activities.

We are still traveling to give lectures in the US and internationally. So, we have continued to be active and busy with some new and different activities mixed with the old. So far, it has been a great opportunity to do the things we could not do when we were younger and had more responsibilities and obligations.

Carolyn and I look forward to the meeting in Las Vegas this year and will bring our dog, "Honey."

Cordially,

Carolyn and Jim Ausman

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June 1, 2007

Round Robin 2007 American Academy of Neurological Surgery

Fellow Academicians:

The Awad clan is profoundly grateful for another year of happiness and productive contributions. Few weeks apart, Catherine and I celebrated our 50th birthdays. While clearly overrated in popular culture as a notable milestone, we could not but reflect on the “middle stretch of road”, a stage about which the Poet Laureate Robert Pinski wondered:

“Now near the end of the middle stretch of road
What have I learned? Some earthly wiles. An art.
That often I cannot tell good fortune from bad, that once had seemed so easy to tell apart”

We traveled half that journey together, Cathy and I, and can surely say that we’ve been places, and walked through good fortunes and bad. Yet unlike Pinski, we now feel greater harmony in middle life, and a more compelling sense of who we are. We are so keenly grateful for good health, our closeness as a family, Cathy for a second career in nursing and graduate school (after a break as a full time mom), and I for the privilege of perfecting our “art” of academic neurosurgery with the Dream Team at Northwestern. The highlights of this year’s fun runs were family vacations in Lebanon, where we luckily dodged bullets between spasms of violence that so sadly grip that country; and the Burgundy district of France, where it was legal to teach Armand about the wonderful wines. Another event on my 50th birthday was particularly memorable, sharing an evening in an Evanston bistro with the operating room nurses, and the basic science and clinical research teams who help make my professional fantasies a daily reality.


Armand also fulfilled an important dream this year, getting early decision acceptance to Cornell Engineering. The only downside of that splendid achievement was a prolonged High School senioritis during the rest of the academic year, tempered only by the vague threat that college acceptance could still be revoked if his grades dropped. He managed to maintain wonderful interest in French and as a cellist in the Symphony Orchestra (partly because of the girls involved), and to score A’s on mostly AP math and science classes.

At work, our Department continues to manage a growing team, now including 24 full time clinical faculty and an expanded residency program. Hunt Batjer earns every gray hair on his scalp trying to keep that crowd in line, and crafting a common vision for our hubs on three

campuses. The Evanston team alone now counts 6 full time academic neurosurgeons (doubled from three years ago), three research faculty, plus an integrated neuroendovascular service and close collaborations in neurocritical care and hemorrhagic stroke research with our Chicago faculty. Research development is thriving with new NIH funding, additional scientist recruitments, maturing neurosurgery-engineering projects, and resident trainees engaged in the neurosurgeon-scientist development track. We're taking pride in the growing breadth and depth of our research, and its impact and reputation. The university at large is struggling with the same challenges, and incredible opportunities of leveraging growing assets on three campuses into a common strategy for a "One Northwestern".

The Academy is more than a mere professional guild, as academic neurosurgery remains a dream journey for those who are fortunate enough to embark on it. Its greatest rewards are the friendships forged around the globe with trainees and colleagues, and the privilege of partnering with the best talents to make a difference. Cathy and I look forward to seeing many of you at Lake Las Vegas next November.

With warm regards to Academicians and their families,



Issam Awad, MD, MSc, FACS, MA (hon)
Professor and Vice Chairman
Department of Neurological Surgery



Department of Neurological Surgery

Dear Fellow Academicians:


I'm happy to update you on professional and personal issues. From a clinical and academic perspective, we have submitted the second application for a large multi-center trial to NINDS to compare radiosurgery with open temporal lobectomy for patients with temporal lobe epilepsy. This follows on a very successful Pilot Clinical Trial. Hopefully, this will be funded this time. It will keep me busy over the next 5 years managing an exciting clinical trial. Our Epilepsy Program continues to expand and the laboratory is involved in numerous projects including cortical dysplasia, tuberous sclerosis, and a stem cell project. My practice is a primarily a mixture of epilepsy, pain (mostly trigeminal neuralgia) and peripheral nerve cases (trauma and tumors). The UCSF Residency Program is thriving and residency training remains my favorite administrative duty. I'm still not fishing enough, although trips to Oregon and Wyoming have been exciting.

Sue Ellen is singing more this year than she has in several years, including her usual classical material (a nice trip to the Grant Teton Music Festival) and a newly formed group that has been performing a combination of folk, country, and rock and roll oldies. She has been performing several times a month in our area and is having a wonderful time exploring this new venue. She continues to teach keyboard to elementary school children and does volunteer work for local non-profits.

Children are moving towards independent lives. Eva completed her training at the California Culinary Academy, which included an internship in Chicago. She's back in Marin County working in a small restaurant, and is considering another move outside the Bay Area to pursue this career. Her weekly schedule is about as busy as mine. Mike will start his senior year at the University of Oregon this Fall and should graduate as an English major next Spring. His future plans are still not certain. Monica will enter NYU this Fall as a Dance Major in the Tisch School of Fine Arts. She is very excited about the move. Sue Ellen and I already have two trips to New York City on the calendar.

As you can see, the Barbaro family has had an excellent year. Sue Ellen and I are looking forward to seeing everyone in Las Vegas.

Sincerely,


Nicholas M. Barbaro, MD

Mitchel S. Berger

UCSF/Dept. of Neurosurgery

505 Parnassus Avenue, M-786

San Francisco, California 94143-0112

It has been another outstanding year from both a professional and personal point of view. The Department continues to be highly productive with its clinical activities and grants. It has been difficult and tedious navigating the unpredictable world of NIH funding but, fortunately, we have succeeded with the renewal of our Brain Tumor SPORE grant and our Program Project Grant in Neuro-oncology. Our cerebrovascular, epilepsy and functional, trauma, spine, skull base, and pediatric programs remain strong and vital and we continue to build upon these efforts. We are delighted to have introduced our new California Center for Pituitary Disorders which carries on the tradition in Pituitary Surgery Excellence established by Charlie Wilson over 30 years ago. We are building a partnership with the Kaiser Sacramento Neurosurgery Group and will merge our programs via residency training so that the residents can learn and appreciate a system built upon the fundamental aspects of resource utilization. I am honored to join the AANS Board of Directors and become a member of the ABNS. I look forward to serving organized Neurosurgery in these two important capacities. On the family side, Joan, Lindsay and Alex are doing well. Lindsay graduated from Penn and will become part of Teach for America in NYC for two years. She remains interested in Public Policy as it relates to Education. Alex has finished his first year in the Engineering School at Penn and wants to work in the area of Mechanical Engineering. Joan and I are playing, if you call it that, golf, and have found a wonderful new life on the links. It is a humbling experience, but, we will keep working at it.

PETER M. BLACK, M.D., Ph.D.



FRANC D. INGRAHAM
PROFESSOR OF NEUROSURGERY
Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

FOUNDING CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSURGERY
Brigham and Women's Hospital
NEUROSURGEON-IN-CHIEF, EMERITUS
Children's Hospital
CHIEF OF NEUROSURGICAL ONCOLOGY
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

July 10, 2007

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., MD
Secretary, American Academy of Neurological Surgeons,
Washington University
Department of Neurosurgery
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

Dear Fellow Academicians:

July 1st marked an important transition for me as I stepped away from my role as neurosurgeon-in-chief at Brigham and Women's Hospital to devote myself to clinical care, international work and research. A large impetus for this change was the realization that academic neurosurgeons face major administrative problems as outlined in a talk at the Academy in Germany in 2005. I eagerly look forward to increased participation in international neurosurgery, particularly in developing countries and the WFNS. I am particularly interested in the obligation of advanced countries to provide guidance to countries still in the process of development. At the BWH, our baton of leadership has been passed into the capable hands of Dr. Art Day, who will do a great job. I continue to do clinical work and be the Ingraham Professor of Neurosurgery at Harvard Medical School.

In our family, Katharine has been named the priest-in-charge of the Church of St. John the Evangelist on Beacon Hill and continues to serve on the General Board of Examining Chaplains of the Episcopal Church (the equivalent of the ABNS).

Among our children, Dia has returned to the classroom where she is pursuing an MBA in the Darden School at the University of Virginia. Katy, one of our twins, continues her pulmonary fellowship at Johns Hopkins and is looking forward to her marriage next summer. Her sister Libby continues as an associate at the Boston law firm of Wilmer Hale doing corporate law. Peter Thomas continues to live in Shanghai and work as a "Cool Hunter", defining marketing trends that will characterize the new China. Christopher is developing his linguistic expertise, considering a number of options for future work.

Unfortunately I will miss the October meeting due to a previous commitment to speak at the 5th Asian Society of Neuro-Oncology in Istanbul. I look forward to seeing all the Academicians next year, however, and send best wishes for a wonderful 2008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter M. Black'.

Peter M. Black, MD, PhD



55 Fruit Street, White 1205
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2696
Tel: 617 726-6156, Fax: 617 724-7407

Lawrence F. Borges, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Neurological Surgery
Director, Neurosurgical Spine Service

June 21, 2007

Dear Academicians:

This has been and continues to be an exciting year for the Borges household. Elizabeth married a wonderful man, Eric Harstad last September. She is currently completing her second year in pediatric residency at the Loyola University School of Medicine in Chicago. Eric continues his work as a corporate attorney for a telecommunications firm. Her twin sister, Allison, will be married this September to another terrific young man, Christopher Mason, also of Chicago. Allison had worked for Harpo Productions, but left earlier this year to expand her experience with Edelman Media Services. Chicago is a wonderful city and we have enjoyed visiting. We hope, however, to entice the girls and their husbands back to the Boston area. We are blessed to be adding two spectacular young men to our family.

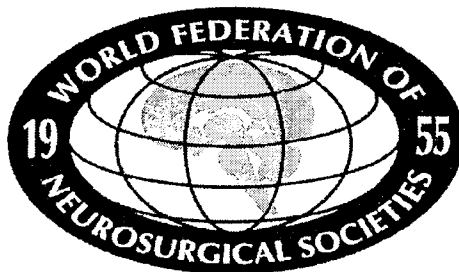
Larry Jr. has completed his second year of medical school at the University of Southern California and will be embarking upon his clinical rotations. He has enjoyed all of the different aspects of medicine thus far, including the southern California surf. It will be fascinating to see what specialty will be his final choice. His younger brother Fred will be a senior at Tufts University this fall. He spent last fall in Madrid, Spain which was an enriching experience. His inclination is towards business and he is spending the summer in Washington, DC working for JPG Management Company.

Susan continues as a reading specialist in the Winchester public school system, which she enjoys greatly. My work at Mass. General continues to percolate along. We continue to add to our large series of spinal tumors and endeavor to reduce the neurological sequelae of the surgery. We look forward to seeing everyone in Las Vegas.

Best regards,

Larry & Susan

WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES



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For the attention of Dr. R. Dacey – Secretary,
Mrs. Mary Jean and Dr. Richard Morawetz,
Mrs. Bonnie and Dr. Nick Hopkins

Brussels, May 21st, 2007.

Dear Dr. Dacey,
Dear Mrs and Dr. Morawetz,
Dear Mrs and Dr. Hopkins,

Due to many commitments as President of the WFNS and almost the preparation of the WFNS Interim Meeting to be held in Nagoya from November 17th to 21st, 2007, I shall not be able to attend the annual Academy Meeting at the Ritz-Carlton Lake Las Vegas hotel in Henderson, Nevada.

Please accept my apologies.

Sincerely yours,

Jacques Brotchi, M.D., PH.D.
President of the WFNS

10

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July 15, 2007

Dear Academicians,

It has been a great year at the Neurological Institute. Don Quest completed a highly successful year as President of the AANS with a particularly inspiring Presidential Address. Likewise, Bob Solomon finished his tenure as President of the ABNS, leaving it a little bit better than when he found it. As far as fun activities, we enjoyed hosting the Fourth annual NY Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament to benefit pediatric brain tumor research. With the help of George Steinbrenner and the NY Yankees, we managed to raise substantial funds for this worthwhile cause. In addition, we provided some fun and healthy competition for 12 neurosurgical programs along the east coast (NYU, Mt Sinai, Einstein, Cornell, Penn, Emory, Harvard, Yale, Duke, Hopkins & Jefferson). For the second straight year, the Columbia team managed to lose in the finals. (I forget who the winners were – I think they were from Philadelphia).

The Bruce household is doing well. Oldest son, Zack, is working for a non-profit organization that provides low interest loans to Latin-American businesses in the Washington Heights area of Manhattan. This provides him the day job to support his music habit as a rising rock and roll drummer in the city. Second son, Sam, just graduated from Colgate and is seeking gainful employment to support his music habit as well. His band recently released their first CD on I-Tunes and will be playing several clubs in the city this summer. Rachel started her first year at the University of Michigan. She is still rehabbing from a torn ACL that cut short her high school varsity basketball and softball career. Eliza begins her junior year in high school as the last remaining dependent. Becky keeps it all together so I can live "the Dream".

Regards to all,

Jeff and Becky Bruce



Thomas
Jefferson
University | Jefferson
University
Physicians

William A. Buchheit, MD
Professor Emeritus
Department of Neurological Surgery

Friends,

During the past year Christa and I have spent about 50% of our time at our home in Northern Germany which serves as a base for travel around Europe (e.g. Switzerland, Austria, France, and England). Several friends from the USA visited us, which made it more like home (USA). The invitation is extended to all our friends who are roaming around Europe.

Last Fall, our trip over was delayed for some time when I developed a UTI which rapidly led to septic shock and a close call. I spent a week in the Neuro ICU where I got a taste of our own Medicine. The team led by Robert Rosenwasser and Rodney Bell the Neuro Intensivist saved the day and more.. Interestingly, when I was the sickest, I had no concept of what was happening or could have happen. Thanks to my friends I am here.

Perhaps the most interesting trip for us was a trip to Dubai. We divided our week between the Burj al Arab, the worlds only 7 Star Hotel in the city of Dubai, and the El Maha Resort built in a Oasis out in the desert. The hotel lived up to its reputation. Service at a level we had never experienced and room (suite) to match. We had our own butler (as did everyone) and a great view out into the Gulf. Of interest, the piano player in the bar is from Philadelphia, having grown up 2 blocks from Temple University Hospital - my old stomping grounds.

The desert was different from what one would expect - full of life of all sorts - flowers, birds, and many large animals like the Orix ...like a large goat with long horns. And of course camels, which were available for rides out into the sand, but it looked like a long fall if he got mad, so we just watched. They also had falcons and eagles which were trained for hunting and flew free. Very interesting... could not have been better.

After the desert we went skiing in Austria with the kids. They skied, we watched. Nice contrast to the desert.

We also went to the German Academy Meeting in May, held in Hannover at Madjid Samii's institute, and then to the SUN Meeting in London. The friends are now more interesting than the surgery.

As I write this we are back in Philadelphia, planning to return to Germany at the end of August. Next we have a house in the French Riviera in September, where we will be with some of the kids. Ergo we will miss the meeting in October.

Such it is. A tough life for a retired Neurosurgeon...

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German Cell--- from USA 011 -49-170-537-2323

Give a call and/or visit...

Bill and Christa Buchheit

Founded 1824

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Jefferson University
Physicians

18 Richmond Place
New Orleans, LA 70115
June 11, 2007

Dear Round Robin:

The Connollys have had a wonderful year. My mantle cell lymphoma is in remission and I have had no further Herpes Zoster. I am still receiving Retuxin every six months but it is well tolerated. I am fully retired from medical practice and am keeping busy working on the Board of a homestead saving bank and playing a little golf.

Elise keeps busy quilting and making dresses and jumpers for the grand-children and playing bridge.

Our children are all well. Sander is very busy at Columbia and we are looking forward to seeing him at the Las Vegas meeting. Sean, our second son is a gastroenterologist at the Ochsner Clinic and his wife Chrissy is finishing her last year in Ophthalmology. They have a fourteen month old boy named Peter. Paul, our third son and his wife, Carroll, have two little girls, Anna-4+ and Sarah 2+. They live in Dallas and Paul works in a hedge fund. Our daughter Patty and her husband David recently moved from Madison Wisconsin to Houston where David works as a comptroller for Ameron International. They have one little girl named Natalie who will be one year this month. Christopher, our fourth son lives in New Orleans and works as a financial officer for HRI...a company that restores historic buildings all over the USA. Jim, our youngest son is practicing Otolaryngology in Destin, Florida.

Elise and I looking forward to seeing everybody at this fall's meeting.

Ed Connolly

E. Sander Connolly, Jr.

710 W, 168th Street

#72

New York, NY 10032

July 16, 2007

Dear Fellow Academicians:

Another year. Another chance: to reflect on good fortune, and all that I've learned. First, on the fortune front, while I wasn't lucky enough to have any of my crazy, excellent inventions make it to market; I also didn't have to deal with any irate customer calls or any product liability claims. On balance, this made for a very good year, and led me to question whether perhaps the "idea-place" is a better place than the marketplace after all.

On a more practical note, I also learned this year that a "gumba" is a salmon colored frozen concoction, part strawberry, part banana, part pineapple that as it melts in a resident's hand and drips on your carpet makes it hard to concentrate on giving sound career advice.

I also learned that just because my partner, Saadi Ghatan can do a flip turn in a swimming pool's shallow end doesn't mean that I can do so safely. I'd like to think a fellowship or a certificate of additional training would have helped, but I'm not sure.

I learned that weeds are actually a gardener's best friend and are a ready source of meaning for those in constant search of it.

I also learned that all new music is not "new music" and that, to the untrained ear, the simple tuning of an instrument can be mistaken for a song.

I am also embarrassed to admit that I've learned a lot about sandbars and the flooding of small outboard engines. Fortunately, I learned those lessons alone, which is how I also learned the rather painful lesson that the world of petty thievery is completely flat. That is to say, on both sides of the Atlantic, a wallet left in one's coat in an operating suite/room/theatre will reliably be stripped of all local currency. All foreign currency will be left behind, as it is just too much hassle to actually stand in line at a bank to exchange even pilfered money.

Well, I actually learned a few other things, but I'm saving the really good ones - like how to best play the quarter slots (ala Sean Lavine) - for when I see you in Lake Las Vegas.

All the best for a safe and healthy summer,

Sander



University Health Care

Neurosurgery

William T. Couldwell, M.D., Ph.D.
Department Chair

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Paul A. House, M.D.
Randy L. Jensen, M.D., Ph.D.
Joel D. MacDonald, M.D.
Meic H. Schmidt, M.D.
Richard H. Schmidt, M.D., Ph.D.
Kenneth S. Yonemura, M.D.

Pediatric Neurosurgery

Marion L. Walker, M.D.
Douglas L. Brockmeyer, M.D.
John R.W. Kestle, M.D.
Jay Riva-Cambrin, M.D.

Complex Spinal Neurosurgery

Ronald I. Apfelbaum, M.D.
Andrew T. Dailey, M.D.
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Corey Ames, N.P.
Mary Kay Clark, PA-C
Marlena D. Dover, R.N.
Melody Fairbourne, R.N.
Holly K. Hill, R.N.
T'Ann Ularich, N.P.



Comprehensive Care for
Brain and Spine Disorders

July 15, 2007

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It has been a good year for us here in Utah. Our Department continues to grow. Luckily they are a good group; I run to just keep up with most of them and really just try to stay out of their way (nobody can accuse me of being a micromanager). I am especially pleased that Doug Brockmeyer has become the inaugural recipient of the newly endowed Walker Chair in Pediatric neurosurgery. We have recently moved our academic offices into our new Neurosciences building, and are in the process of remodeling the clinic and operating rooms to open this fall.

On a personal note, our family life is hectic. Our house is an absolute menagerie- 4 dogs (all shapes and sizes, and the kids keep adopting more), 2 birds, rabbits, fish, assorted small rodents, etc... I thank Heavens every day for my wife. Our teenage twins, Mitch and Sandrine, are competitive skiers, and spend much of their year training and traveling for meets. Both qualified for and competed successfully in the Junior Olympics this year. Our youngest daughter, Genevieve, the bohemian in the family, has no interest in competitive winter sports but loves to ride her horse, and is more balanced than any of us. Marie continues to work part time in her pediatric endocrinology practice and spends the rest of her time as chauffeur. This year marked completion of my 10th trip down the length of the Baja peninsula on our ritual bicycle trip, and let me tell you it does not get easier in middle age- after I finish I wonder why I ever do it for the next 6 months.

Marie and I feel blessed with our family and health, and a great Department to work with to boot. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meeting.

With best regards,

Bill

Bill and Marie Couldwell

Department of Neurosurgery
175 North Medical Drive East
Salt Lake City, UT 84132

School of Medicine

Department of Neurology
and Neurological Surgery

Neurological Surgery

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Henry G. and Edith R. Schwartz Professor
and Chairman of Neurosurgery

Neurosurgeon-in-Chief
Barnes-Jewish Hospital

July 10, 2007

Dear Fellow Academicians:

We have had a good year here in St. Louis. Corinne and I are doing well. Our daughter Elizabeth just graduated from Stanford Business School where she received her MBA degree. She is now back in St. Louis and will begin work for Emerson, a large manufacturing company here in St. Louis in August. Our son Ralph, after graduating from Washington University last spring, has headed to Charlotte North Carolina and is working there for a commercial real-estate developer. He is really enjoying his work and seems to have found his life's calling, as best we can tell. He likes living in Charlotte.

Things are continuing to go well in the Department and we are just about to install a 1.5 Tesla IMRIS two-suite operating room, which I think should allow us to do some interesting research in a variety of areas.

I am holding up pretty well. I have had a couple of athletic injuries this year and I should know better by this point. I was lucky enough to have my first hole-in-one while playing golf in St. Louis in June and this was really quite a thrill. It obviously has much more to do with being lucky than athletic, but it was fun none-the-less.

Corinne and I look forward to seeing all of you in Las Vegas.

With best regards,



Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Schwartz Professor and Chairman

RGD/js

Mailing Address:
Neurological Surgery
Washington University School of Medicine
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(314) 362-3571 FAX: (314) 362-2107



5 July 2007

Dear Fellow Academicians,

Fortunately the recent past has been kind to the Dan clan. Adrienne continues to play tennis and work as a guide (Docent) at the Art Gallery of New South Wales despite her back surgery and hip replacement a couple of years ago. Her time is increasingly sought by our grandchildren who are all extraordinarily devoted to her.

Our eldest daughter, Sally Dan-Cuthbert, lives next door to us. She is away from home a lot as her work as an art consultant involves frequent travel. She recently rejected an offer to be the Asia-Pacific director of Art for a major New York based bank because the excessive travelling which would be involved. Her husband is always busy as a partner in Price Waterhouse Coopers. Her eldest son is Oliver aged 12 who is half way through his first year of high school and is a keen skateboarder. Christian aged 10 is more bookish but enjoys his tennis.

Our second daughter, Lisa and her husband Michael have two children. Maxim aged 3 enjoys his time at preschool but is desperate to emulate his cousins on their skateboard and scooters. 20 month old Edward is lively and gets frustrated when we don't understand his reasonably enthusiastic attempts at talking. Lisa has resigned from her job as an area manager with a large furniture retailer with a view to setting up a children's furniture retailing business.

Kerrie-Louise is our youngest daughter and will be having her first child about the time of the Academy meeting which is why we send our apologies. Her promotional personnel company continues but she has opened a new field of selling personal alarms to school children and others.

Noel has tried to reduce his work load and would have contracted to private practice but the shortage of neurosurgeons means that his replacement is not yet available. A major project for 2007 is the organisation of the 3rd Australian conference devoted to Glioma to be held in August. Despite the attempt to minimise travelling, there have been a number of commitments internationally in the past twelve months.

In 2006 the Faculty of Medicine at The University of Sydney celebrated it's sesquicentenary. Part of the commemoration include nominating 150 graduates or staff for inclusion in a special book of biographies and Noel was honoured to be included amongst those selected.



His passion for book collecting has met with some important acquisitions in the last year or so. The principal theme is early Australian exploration and settlement and several exciting items have been collected. Apart from early Australiana, the other interests are the literature of two Australian poets: Christopher Brennan, an early 20th Century Australian Poet and David Malouf, a contemporary Australian Poet and Novelist who was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature.

The entire family was delighted when a civic park was named the George Dan Reserve in honour of Noel's grandfather.

We send our best wishes to the Academy and hope to be at next year's meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Noel G. Dan', written in a cursive style.

Professor Noel. G. Dan

Robert J. Dempsey

UWHC Dept of Neurological Surgery
600 Highland Avenue, K4/822
Madison, WI 53792

July 6, 2007

Ralph G. Dacey, MD
Washington University Department of Neurological Surgery
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

Dear Ralph,

RE: Academy Round Robin

Thanks once again for all the work you do for the American Academy of Neurological Surgeons, especially this Round Robin, which keeps us all up-to-date with each other and adds a personal touch to the Academy often absent in other aspects of our work.

I am happy to report that the Dempsey family is well this year, as well as our larger neurosurgery family at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The department continues to grow very nicely now up to fifteen surgeons and twelve Ph.D.'s. We have been fortunate to recruit a new Dean who has been very favorable to work with. We will be opening our new American Family Children's Hospital this month, which is an important milestone for our pediatric neurosurgery program under Benny Iskandar and Leland Albright. The department also should be the beneficiary of an expanded neuroscience floor and a neuroscience ICU to supplement our present facilities. We have managed to keep a good balance between clinical and academic growth with an important milestone being our department now taking over the running of the clinical neuroscience course for the medical students. This represents a profound belief that exposing the brightest of the medical students to our specialty will be extremely important for our continued success as a specialty long into the future.

The Dempsey family is doing very well here in Madison. Diane very much enjoys her teaching with University of Wisconsin's Arboretum. She has been working with curriculum design for various ages and hopes to be able to show some of her friends and colleagues the arboretum on their upcoming visits to Madison. Our daughter Kara continues to progress very nicely toward her PhD here at the University of Wisconsin. This past year she has heavily emphasized her teaching skills, which I am happy to say is a great joy for her. She has managed to also continue to sing with the University chorus. Although she is grown, it is a

delight for Diane and I to have her in Madison when her research does not take her out of the country. Our son Conor has completed his degree at DePaul and has moved to Chicago to pursue his love of media production and writing. As for myself, I continue to be energized by the department, the residents, and faculty, who remain a great group to work with every day. My research and clinical life remain quite active, in spite of the nationwide cutback in NIH funding. At the same time, my work with FIENS has taken on significant new project with development of the first training program in Sub-Saharan Eastern Africa, an area of three hundred million people without neurosurgery training. I have been able to start to work with that group this past year and intend to return again in the near future, to meet with the Minister of Health on curriculum, demonstration surgeries, and certification for training of residents. It is an ambitious project, but seems to be extremely worthwhile and certainly long overdue in coming.

I hope all fellow academians are well. I very much look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meeting.

All the best!

Sincerely,

Robert J. Dempsey, MD
Chairman and Manucher J. Javid
Professor of Neurological Surgery
Department of Neurological Surgery

RJD:lvb

Hans Erich Diemath

Salzburg Landesnerven Clinic
Salzburg, A-5020

Dear Dr.Ralph G.DACEY,jr.! Dear Friends Academicians!

First of all my heartiest greetings to all of you. Time goes by very fast and you are astonished if you count the years, what a big number. If you are old it is more and more important to be healthy. I am lucky that my family and I are protected from serious illness.

The family is allright,all five children and children in law and the 8 grandchildren of mine and 3 from Karoline. My oldest granddaughter is finishing her medical study at the University of Graz. I am now for 10 years professor emeritus and my second career as an expert for medical legal cases goes excellent. I am busy from Vienna to Innsbruck with more than 100 cases a year.

I am often at the supreme court. These activities are very interesting and responsible and are forcing to intellectual work to judge innovations and scientific papers. It is also my anti aging programme.

I was very pleased that in spite of my age - 76 years - I was reelected as chairman of the medical legal commission of the medical chamber of Austria. At our University I am lecturing on events in every day medical life causing liability. I like to be with young students that is another part of my anti aging strategy.

It is a pleasure for me, that I am still invited very often to academic lectures and congresses. I am Honorary President of the European Academy for Multidisciplinary Neurotraumatology, last annual meeting in Warsaw, this year in Rome, where I met many collegues from the USA. The daughter of my wife, Dr.Michaela Mathews, is ophthamologist in Baltimore. At Christmas she was with her family in Vienna, we had a big party in our house.

In spring we had wonderful holidays in Oman, where the world is still o.k., without terror and threat.

Unfortunately our beloved Golden Retriever dog Sam has died. He could not stand the extreme high temperature of last year. It was a real tragedy and we decided at once to take a new Golden Retriever dog named Nero, a high decorated stud dog. He is a special lovely dog and is now a member of our family.

I am very sorry, that we can not attend the meeting at the Ritz-Carlton lake hotel in Henderson, Nevada.I am very happy that by the ROUND ROBIN LETTER my connection with the American Academicians colleges is still upright all through 48 years.

With the very best wishes and heartiest greeting to all of you for ever, Hans Erich and Karoline.

July 5, 2007

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Washington University Dept of Neurosurgery
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Dear Ralph,

Greetings to yourself, all academicians and their families from the MNI (now known locally as the "Neuro" – particularly by Montreal taxi drivers). We have had an exciting year under our new Director, David Colman who hails from New York's Mount Sinai Hospital and is an expert on the mysteries of myelin formation. An extension now under construction of our 1984 Brain Imaging Center will provide new space for clinical and research activities, including two research MRIs, a MEG and a laboratory for small animal imaging equipped with MRI and PET. Two months ago the Neuro was recognized as one of the seven Canadian National Centers of Excellence for biomedical research, which means happily extra funding for our special research projects. We are about to launch in addition a Capital Campaign that will support our scientific infrastructure as well as endowment for clinical research fellowships – the family of Mark Rayport have already funded a memorial Fellowship in his name – Mark was a graduate of the MNI in the late 50s who went on to a distinguished career in epilepsy surgery at Toledo - his translation of Talairach's Stereotaxic Atlas has been used widely in brain imaging. Another Fellowship will be named for Theodore Rasmussen who succeeded Wilder Penfield as Director of the Institute and who was a world authority on epilepsy surgery. We had a most enthusiastic response to our campaign from the staff of the Institute and also our former residents before launching the campaign publicly.

My main project now is to complete the history of the MNI for the past seventy years – a major task but a most fascinating one. I find the fact that I came to the Neuro in 1942 as a medical student, only eight years after the Institute had opened, a distinct advantage. As secretary of the Montreal Neurological Society in the late 1940s and early 1950s, I had also the fortunate opportunity to correspond and meet with many of the leading neurosurgeons of that time – Earl Walker, Paul Bucy, Percival Bailey, Ken McKenzie, James White, and, from overseas, Sir Geoffrey Jefferson, Norman Dott as well as a host of distinguished neurologists and neuroscientists, who gave talks at the Society. Perhaps I did not realize it at the time, but that was Neuro-history in the making.

I continue my interest in Thomas Willis, my most recent project being a display on Sir William Osler and Thomas Willis in one of the cabinets at the Osler Library, during the meeting in Montreal this past spring of the American Osler Society. Some of you may know that the Osler Library benefited greatly in recent years from major renovations and upgrading, thanks to a generous grant from John McGovern of Galveston who was a keen Oslerian and admirer also of Wilder Penfield.

This year marks the centenary of the publication of Sherrington's Silliman Memorial Lectures at Yale University which appeared under the title *The Integrative Action of the Nervous System* – and profoundly influenced the field of neurophysiology. I joined other authors to contribute an anniversary annotation in the journal *Brain*, in which I pointed out the enduring influence of Sherrington on the career of Wilder Penfield as a physiological neurosurgeon.

Our older son Christopher, a cardiovascular surgeon at the Toronto General Hospital, has just been awarded an endowed chair in clinical trials and outcomes research. Chris was President of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society during the past year. His older son, Mike, an engineer graduate of McGill, works on the construction of public buildings in Ontario. His younger son, Andrew, has shown a flair for investment business and is co-authoring a book on successful Canadian business figures titled "Kick Start". Pat, our oldest

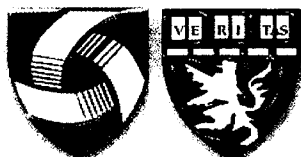
daughter, after devoting many years in helping native women to understand and establish their legal rights, has returned to Simon Fraser University in Vancouver for a Ph.D program in anthropology. Our middle daughter, Janet, continues at Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama as Professor of voice instruction. She recently had a great boost as voice consultant to double-bill New York plays starring F. Murray Abraham in "The Merchant of Venice" and Marlowe's "The Jew of Malta". Our younger son, Michael, works hard as a Crown Attorney in the Ontario Justice Department out of Toronto and is concerned particularly with the rights and problems of mental patients in relation to criminal law. Outside the law, he has become an aficionado of the accordion, attending the Annual International squeezings at Montmagney, Quebec. Our youngest daughter, Anna, is nursing at a rehabilitation center in Montreal and with her husband Bernard has taken an apartment in our complex which is very pleasant for these two octogenarians. My "Faith of a physician" (to paraphrase Sir Thomas Browne) and my loving companion for over sixty years, continues her part-time nursing at the nearby psychiatric hospital of McGill. I enjoy carrying on my research, teaching and writing at the Neuro, with time out for the occasional coronary stent or cardiac valve replacement which have all so far gone well.

Have a great meeting in the Fall and pass on our warmest greetings to members and old friends in the Academy.

Bill Feindel

William Feindel, OC, MDCM, DPhil.,
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Robert M. Friedlander, MD, MA
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Associate Director of Cerebrovascular Surgery



Brigham and Women's Hospital
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July 23, 2007

Dear Fellow Academicians:

It is a great honor to be elected as a member of the Academy of Neurological Surgeons. I am thankful to the membership, the leadership, and in particular, Art Day, for sponsoring my nomination (I guess I should thank him, too, since he is my new boss). I look forward to sharing experiences with all of you for many years to come.

Since this is my first Round Robin letter, I would like to introduce my family to you. My wife, Eugenia, is the person who keeps it all together in our family. Eugenia is of Greek origin, a great perk for me because among many other things, we get to visit Greece often. If you are not so lucky to have married a Greek woman, I am sure that Eugenia will be happy to provide advice on not to miss locations. Eugenia graduated from Harvard College, and worked as a regulatory lawyer in the energy field. Currently she is focusing on the family as well as a number of entrepreneurial ventures. We have two children, Henry (7) and Alexandra (5). Henry is an avid chess player (I am writing this letter as I am waiting for him in a tournament). Alexandra loves ballet and is a fantastic gymnast.

We are having a very active summer. Prior to attending the CNS summer executive committee meeting (which was in Tucson), we traveled through Arizona. We visited the Hoover dam, the Grand Canyon, and Lake Powell. I highly recommend Lake Powell, where we rented a house boat and boated amidst the most glorious landscape of canyons and serene water. Henry and Alexandra were so excited when we caught the same fish with both their hooks. We are also traveling to Venezuela to visit my parents. In Venezuela, we'll go to the Amazon, as well as fly on a DC-3 over Angel Falls. I did this once and it is a natural spectacle. The tour guides state that the DC-3 is one of the hardest planes ever constructed. I hope they are right. Before going to Venezuela, I will be visiting Helsinki to see some great friends (Drs. Hernisniemi and Niemela), as well as to evaluate a PhD thesis. I am looking forward to this trip.

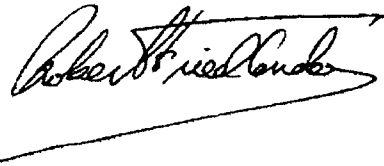
Professionally, I continue to enjoy all that academic Neurosurgery has to offer. I remain busy clinically in a vascular and tumor practice. I just had the extremely fulfilling experience of publishing in the New England Journal of Medicine an article on AVMs. In my laboratory, we continue to study the mechanisms of neuronal cell death and are in the process of evaluating a number of drugs targeting neurologic diseases. One of the drugs we identified, minocycline, as effective in Huntington's disease and ALS is undergoing evaluation in a number of international

human clinical trials. We are also beginning to evaluate minocycline as a protective agent in carotid endarterectomy.

Another highlight of Neurosurgery Academy is the ability to participate in organized neurosurgery and impact the career path of younger colleagues. As the Chair of the Publications and of the Research committees at the CNS, we are instituting a number of exciting new initiatives that I hope will have a positive impact. Additionally, directing the RUNN course with Allan Friedman has been a great gift for me, especially since it was at the RUNN course where I first learned about apoptosis, the scientific field that I have now pursued for the past 13 years.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next Academy meeting, and to many years of sharing.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Friedlander", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Robert Friedlander

July 1, 2007

Dear Ralph and Members of the Academy,

We begin this letter with sadness at the loss of our dear friend and colleague, Buz Hoff. Neurosurgery has been diminished by his passing; to Diane, our thoughts and memories of good times together.

For Bob and for our family, 2007 has been a memorable year. Bob has had one of his most productive and busiest professional years. He was gratified that the neurosurgery residency program at The Methodist Hospital received full accreditation in June 2007. Building a new training program, with David Baskin as Program Director, has been challenging and rewarding. Jonathan Zhang has just joined the faculty after completing neurosurgical and endovascular training at Emory with Dan Barrow and Jacques Dion. Paul Holman joined the faculty one year ago and is developing complex spine surgery.

Bob served as Visiting Professor at Stanford University School of Medicine; at Walter Reed Army Medical Center; at Georgetown University; at the University of Louisville; and at Tel Hashomer Hospital in Tel Aviv, Israel in March, where he was also a guest of the Israel Society of Neurological Surgeons at their meeting in Jerusalem. We were very happy to see Zeev Feldman, who had taken part of his training with us in Houston, taking a leadership role in European neurosurgery as secretary of the Israel Society. In addition, Bob lectured at the ASIA meeting in Tampa and participated in two courses at the Cushing meeting. In April he was a guest speaker at the Texas Association of Neurological Surgeons meeting; in June, a guest of the Michigan Association of Neurological Surgeons whose president is Bob's former resident Mick Perez-Cruet.

By far the most meaningful event of the year was that of receiving the Harvey Cushing Medal at the AANS meeting in April. It was a genuine thrill to be recognized by his peers for his contributions and service to Neurosurgery, and to be able to share this recognition with our three daughters, Amy Coburn, Kate Rose, and Jennifer Oakley as well as the two grandchildren who were able to make the trip, Claire and Connor. For this recognition we are most grateful.

Bob's research efforts have been directed at the problems of spinal cord injury and the establishment of a network of centers in the US and Canada, the North American Clinical Trials Network (NACTN) with seven affiliated centers at present. As Principal Investigator, he has obtained significant funding from the Department of Defense for the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation to support clinical trials using new treatments for SCI patients.

Bob is also actively involved in planning for the new home for the Methodist Neurological Institute in the new Methodist Hospital scheduled for completion in 2012.

We have been gratified to see our children and grandchildren taking on leadership roles in the community and in their schools. Amy has just completed her term as President of the Houston Ophthalmology Society and has been recognized at the national level for her leadership in delivering eye care to the victims of Hurricane Katrina who were relocated to Houston from Louisiana. More recently, she received an award for a new project, Eye Care for the Homeless, funded by Baylor College of Medicine, The Methodist Hospital and the city of Houston. Her husband Michael Coburn, program director for the Urology Residency at BCM, has recently been appointed to the Residency Review Committee in Urology of the ACGME.

And of course the grandchildren! Genes that we did not know existed in our family are producing athletes—Paige, who is 11, competed in the Junior Olympics held this June in Memphis. She came in right at the middle of the 11-12 year old group in her events, trampoline and double-mini (a complicated event involving two small trampolines and a series of back handstands). She has been picked by her school coach for pole vaulting as well as track in her upcoming grade 6. Jeff, our oldest grandchild at almost 16, has exercised enough to qualify for the wrestling team as well as varsity football. Joel will compete in tennis and Laura in volleyball in the August Maccabi Games, with participants from all over the world competing in Houston. Connor plays baseball and what he lacks in power he makes up in accurate pitching. Claire is participating in all outdoor sports at Camp Song-A-Deewin of Keewaydin in Vermont this summer! William, who just turned 1, is off the charts for height and weight, 33 pounds and 31 inches at his one-year checkup. He has already been tapped for football and basketball by the local school coaches.

Ellin is trying to keep up with everyone, active on several community boards, and devoting time to advisory committees at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the University of Houston-Clear Lake. We have taken grandchildren on various trips; to Washington, DC; to Acoma Pueblo and the Bosque del Apache bird reserve in southern New Mexico; to Mackinac Island in Michigan; and trout fishing in northern New Mexico. At Christmas, we were snowed in for three days in Santa Fe, a novel experience for Houston children.

We hope that the year will be a good one for all of you, and we send our very best wishes for happiness and good health

Ellin and Bob Grossman



Washington University in St. Louis

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Neurology
and Neurological Surgery

Neurological Surgery

Robert L. Grubb, Jr., M.D.
Herbert Lourie Professor

Dear Ralph,

July 6, 2007

Those of you who receive the Christmas update of Grubb family news –and bother to actually read it – know that last August Bob had a heart “situation” while we were on vacation at Pawleys Island. It led to an emergency pacemaker which led to some complications and a very scary few months. All kinds of nasty medicines with all kinds of possible nasty side effects were administered and must have worked, because he has stopped all of them and seems to be ticking away with no atrial fibrillation.

Another momentous event of last August was the birth of Robert L. Grubb, IV to son Robert and wife Jessica and sister 3-year-old Louisa. Louisa still tries to give him away on occasion. They live 20 minutes away and are an ongoing joy.

While laid up, Bob planned with the help of Spanish-speaking daughter Mary Connell (a long distance arrangement from New York) a 2 week trip to Spain for the three of us this May. We all loved it. First class flight, the result of years of frequent flyer miles not used, quaint old hotels, Paradors with fabulous views, great art, a lovely 2 days on the Costa del Sol in a hotel high above the Mediterranean Sea, sharing a bottle of good Rioja wine at delicious dinners each night, and our first and last bullfight – why do the Spanish love them so?

Maybe it was the heart thing; maybe he enjoyed leisure in Spain; maybe the fun, but nostalgia of our 50th high school reunions back in Charlotte; or some of each; that started Bob thinking of the big “R” word. He’s done it! He announced he will retire in July of ’08. He will do no more surgery – he is going to miss it and still claims he can operate rings around those young “whipper snappers.” However, he did not want the residents saying in a couple of years, “You’d better go help Dr. Grubb, he’s losing it.” Better to stop at the top of your game – but he still has a research study to finish and surely they can find something for him to do to keep him out of the house – “For better or worse but not for lunch.”

Looking forward to seeing you in Las Vegas at the craps table – maybe not.

Julia



**Bidding Committee for
the 15th WFNS World Congress of Neurosurgery in Seoul, Korea**

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Phone: +82-2-2072-3381, Fax: +82-2-744-2339
E-mail: 2013wfns@paran.com / Website: www.wfns2013seoul.org

July 13, 2007

Dear Fellow Academicians,

I would like to offer my best wishes to my friends and fellow Academicians. It was a pleasure sharing quality time with you at Atlanta last year and I am looking forward to meeting you all in Las Vegas this year.

This year's gathering is meaningful for me because one of my dearest Korean neurosurgeons, Dr. Hee-Won Jung who is the current president of the Korean Neurosurgical Society, becomes member of the academy. I cordially ask you to show your warm welcome and friendship to Dr. Jung.

As the Chairman of the Bidding Committee for the 2013 WFNS World Congress of Neurosurgery in Seoul, Korea, I have prepared the strategies and action plans with our committee members. Only 4 months have been left to be chosen for the 2013 WFNS World Congress.

Twenty four years ago, the Korean Neurosurgical Society bid competitively with India for the 1989 World Congress. We were not chosen at that time, perhaps because our Society was rather young, having modest international stature. However, we can tell you with every confidence that the Korea of today is totally different from the Korea of 1983. Korea and the KNS now have the infrastructure, have the organization, have the capability and experience, and most of all have the sincerest desire to host the World Congress. We wish to be the third major Asian venue, following Japan (1973), and India (1989), to host a successful World Congress.

On the family side, me and my wife are planning to travel northern Europe during the summer vacation. In fact, it is my last summer vacation at the Seoul National University due to I am retiring from the university at February 2008. I might work at the other hospital after my retirement and my wife also continues her practice as an otorhinolaryngologist.



**Bidding Committee for
the 15th WFNS World Congress of Neurosurgery in Seoul, Korea**

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Il-Kyu, my only son who is working at the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Seoul National University Hospital as an assistant professor successfully finished his Ph.D. degree. Here is the photo I took after Il-Kyu's Ph.D. award ceremony.



I am working hard for the bidding campaign and hope my fellow academicians will support me to our effort to host the 2013 WFNS World Congress in Seoul.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Las Vegas.

Best regards,

Dae-Hee Han, M.D., Ph.D.
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Kevin Cockroft, MD, MSc, FACS
Endovascular & Cerebrovascular Surgery

James R. Connor, PhD
Vice Chairman-Neurosurgical Research

Mark S. Dias, MD, FAAP
Vice Chairman-Clinical, Pediatric Neurosurgery

Carlo M. de Luna, MD
Neurosurgery at Wyoming Valley

Elana Farace, PhD
Director of Clinical Research

James R. Fick, MD
Neurosurgery at University Park

Bruce J. Gluckman, PhD
Neural Engineering

Kimberly S. Harbaugh, MD
Peripheral Nerve Surgery

Mark Iantosca, MD
Pediatric Neurosurgery

Paul Kalapos, MD
Endovascular Neurosurgery-Neuroradiology

Uhnoh Kim, PhD
Neurosurgical Research, Neural Engineering

Sang Y. Lee, PhD
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A. B. Madhankumar, PhD
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James McInerney, MD
Stereotactic, Functional and Radiosurgery

Robert B. Page, MD, FACS
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Stephanie M. Patton, PhD
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G. Timothy Reiter, MD
Spine Surgery and Neurotrauma

Steven J. Schiff, MD, PhD
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Jonas M. Sheehan, MD
Neuro-oncology, Skull Base Surgery, Radiosurgery

Elizabeth H. Simz, MD
Neuro Critical Care

Xinsheng Wang, MD, PhD
Neurosurgical Research

Adjunct Appointments

Philip J. Blatt, PhD
Terence Patterson, PhD
Vijay Varadan, PhD

Ralph Dacey, Jr. M.D.
Secretary, American Academy of Neurological Surgery
Washington University Department of Neurosurgery
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

June 23, 2007

Dear Ralph,

This has been another exciting year for Penn State Neurosurgery. The Neurosurgery Department continues to grow. We now have 14 neurosurgical full time clinical faculty and nine full time research faculty in the department.

Since last year we have recruited an additional pediatric neurosurgeon, Mark Iantosca, an additional endovascular neurosurgeon, Akash Agarwal and Philip Villanueva, who will serve as our Director of Neurotrauma and Critical Care. We have also hired Jeff Hollier, PhD as our Director of Neurosurgical Education. Jeff's training is in cognitive psychology. He will work closely with the other neurosurgery faculty and residents to develop the resident and medical student neurosurgical curriculum and to improve our teaching skills.

A new 16 bed Neuro-ICU opened this Fall, immediately adjacent to our 15 bed Neuro Intermediate Care unit and the Neuro inpatient unit. New office space, an outpatient imaging center and a multidisciplinary, Neuromusculoskeletal Clinic building for Neurosurgery, Neurology, Orthopedics and Rehabilitation Medicine are scheduled to open in March 2008.



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<http://www.pennstateneurosurgery.com>

This new space will serve as the hub of a newly created Clinical Neuroscience Institute that includes Neurology, Neurosurgery, Neuroanesthesiology, Neuro Critical Care and Neuropathology. I am happy to report that I have been appointed to serve as the Director of this new multidisciplinary Institute.

On the research front, the Penn State Department of Neurosurgery exceeded six million dollars in external funding this year. Three new faculty members, Steven Schiff, MD, PhD, Bruce Gluckman, PhD and Uhnoh Kim, PhD have been recruited as members of the Penn State Department of Neurosurgery and the Center for Neural Engineering, a joint program of the Departments of Neurosurgery and Engineering Science and Mechanics.

The Neurosurgery Residency program also continues to grow. We received approval from the RRC for additional resident slots and now have 12 residents, one of whom, Sharon Rivas, will be doing an enfolded fellowship in Neurotrauma and Critical Care with Shelly Timmons at the University of Tennessee this year.

This year the Pennsylvania Neurosurgical Society will again be holding its annual meeting in Hershey with Steve Giannotta as our invited guest. The Hershey meetings the last three years have been great successes and we look forward to another successful meeting this year.

Finally, I would like to extend a standing invitation to any Academy members to stop and visit us in Hershey. Kim and I would love to have guests.

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Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery
Professor, Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics
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**Griffith R. Harsh IV, M.D.**

Professor of Neurological Surgery
Stanford Medical School

Brain Tumor Center

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T: 650-725-0701, F: 650-498-4686
Email: gharsh@stanford.edu

July 15, 2007

Dear Fellow Academicians:

Stanford Neurosurgery and the Harsh-Whitman family have had an exciting year. Our Stanford Brain Tumor Program, Cranial Base Surgery Program, and Stanford Pituitary Center have continued to expand. It has been particularly exciting to welcome Ed and Peggy Laws to Stanford. Ed has been able to continue his very active pituitary practice at Stanford without missing a beat. Together, we, with Peter Hwang, a new recruit by the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, have greatly expanded the Endoscopic Section of our Cranial Base Surgery Program. The department continues to grow rapidly in respect to all metrics as Stanford plans are made to replace almost all medical school and hospital buildings.

Meg and I are enjoying having both boys home for the summer. Son Griff, 22, is working this summer for Tesla. The name initially suggested to me that at this late stage he had developed an interest in medicine, but, alas, Tesla makes not MRIs, but rather, all electric, battery powered sports cars which accelerate from zero to 60 in less than 4 seconds. His father will not indulge his request to buy one, but I did tell him that I had a number of neurosurgical buddies who might want one (feel free to contact him at gharsh@princeton.edu). Will, 19, is beginning re-emersion into the academic world with Stanford Summer School after a year of work between high school and college. Meg remains quite busy, having added leadership in Mitt Romney's presidential campaign to her eBay duties. We hope to get away to Telluride for a few long weekends this summer. We also hope that Craig and Griff, both of whom are doing well, will join us at Lake Las Vegas this fall. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Best regards,
Griff

Griffith R. Harsh IV, MD, MBA

July 5, 2007

Dear Fellow Academicians,

The Tufts-New England Medical Center Department of Neurosurgery continues to do well both clinically and on the research front. My job as chairman for the past two years has been made easy by the quality of the attendings, research staff and residents in our department.

In October of last year, we opened the Michael Neely Brain Tumor research lab. This laboratory is being funded by the Cam Neely Foundation for three years. Al Charest PhD was recruited from MIT to direct our brain tumor research effort. Our second research focus is the Tufts-NEMC Cerebrovascular Hemodynamics laboratory. This lab is run by Adel Malek MD PhD, and has been very successful at using computational fluid dynamics to model blood flow around cerebrovascular lesions.

On the personal side, Carolyn and I continue to enjoy living in the Boston area. We recently moved into a new home in Wayland, twenty miles from the center of Boston. Our two daughters, Alexandra (17 yrs) and Erika (16 yrs), have had an excellent year. Alexandra is starting her senior year in high school as is in the process of looking at colleges. Both girls are active in crew. We had a great time attending various regatta's around New England this past spring.

Best Regards,

Carl Heilman MD

July 12, 2007

Dear Fellow Academicians:

The Heros' are doing well. I continue to enjoy much of what Miami has to offer including, at times to Debbie's displeasure, "the Latin thing". There is no question that my Latin and more specifically, Cuban, background, is very helpful in this city. To a large degree, I credit this as one of the most important factors in the large clinical practice that I have developed both from within the greater Miami area as well as from Latin America. One of the great advantages of having a very busy clinical practice is that, without apology, I have learned to "pick and choose" and avoid doing very difficult and very long cases such as petroclival meningiomas, large acoustics, and bypass grafts. What has allowed me that luxury is the good fortune of having as a colleague, a world class surgeon, Jacques Morcos, our fellow academician, who never says "no" when I refer a case to him. Another factor contributing to the improvement in my "quality of life" is the change in my aneurysm practice which now, thanks to my endovascular colleagues, consists mostly of unruptured and good grade aneurysms. No more fighting with the "red, swollen, angry" brain or postoperative vasospasm in high grade patients (by and large, these are now coiled).

Our department continues to grow, sometimes in spite of my best judgment which at times tells me that we are big enough and that an increase both in the number of faculty and in the number of cases does not necessarily mean better education for the residents, which as many of you know has always been one of my highest priorities. We have recently added to the faculty one of our superstar residents, Ali Sultan, who has had a full endovascular training in addition to a fellowship with Robert Spetzler. We are currently searching for a second neurosurgeon with a primary endovascular interest and in addition, Jacques Morcos is about to complete endovascular training which he is managing to do in spite, or as I should say in addition to, his busy surgical practice. We are also bringing into the faculty Ron Benveniste, who trained at Mt. Sinai with Carl Post and has subsequently completed a neuro-oncology fellowship at MD Anderson. Additionally, Mike Wang, who did a fellowship in spine with us several years ago and has subsequently risen to stardom at USC, joined us last month. He has become nationally recognized as one of the true experts in minimally invasive spine surgery, an area of expertise that we needed badly. Fortunately, the RRC has granted us an increase in the number of residents which will be very helpful to us and to them.

Debbie continues to be very busy and in fact, as both of us have come to realize, too busy. She is thinking about the possibility of taking one or two days off a week and curtailing her practice which would be difficult for her to do because the patients simply adore her and are constantly sending other patients to see her.

Carlos is now taller than I am and has become quite the athlete. He plays football, basketball, and water polo and truly excels at the last two sports. His academic performance is not as stellar as his athletic feats, but it is hard to complain too much about As and Bs.

To our great relief, our son Rob has completed his four year commitment to the Army without an assignment to the Middle East. He has spent four years of "hardship" stationed at Tripler Hospital in Honolulu and has just moved to Portland where he will be establishing his private practice in physiatry with a major interest in spine and pain. My only regret is that I do not have a good excuse now to go to Hawaii every summer. Elsie and her husband Seth continue to be very happy and they live in a beautiful community (Brunswick) in Maine. They have given us two beautiful grandchildren and the highlight of our year are the two weeks that they come to spend with us every winter. The kids love staying at our condo in Key Biscayne; we just met them for a long weekend in New York State and they are already talking about their visit to Miami next winter.

In brief, we are all well and fortunately healthy. We look forward very much to seeing all of you in Las Vegas.

Roberto



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

L. N. Hopkins, M.D.

*Professor and Chairman of Neurosurgery
Professor of Radiology*

July 2, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

The Hopkins have had another wonderful year. We now have six grandchildren, ages 9 years and under. We will have all of them with us for the month of July, which should be entertaining as well as exhausting. Bonnie is the most amazing grandmother on this planet! Our daughters Margie and Betsy are doing beautifully and, this year, our son Bob was voted the No. 1 ranked analyst in medical technology on Wall Street.

Our Department continues to thrive. We have recruited two more people for a total of 11 staff, in addition to 12 residents and 4 fellows. What is perhaps most exciting for me professionally is my partners Drs. Elad Levy and Adnan Siddiqui. They are both genuine stars in their field of endovascular and vascular neurosurgery. Also extremely gratifying is the fact that many of our former fellows are now assuming leadership positions in vascular neurosurgery throughout the country.

Life is good in Buffalo!

We look forward to seeing everyone in Lake Las Vegas,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike & Ron".

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES DIVISION

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH SCIENCES
AND DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE

8 June 2007

Dear Ralph,

I now understand "relativity"; time moves faster and motion slows the older one gets. Is it really time for another installment of the Round Robin?

Still involved with students and faculty in global health areas. An increasing number of our students, as in many schools, show an interest in global health by selecting overseas electives in their 4th year. We have affiliations with 24 universities in 17 countries on 5 continents. Half of the 40 or so students who do go overseas select non-university affiliated sites in developing countries. In addition, through the Columbia University Earth Institute in collaboration with the UN, first year students have been participating in the Millenium Village program in Africa. As these connections expand we have more foreign medical students on our campus each year; about 54 last year.

I have been involved, too, in organizing a number of International Conferences and we are looking forward to presenting, for the 30th consecutive year, a Basic and Clinical Neuroscience Review course. The 36 annual lectures are available on the worldwide web at no cost

<http://neuroscienceupdate.cumc.columbia.edu>

and we have been impressed with the response; last year 1.5 million "hits" were reported.

The Medical situation in Armenia continues to improve since the devastating earthquake in 1989 and independence of the new republic from the Soviet Union in 1991. As Medical Program Director for the Fund for Armenian relief, I have watched our efforts bear fruit in the areas of postgraduate medical education, curriculum reform, initiating of the first and very effective nationwide CME program in conjunction with the Medical School (YSMU) and Ministry of Health. We have also been the sole support for their National Medical Library. Finally many underutilized, rundown and poorly run hospitals have been closed (about 30% of the total) and a dozen or so others merged with the cost savings available to upgrade the remaining major institutions; an incredible political achievement.

Marion and our children are well. Son David, Professor of Interventional Radiology and Surgery at WashU has just been enticed to move to Stanford, Steve is still teaching in New York City and Jean, a Family Nurse Practitioner is raising our only (brilliant, of course) grandson in Boulder Colorado.

Our department has never been stronger or happier and has a reputation as arguably the best clinical department in our school. We have wonderful young faculty who actually like each other and work together. Bob Solomon is a perfect- in- every way Department Chair. Medical students come with a broader fund of knowledge and more accomplishments under their belts each year. We still “woo” our fair share of P&S students into Neurosurgery; 6 of the graduating class this year.

Our new Dean, now “a year old’ has taken control wisely and set a good tone. New York city is still as great as ever !

Warm regards to all of my colleagues and our friends.

Ed

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'RGD' or similar, written in a cursive style.

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Spain

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July 14, 2007

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

In Lewis Carol's "*Alice's adventures in Wonderland*" the King of Hearts says gravely to the White Rabbit: "*Begin at the beginning and go on till you come to the end: then stop*" I always liked this sentence. It is clear and at the same time it is whimsical. It could be the shortest, yet strongest, account to define a neurosurgical life: introduction, core and conclusion in a sequential fashion. The detail rests in "*then stop*". A nice story should end by itself when still nice. Thus, one should stop before others tell you had to do so, like the Kings advice. Should'nt we admit that most neurosurgeons are somewhat arrogant? Then be so and avoid painful disappointments in the future. They must be difficult to take and one's ego is a delicate fellow always looking for love. A festive retirement at the right moment is the answer: an elegant dinner, excellent wines, many friends, local authorities, scientific celebrities, grateful pupils, pleasant speeches ... This is a superb remedy for a predictable and unavoidable time in one's life.

Did I stop? Yes, I did stop some years ago. Although active neurosurgery belongs to my past, neurosurgical recollections are clearly present and strongly alive. Teachers, colleagues, friends, places, patients, successes and failures... all form part of my current existing self. They come now and again, in vivid colours, to be with me. We can stay together for a long time while I observe my visitor with comforting eyes. What a wonderful encounter! What a cheering gift! I see that neurosurgical doings will remain with me forever.

This is why I can't refuse the opportunity to submit my Round Robin letter. I am in a pretty good shape and socially active. Mariví, my wife for almost 45 years, and myself will be delighted to take care of you if by any chance you come to Barcelona, a trendy town very much in fashion... just like the Isamats.

Sincerely yours,

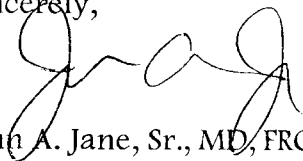
Fabian Isamat

PS. Please note our new address.

ROUND ROBIN LETTER

I have once again dodged the retirement bullet. As of July 1, 2006 Mark Shaffrey took over as the Chairman of the Department, but I remained on as Program Director. Mark is doing a great job as Chairman and I am doing everything I did before except that I don't go to meetings but, as a matter of fact, I never went to meetings anyway. The Department maintains its old organization, namely Wednesday and Saturday Conferences and Sunday School, two years in the lab and a year in New Zealand. Maintaining our academic aspirations has created some problems, but we are working them out. We were all very unhappy about Ed Laws leaving for Stanford, but he goes with our affectionate good wishes and profound appreciation for everything he did for the Department. John Jane, Jr. is doing Pediatrics and Pituitary and Ed Oldfield will be arriving in October. We are fortunate to have a young faculty with Jeff Elias doing functional and epilepsy, Jason Sheehan in the gamma knife and Aaron Dumont with his training in endovascular handling our vascular service.

Sincerely,



John A. Jane, Sr., MD, FRCS(C)
Prof & Director of Neurosurgical Training Program

JAJ:lit

June 22, 2007 Round Robin Letter
Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Washington University Dept of Neurosurgery
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110, U. S. A.

Dear Ralph and Fellow Academicians,

Our family increased in seven members now.

Takeshi has been working as a chairman of Department of Surgery, as well as Neurosurgery in Keio University for those two years. He appreciate his annual busy condition both for management on the large department of surgery and for operation of difficult case of skull base surgery. He enjoy oversea trip to attend international congresses several times per year. He is working as the International Committee Chairman of JNS and the Chairman of WFNS Skull Base Surgery Committee, and his recent project is to establish education centers for developing countries and fellowship authorized by WFNS. His another project is to summarize his vast data of surgical outcome on skull base surgery for those 20 years.

My wife Mieko has a job for management of rental apartment nearby our home. She continues English language school once a week to enjoy intl. congress with Takeshi. Last November she was busy to manage the Lady's Program in the 5th Meningioma Congress held in Mt Fuji National Park, where more than 80 foreign guests and their spouses attended. She did her best to teach Japanese cultures in tea ceremony and Kimono Museum. In the morning of bus tour to Mt Fuji middle station, the hotel area was deeply covered with fog, but it was exciting that we were over the cloud by approaching to the station, overlooking the snowy summit of Mt. Fuji.

Our elder son, Tsuyoshi married last year and living in an apartment in Tokyo. He has been working in a big project of bank computer software in Hitachi company, and always come back his home lately like a typical Japanese husband.

Our junior son, Satoshi married 3 years ago, was working in the Riken Brain Science Institute, and recently entered in a postgraduate course of

physiology in Keio University to study in a field of regenerative medicine. His main research will be targeted in neural stem cell biology. It is our pleasure that Takeshi and Satoshi are working in the same campus of Keio University School of Medicine. He has a very charming daughter of two and half years old, named Haruna. They are living in our apartment, and her grand parents has been attracted by development of her pretty behavior and utterance, being enslaved by the small angel for those 2 years. She has already started English language, and able to speak some English words. Takeshi and Mieko will attend the American Academy Meeting in Las Vegas. We could not attend the meeting for those 3 years for too busy schedule, and it is our pleasure to meet you again this autumn in Las Vegas!

Takeshi & Mieko Kawase



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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June 8, 2007

Ralph Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
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St. Louis, MO 63110

Re: **Round Robin**

Dear Ralph;

Old Men and the Sea

Well, they fired the dean. Or maybe he just quit. It's hard to tell. His email to the faculty said:

“After a productive discussion with the board of trustees in which the exciting future plans for the institution were outlined, it was decided that I should step down as dean and CEO of the medical center and a younger successor selected who could see these plans to their conclusions.”

This leaves the question of whether he was fired or whether he quit unanswered. He was probably fired.

In an emotional 40-minute monologue at the next “Chairs’ meeting” he listed all he had done for this medical center. I bit my tongue to avoid interrupting in with a “Yes, but...” to just about each and every point. Basically he had tried to turn NYU into another Harvard. However, during his tenure as dean, NYU School of Medicine has dropped significantly in the national ratings. This may not have been all of his fault; the ill-fated Mt. Sinai/NYU merger left our institution financially gutted. However, his appointment of 27 vice-deans and innumerable vice-presidents didn't help the financial situation nor did his insistence on across-the-board faculty practice plans to which most departments acquiesced (except neurosurgery). These encouraged retention of the unskilled and lazy and prompted hard-working and talented faculty to seek out greener pastures.

A rapidly convened search committee comprised of “company men” who know which side of the bread holds the butter, not surprisingly picked the in-house favorite who has been politicking with the trustees since he got here a few years ago. The jubilant “heir-apparent” then commanded that all Chairs submit an extensive report for each Department: it's people, academic productivity, strengths, weaknesses, etc. and, most importantly, its finances (the money for his grand designs has to come from somewhere). As I had to do something similar for the outgoing

dean a year ago, and confident that nobody had even looked at it, I told our Department's administrative assistant to simply change the dates and stamp it with my signature. I needed to get out of there; I had a date with ROBERTA.

ROBERTA is a Hinckley-built 59 foot cutter owned by an elderly couple from 5th Avenue in New York. She is their winter home in the Caribbean and summer home in Maine. My old friend Rusty Bradford moves the boat for them; from Maine to the Caribbean in the fall and from the Caribbean back to Maine in the spring. Rusty can always use some help on these trips. The Gulf of Maine, Western Atlantic and Gulfstream are not fun places to be in spring and fall.

So I hopped on a plane to St. Thomas. I arrived just in time. Rusty and the man at the fuel dock were in the middle of a "failure to communicate". Rusty has a thick downeast accent that few besides other Mainers can understand. Between drags on something that didn't smell like a Marlboro, the bored attendant at the gas dock kept asking me: "Wha-dee-say, Mon ?".

While taking on fuel, I met the other members of the crew. Except for Steve, the paid hand, the rest of us were in our 60's; Rusty, 64; Bob 68, Ed and I, 65. All of us were on antihypertensive meds and Lipitor. Rusty had undergone open-heart surgery a few years ago to replace a valve. He was also on coumadin (I considered how I would evacuate a subdural with a Dremel tool and a suction powered by a hose off the bilge pump). ROBERTA was also showing her age.

Though sound and well maintained, ROBERTA had been making annual spring and fall trips between the Caribbean and Maine for 16 years. These were frequently rough trips that wear some things out and break others. But worse, ROBERTA, the product of Hinckley's recent acquiescence to demands of the marketplace was a floating apartment surrounded by fiberglass (My wife's idea of "sailing.").

Older traditional boats were designed to cut easily through water. Not ROBERTA. Boats of her ilk are fuller in the bows and rounded on the bottom in order to accommodate large heads with showers, capacious water tanks, water makers, many cabinets, huge galleys with wine coolers, aft cabins and the generators and electronics necessary to power TV sets, microwaves and air conditioners. The result was a nice boat to live on in a harbor, but not the boat for punching into a head sea or with an easy motion in a seaway. I should have been suspicious when, even before leaving St Thomas, I saw Rusty, the old sea dog, with a scopolamine patch stuck behind his ear.

We left St. Thomas about an hour after I'd arrived, bound for Bermuda. The weather forecast was iffy. Things were fine until we hit the Atlantic swell outside of St. Thomas. The 10 foot swell soon became a 12 foot head sea with 25 knots of wind dead ahead. My own boat, CYGNUS (an older design), would have punched through this and stayed relatively level, but ROBERTA's bow would rise with the headsea and crash into the trough. This coupled with a figure-8 axial motion as her autopilot constantly tried to correct her course in the head wind and sea resulted in a jerky, unpredictable and a very uncomfortable ride.

I usually don't get seasick, but I fed the fish with my dinner that first night out. Ed wasn't feeling great either. Nonetheless, we stood our watches, sick or not. That was OK since there was

no way that one could sleep in the forward cabin with the bow dropping 12 feet into a trough every 15 seconds or so with a loud “whomp” when it hit the water.

We pressed on. The weather improved. The wind veered to the southwest and finally the sails started pushing us toward Bermuda at 9 knots. Four days later we were motoring through the cut at St. Georges. After clearing customs, we headed for the Carriage House Restaurant for dinner and a few drinks to refuel ourselves (drinking underway was strictly forbidden). We’d refuel ROBERTA in the morning.

Next morning, I awoke hearing Bob on the SSB (single side band) getting weather information. It was already blowing a half-gale in St. George’s harbor. Bob, an advanced amateur weatherman, was worried. Two nasty low-pressure areas were developing in the western Atlantic; one off Cape Hatteras and the other in the Gulf of Maine; each already having gale force winds of 45 – 60 knots. We had to get around Hatteras, cross the Gulf of Maine and somewhere cross the Gulf Stream.

“Bob, why not simply head north for Southwest Harbor. We may beat one low while the other heads east before we reach the Gulf of Maine?” I asked innocently enough.

“Ever been caught in the Gulf Stream in a 50 knot gale?” he asked.

“No,”

“Well, you never want to.” Bob was a man of few words. He went back to fiddling with the dials on the SSB, downloading weather charts from various websites. Interestingly, they did not agree with one another. Finally he said, “Rusty, I think we should head west to 69.42 west; 36.22 north then use the stream to push us north.”

Rusty looked at the chart. “Way-al, Bob, ah think we should head for ‘bout hee-ah”, waving his hand over about a 400 square mile area on the chart, “then head naw-th back up ta Maine.” I don’t think that Rusty ever worried too much about the Stream, he just wanted to get where he was going. Bob, a veteran of many Newport-Bermuda races, made a real science of it.

Bob, with two degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, was one of the first to see the business applications for computers in the 1960’s and did very well running, buying and selling high tech companies. Rusty had barely a high school education and spent most of his life working with his hands. Nonetheless, these two men had sailed together before, had a deep respect for one another and were good friends. There is probably no greater equalizer of men than a small boat at sea.

Overnight a gale had developed with 35 knots of beam-on wind pressing all of the boats flat against the pier. With some help from a fishing boat towing our bow away and going ahead with the diesel, pivoting on a bumper, we were able to get away from the pier. We then rounded and, using the wind to stop us, Rusty swung the 59-foot ROBERTA into a 60 foot space along the fuel dock. He made this look as easy as parking a sport coupe. Filling her up cost just a few short of a thousand bucks.

We were then on our way out the cut and back out to sea, bound for Maine. Well, not exactly. We were going to head west-northwest, find the western edge of the Gulf Stream (that would get us “through” it – in case bad weather hit) and then set a course for a point off the Isle of Shoals (east of Cape Cod), then for Mt. Desert Rock, Maine.

Finding the Gulf Stream can be tricky; it’s never exactly in the same place. It meanders. This was first noted by Benjamin Franklin whose interest was piqued because his wife’s family was then in the fishing industry and fish preferred the warm water of the stream to the cold water in the Gulf of Maine and Canadian Maritimes. One can monitor the temperature of the water: when it jumps from 60 degrees to 73 degrees -you’re there (Ben and Rusty’s method). Or one can download satellite images with thermal plots (Bob’s method). We used both methods. But the stream is not always a 3-4 knot torrent moving north. There are eddies that develop and go a knot or two south and can be a real pain if one is trying to go north – like we were.

We stood 4 hour watches; alone during the day, doubling up at night. That way there was always a back-up in case the man on watch fell asleep and failed to notice, say, the running lights of a 600 foot container ship bearing down on us. During those night watches we’d talk about things that men rarely talk about on dry land – life, marriages, careers and, at our advanced stage of life, how things may not have worked out exactly as we’d planned.

I renewed my friendship with Ed who’d been a neurosurgeon. We’d first met when we were residents: Ed at the University of Chicago and I at Northwestern. In spite of the fact that I was on every other night call at Northwestern and on my night off, I’d been moonlighting at a small Catholic hospital in the demilitarized zone of 1960’s South Chicago. Whenever a subdural or gunshot wound to the head came in, I’d take the patients to the nearby Emergency Room at the University of Chicago. I’d dump them on Ed who soon tired of having me as a referral source (“Kelly, why don’t you ever send us a meningioma?!”).

Well, Ed got fed up with academic neurosurgery and retired about 10 years ago. He’d married relatively late in life and they moved to Maine to live on their boat. That lasted about two years or so. Then, like most women who find no romance in being dirty, wet, cold and the absence of a decent shower, Ed’s wife pushed for more suitable living arrangements. They sold the boat and built a house on Mount Desert Island. Ed has since gotten his sailing in on other people’s boats – by far more intelligent than actually owning one. I should know!

Rusty’s story was typical downeast Maine. His forebears had settled on the offshore islands and eaked out a hardscrabble existence building boats, lobstering, farming, fishing and selling used furniture to summer tourists looking for antiques. His father had worked at one of the “large” companies on Mt. Desert – the family run Hinckley shipyard. Rusty went to work there as soon as he was old enough to do so – he was never a student. Nonetheless, he was a hard worker with common sense and innate talent who rose to yard foreman. He did that until Hinckley’s was bought out by a large investment group and attitudes and priorities changed. He got fed up with the “suits” and quit in a huff. We talked about his marriages, kids, stepkids, grandkids and his Harley Davidson motorcycle. I mentioned that motorcycling may not be the best sport for a 64 year old on Coumadin. “Way-al, Ya gotta die a som’tin”

Bob had made so much money that for the past 10 years he did mostly charity work, served on a few boards, played golf and ocean raced his sailboat that was tied up behind his waterfront house on Long Island. He collected high-end Georgian period marine art. Bob spoke softly and in a tonal range that fit into the frequency of my own hearing loss – the precise frequency of Vietnam-era CH-46 helicopters. As a result there was much of what he said that I couldn't hear but what I could hear was worth listening to.

Then there was 25-year old Steve who'd dropped out of college in which he'd majored in theater. He'd spent 2 years working as a paid hand on ROBERTA. Before that he'd traveled and had a string of low-paying jobs. And he'd had girlfriends. One in Southern California insisted that he get a tattoo to match one of hers. He did. The next day she found another lover. It never occurred to him that she was notching a mental leather belt and branding each conquest before finding another. I suggested to Steve that he have the tattoo surgically removed, put the surgical specimen in a formalin bottle and then send it to her. He didn't see the humor in this. He actually liked that tattoo – it went perfectly with the body-piercing rings in his nipples. He was going to leave ROBERTA's employment once we got to Maine, buy a camper and travel across the USA. He was very proud of what he's accomplished so far. After that I listened to books on tape on my iPod.

Nonetheless, I particularly liked night watches. Nothing compares to a clear sky at sea where stars and planets can be seen without interference from city lights. It was like seeing old friends: Castor and Pollux, Betelgeuse, Aldebaran, Vega, Deneb, Atair, Capella and her kids. Out there it is easy to understand how the ancients saw animals, gods and objects in the constellations: Orion, Leo, Sagittarius, the Northern Cross, Taurus, Gemini, Ursa Major – the big dipper- the front of the cup (the pointers) always pointed to Polaris: the North star. And as worked our way north each night Polaris was just a little higher in the sky. And it got colder.

We headed for a point north and east of Hatteras where we crossed the Gulf stream swinging west and south of the low pressure area as it moved northeast. We then rode the Gulf Stream with a light southwest wind pushing us north toward Maine and home. After a few days we could see the loom of the Provincetown light on Cape Cod and a day later in late afternoon, spotted Great Duck Island and Cadillac Mountain on Mt. Desert.

Rusty asked me to take the ROBERTA's helm and bring her in. It was freezing cold but I didn't mind. For me, these were familiar waters that CYGNUS and I had sailed many times before. The sea in early spring in coastal downeast Maine is not as friendly as it is in summer. It is grey, not the rich deep blue that compliments the pine covered islands and the smooth ancient mountains of Mt. Desert. But the landmarks were still there. Frenchboro to port, then Black and Great Gott Islands, Little Duck to starboard, Baker's then Great Cranberry, scoot between Long Ledge and South Bunker Ledge into Western Way. Avoid the shallow spot to the west of can #5, then head for Great Harbor, turn left for Manset keeping buoy #2 well to Starboard. I turned her into the Hinckley mooring field and we pulled her up to the fuel dock and tied her up. Bob disappeared below and broke out the Scotch and Mount Gay Rum. After 10 days at sea we were home.

Later I learned that during those 10 days two other sailboats, both with professional crews, on their way from the Caribbean to New England disappeared somewhere in the western Atlantic. The EPIRB on one had been sending signals for about 30 minutes – then stopped. Neither of these two boats nor their crews has yet been found.

Carol had driven up to Mt. Desert from Manhattan and had been waiting for me at our house in Northeast Harbor. My trip had taken a few days longer than I thought it would. So after two days and a lobster dinner or two, we were back on the road to New York that weekend. I'd optimistically scheduled a few cases for that week. The operating room – like a boat at sea – is a wonderful sanctuary from everything else.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Patrick J Kelly, MD

David Kline

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For the American Academy Neurosurgeon Round Robin:

As you might imagine the past year has been an eventful one for the Kline's. We have learned to live in a trailer but in the last month have had floors put in at 307 Fairway so now we can use the kitchen, den, dining room, and once again an upstairs bedroom. Nell now does Real Estate which in our present environment is very challenging. She has moved her horse across the Lake to a stable close to Ochsner so that's an almost daily joy for her. We spent a week this Spring at the cabin below Blowing Rock, NC and had the pleasure of a visit from our good friends the Hudson's of Toronto. We will return there for 3 or so weeks this Summer. A well has been installed there but much else remains to be done. We hope to visit with Ludwig Kempe and his wife who live in Brevard, NC and have them if possible visit us in Blowing Rock. My sister, several children, and a small assortment of grandchildren plan to visit this Summer so that will be something to look forward to.

LSUHSC-N.O. Neurosurgery is reconstructing under Frank Culicchia as Chair. Frank works at West Jefferson Hospital. Also at West Jefferson Hospital are John Steck and Bob Dawson, a neuro interventionalist as well as Gabriel Tender a former LSU trainee who has begun a laboratory downtown. Faculty at Ochsner includes Roger Smith, Program Director, and former LSU trainees John Reeves and Daniel Kim (until September) and then C.J. Bui of Syracuse comes in August and myself (overdue to retire but plan to do so in 2008), Joe Nadell, Richard Coulon, Jose Bermudez, and Lori McBride are at Children's Hospital.

Several Ph.D.'s have been recruited with help of Nicholas Bazan, Head of the Neuroscience Center and they work downtown in Stroke and Head Injury on the main Campus where the Center is located.

Michael Carey retired from LSU and a year ago. He became Head of Neurosurgery at the NY VAH in NYC working with Pat Kelly. Bryan Payne has taken a job as Head of Neuroscience at Marshal University in Huntington, W. VA. while Robert Tiel is a Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Mississippi in Jackson.

We now have 6 Neurosurgery residents, the highest level being NS IV (2) others are at the NS II (3) and NS I (1) levels.

Vanissia on behalf of
David G. Kline, M.D. - Boyd Professor
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Ralph G. Dacey, Jr, MD
Secretary, American Academy of Neurological Surgeons
Washington University
St. Louis, Missouri

May 16, 2007

Dear Ralph,

Hope you have been well. This year has been memorable for me personally in my role as CNS President, with the opportunity to shepherd a tremendous Executive Committee. As we develop further innovative concepts in neurosurgical education, work to address national issues of socioeconomic importance, grow the organization, and develop future neurosurgical leaders, the opportunities are diverse. Don Quest and Jon Robertson have been great partners as AANS Presidents, and Troy Tippett has done a superb job at the helm of the Washington Committee. Our 2007 CNS meeting in San Diego is now "in the box" from a planning perspective. Tomorrow, I am off to the Japanese Congress meeting. The real question is...will anyone remember me a year from now? Oh, the loneliness of being a Past President! That's right...you are a CNS Past President as well. I will call you for advice.

Susan and I have been expanding our summer home on Lake Muskoka (Ontario), while trying to maintain the charm of our 75 year old cottage. We are adding a new boat house which should store enough water toys for generations to come. Our boys Alex and Max are into sailing, wake boarding and water skiing. Now that Alex has passed me in height, it should not be long before his golf score is better.

Neurosurgery still challenges us here in Pittsburgh. This year we have participated in surgical trials for major depression and stroke recovery, in addition to conducting outcomes research in movement disorders, radiosurgery, and neuro-oncology.

We look forward to seeing you and our Academy friends in Las Vegas,

Douglas Kondziolka, MD, MSc, FRCSC, FACS
Peter J. Jannetta Professor of Neurological Surgery and Radiation Oncology



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**UNIVERSITY OF ULSAN
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

Round Robin Letter

Dear Fellow Academicians

In the spring of the year 2005 I fell in shock after hearing the news about Dr. Hoff's death. Dr. Hoff was like a big brother to me since I met him. I was a visiting professor in the department of Neurosurgery, U of Michigan in 2003 and enjoyed my staying very much with Buz Hoff and his family. I was surprised to hear that he was sick at the Georgia meeting. When I visited him at the UM Hospital just after the Georgia meeting last year he smiled and said he was OK. He invited my family to his home for tea party in February 2007, when he was looking good. At the moment that I heard the bad news I felt more sorrow than when my dad died 20 years ago. He wanted me to teach him for better golf skill after his retirement, but I'm really sorry I can't do that now because of his absence. I will cherish his smiling in my heart forever and I wish I can play games of golf together in heaven.

As usual I'm still working hard in aneurysm surgery even though many cases were taken by endovascular procedures.

On the family side things are moving forward. My wife, Eun joo Lee, is doing partime teaching in a university and practicing golf. We moved to another apartment near to my hospital. First daughter, Yoo jin, got her medical license in Connecticut and trying to get a job. My second daughter, Young jin, is preparing for a low school in the state. My son, Thomas, is going up to junior grade and preparing for Medical school in Ann Arbor. Still living apart, but my family are all well.

Even though political and nuclear situation are not stabilized in korean penninsula, I'm sure those problems will be resolved soon.

I'm looking forward seeing all friends in Las Vegas.

Best regards

Byung Duk Kwun, M.D., Ph.D

Edward R. Laws

Stanford University Medical Center
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Dear Friends,

Peggy and I are gradually getting accustomed to a new California lifestyle. We have an integrated Pituitary program and it's a pleasure to be working with a truly superb Endocrinologist, Larry Katznelson. Gary Steinberg and Griff Harsh have been wonderfully supportive, and the rest of the group is excellent as well

Of course, we miss our friends and colleagues in Charlottesville very much and keep closely in touch.

We had the great pleasure of having all the children and grandchildren together in Napa and spent some time with Lois Sundt Mueller who is delightful as ever and also sends her fond regards to our friends in the Academy.

All the best - Ed and Peggy Laws



University of Pittsburgh Physicians
Department of Neurological Surgery

May 2007

Dear Colleague:

Recently, one of my close friends and I were at the Greenbrier for a golf intervention. The Greenbrier may never be the same, and my golf handicap remains at its usual sad state. My friend just turned 60, and even if he is a lawyer, he is quite a guy. Whenever someone greets him with the usual, "Hey, how are you?" his response is always "Never Better". This got me to thinking a little bit about the events of the past year or so, and then even more the years preceding. My life in academic medicine has definitely been challenging, but also filled with excitement, and in many ways tremendous intellectual fulfillment and reward. My service (? sentence) as chairman for ten years ended in 2006. I had come to realize that whatever small contribution I had made to my department, it was now time to look at a revised hybrid role. My greatest rewards in academic medicine has been two-fold. The first is the opportunity to train outstanding residents, most of whom are smarter than I am. The second is the opportunity to work with some of the most challenging patient problems that exist in our field.

During my years before chairmanship and even during, I was able to amass a huge amount of support from my institution. This led to the creation of dedicated operating rooms, robotic microscopes, and eventually four successive Gamma Knives. I was also able to bring in a large amount of talent, usually more important people than I am. As I look back on the past year, during which I have re-thought about the best role for the next years, I came to the conclusion that much of my life was "Never Better".

Leadership in academic medicine at least in huge hospital environments ain't all it's cracked up to be, and this isn't just sour grapes. The reality is that hospitals are run by non-physicians for the most part, or if they are physicians, they have turned to the dark side in any case. They are concentrating on dollars generated as measured by work RVU's. I share the concern prevalent among many academic physicians that research and teaching will founder in this model. Most institutions really regard chairs as middle management, someone to serve as a buffer between the rank and file below, and the decision makers above. In essence, they want physician followers not leaders. And so the opportunity to look at other options presented itself, and I took early parole. There are no regrets. I believe the department at the University of Pittsburgh will thrive, grow, and continue to progress. Many innovations ranging from microvascular surgery, image-guided surgery, stereotactic radiosurgery, spinal surgery, and pediatric surgery, all will prosper even as the new era of endoscopic skull base surgery matures. I continue to serve as residency director, and that role is truly rewarding, especially if we survive our five year residency review this summer.

In the meantime, we also plan to install a new Perfexion Unit once the Nuclear Regulatory Commission gives us the green light. Our new image-guided operating room with a GE 64 slice dedicated CT scanner will replace the old intraoperative CT scanners that we used for almost 25 years. The new suite is indeed beautiful. My practice

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Page Two

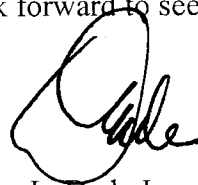
continues to be quite satisfactory, and for those who are counting, my 13,000 work RVU's and almost 400 annual operations indicating a continuing role for a newly minted "senior" surgeon.

In addition, I have the opportunity to do a few more trips and spend time during the winter months at our place overlooking the Gulf of Mexico in Sarasota, FL. We have made a number of friends down there, and thoroughly enjoy the golf community that we are a part of. This makes the bleak winter months in Pittsburgh go much more quickly.

Our daughter, Stephanie, five years after graduating from UVA, has now entered law school at Duquesne University, and is doing well. She is enthusiastic about the potential for "elder law". I plan to take advantage of these skills in the future. Our son, Andrew is thriving as a field service engineer for Elekta, and this is a perfect job match for his wonderful skill set, fixing, repairing, and preventing trouble for high tech radiation therapy, MEG, and radiosurgery equipment. They have sent him to Stockholm, Helsinki and London many times. His other pursuits continue to scare me and include motorcycles, ATV's, and off road jeeps with lift kits. Both children live in our area, and its great to have them close. Perhaps one of them one day will find a soul mate like I did, and we will have the opportunity for grandchildren. They have made no promises at this point. In the meantime, we have three Brittany's and one granddog.

Most importantly, Julie, my rock for the last 37 years, my advisor, balloon deflator, realist, and loving spouse is doing very well. She likes to spend time in Florida also. In Pittsburgh, she is involved in the Carnegie Museum where she serves as a docent.

We wish you the very best and look forward to seeing friends and colleagues in Las Vegas this fall.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Dade", written in a cursive style.

L. Dade Lunsford, M.D.

Jim Markert

Division Director, Neurosurgery
Professor, Neurosurgery , Physiology and Pediatrics
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It's been another busy year for the Markerts. Our Division of Neurosurgery continues to flourish, and I remain thankful that I have such great colleagues, thanks to the foresight of my predecessor, Richard Morawetz. We are delighted that we just added our recently graduated chief resident, Mahmeri Ojor, to the faculty. Work on the research end is still a challenge in these tight funding days—we are in the process of submitting both our SPORE and Program Project grant for competing renewals. I am continuing to learn how to best juggle patient care, the administrative tasks of being division chief and the demands of research- but it is all very satisfying and keeps me out of trouble.

Laili and the kids are all doing well. Laili decided to go back to work this fall. She was a retired clinical psychologist for a number of year, but now plans to join a private practice where she will presumably be appreciated for the therapy that she dishes out, in contrast to our home where her therapeutic interventions are met with eye rolls and big “you-have-no-idea-what-I’m-going-through-Mom” sighs. Tara will turn eleven this summer, but it feels like she became an adolescent all at once. She has grown three inches, cut her hair to resemble some movie star that I have never heard of, and has an interest in fashion that strikes fear into the heart of her old man. Fortunately, she remains a sweet kid, and has promised me that she won't get date until she is finished with graduate school! Jack is now six. He has just gotten the hang of reading chapter books on his own, has delighted in the loss of several teeth (and the tooth fairy money that comes with them!), and just learned how to dive off the diving board—which means that he now has to do this at least 100 times a day. His enthusiasm for his latest passion, whatever it may be, is quite infectious, and I often wish I have half his energy (think of all the grants that I could get through). Our youngest, Hooper, just turned four. He fits the stereotype of the carefree youngest child, always cracking a joke or Three Stooges pratfall at the most inopportune times. We have voted him most likely to stand up in a restaurant and sing at the top of his lungs. Added to this energetic mix is a new dog, Tallulah, who came to us despite my initial veto, but has been a real joy for all of us.

In January, we took all of the kids to Israel for two weeks to visit the Bahá'í Holy places in Haifa. It was a wonderful trip—very spiritually satisfying to be

able to pray and meditate in this land that is sacred and precious for so many of the world's religions. It was also a great experience for the children to visit a place so unlike the United States, where they could not speak the language and learned to respectfully adapt themselves to customs that were different than our own.

Laili and the kids and I all went to Ann Arbor this spring to join Diane Hoff and her dear family at Buz Hoff's memorial service. Buz was such an important part of my life—besides providing me with neurosurgical training, he was a shining example of a compassionate physician-surgeon -and he had high expectations for all of his residents to be trustworthy and honorable people. When in a quandary, I often find myself wondering what Dr. Hoff would do, and I, like many of you, I'm sure, miss him terribly.

Laili and I look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas.

Sincerely,
Jim and Lail Markert

July 15, 2007

Dear Friends:

It is hard to believe another year has passed. Life has been busy and very full for us since the last Academy meeting. Jill and I spent a wonderful Christmas in Portland, Oregon where two of our children (Kathi and Chris) live. I think the number of times we have seen the Nutcracker is now likely in triple digits. Kathi has now been made a principal dancer in the Oregon Ballet Theater and in the spring, we again went to Portland on the weekend just prior to the Senior Society meeting in San Francisco, to see her in another performance of some Balanchine work and other pieces.

In the early summer Chris, Kathi, and her husband (Kester) came East and we could have a mini-family reunion with our eldest daughter (Robin) and her husband (Matt) at our home in Marblehead. Soon thereafter, we flew to Pisa, Italy, rented a car and drove to Cortona where Bob attended and lectured at the Neuro-oncology meeting in Cortona, Italy. Cortona is a beautiful hill town in Tuscany dating back to the Etruscan era and the meeting was held in an old theater which was quite elegant. It was wonderful to see a number of our American and world-wide colleagues there and enjoy the spectacular food, climate and hospitality of the Italian neurosurgeons. Thereafter, we met up with some Italian and American friends in Florence. For my birthday, Jill arranged with one of our friends who is a tour guide to take us on a private tour of the Vasari corridor in the Uffizi. For fire and security reasons the corridor is not open to regular tourists visiting the museum. Originally, it was the escape route for the Medici family and goes from the Uffizi across the Ponte Vecchio, through a church, though some homes and over to the Pitti Palace where the Medici's lived. Currently, it is filled with self portraits of artists from pre-Renaissance until today. It was incredibly exciting! We had to go through with a security guard and they only allow one hour to see all of the works...far too little time! Afterwards we went with our friends to the beach at Marina di Pietrasanta just north of Pisa. The Italian beach scene is a real hoot! Where else can you lie on the beach drinking in the sun along with your cappuccino while various vendors come by to try to sell you knock-off Prada and Gucci handbags and fake Rolex watches! The lifeguard even raised the American flag for us on the Fourth of July! We ended with a spectacular dinner in the town of Pietrasanta and enjoyed all the wonderful sculptures on display. Bob drooled over the incredible marble from Carrara! Then, somewhat sadly, we drove back to Pisa, turned in our car and flew home. Unfortunately our luggage did not quite make the same journey, but that is another (and ongoing) story.

Arriving back in Marblehead, we welcomed a new addition to the Martuza household, "Tulip", a Yorkshire terrier puppy. She is very cute, has quickly become attached to us, but quite a handful in that having been child and puppy-free for sometime, it clearly changes one's lifestyle.

Although we are not gamblers and in the past have been able to avoid Las Vegas at every possible chance, we do look forward to seeing all of you in "Not-quite-Las Vegas" for the Academy meeting in the fall.

Until then, yours sincerely,

Bob and Jill Martuza

July 16, 2007

Fellow Academy Members:

The Mayberg family is doing well in Seattle although it seems like just yesterday we've been back here now nearly 3 years since our departure from Cleveland. Katie (age 8) is about to enter third grade. She is smart and very verbal (like mom), and variously interested in swimming, horseback riding, tennis and baseball. She's also done very well in the lemonade stand business, and seems to have an inclination for entrepreneurial activities. Matthew (age 12) is continuously thinking about sports and sports figures. He plays basketball, baseball and football, and is desperately hoping that Seattle manages win some kind of championship in one of the sports. Terry remains busy with painting and coordinating the family activities, although she is beginning to look at opportunities to return to anesthesia research. Most of my time remains committed to the Swedish Neuroscience Institute which recently completed an ambitious forty million dollar building project for a new state-of-the-art inpatient and outpatient facility. Our group of neurologists and neurosurgeons is continuing to grow, and we're busy clinically and academically. I'm also very closely involved with the Seattle Science Foundation, a not-for-profit professional education and communication center which is co-located at the Neuroscience Institute. This facility will enable broad band communication and teaching among physicians, engineers and others to promote worldwide healthcare.

I look forward to seeing all of the Academy members in the near future, and invite you all to stop by and visit if you are in the Seattle area.

Sincerely,



Marc R. Mayberg, MD
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July 15, 2007

Dear Academicians:

My family and I thank you for the wonderful opportunity to join the Academy. I look forward to decades of academic exchange and the chance to build family memories with you.

For the meeting this year in Las Vegas, I will be traveling solo due to school conflicts and overlap with Halloween, as our boys are now aged 10 (Guy), nearly 9 (Cameron), and 4.5 (Casey). The annual rite of costuming and a cavity inducing candy haul remains one of the most anticipated family events of the year. It may be just as well that my sons' attentions are turned elsewhere during this year's meeting. In their current iteration, they most closely resemble a fictional blend between Thing 1 and Thing 2 (and in our case, Thing 3) of Dr. Seuss fame and Eddie Haskell from "Leave it to Beaver". This is particularly true now that the youngest has become completely inflexible and unresponsive to parental "advice".



A recent example:

Hopeful, but fatigued father: "Casey, run up stairs. It is time to get ready for bed".

Completely in control 4-year-old: "Nope, I have thought about that, and I am not going to do it".

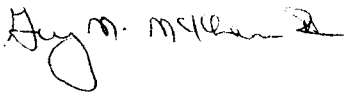
While Casey is adorable and generally very sweet, he is also completely aware of his ability to manipulate adult world limits with a well-timed smile or laugh. Perhaps another year of seasoning before his introduction to the Academy is in order.

Meanwhile, the two older boys continue developing in their own unique ways. Our middle son, Cameron, is small in stature, but large in attitude and verbosity. He has not yet learned those hard life lessons about too much lip being tough on boys with limited physical stature. While I try to warn him of his impending danger, he is completely recalcitrant. As David Uttley use to say at Atkinson Morley's Hospital in Wimbledon, "You can't make an omelette without cracking a few eggs". Hopefully Humpty-Dumpty's fall will not be too painful.

The eldest, my namesake, is currently away for seven weeks of sleep away camp in New Hampshire at a relative paradise, Camp Tecumseh. When I visited there for the first time last year, I immediately recognized the appeal to the 200 campers with various stages of testosterone production. The place is a boy heaven: a beautiful lakeside setting, cabins with no electricity, sports all day long, limitless competition, minimalist hygiene requirements, and no parental nagging. It was no wonder that after three weeks last summer, Guy spent the next six months lobbying for the full seven weeks this year. We hope he will get homesick and return to New York after five weeks, but there is no indication of this yet. Hopefully he won't ask for boarding school next!

As for myself and my wife Lianne (a pediatric ENT surgeon), we both continue to try our best to meet the complex needs of separate surgical careers and parenting our three most prized possessions in the world. My professional life is filled with trying to improve my neurosurgical knowledge and skills; attempting to remain funded in my lab; and educating our phenomenal residents here at the Neurological Institute. Personal time is spent coaching my kids' teams and shuttling the boys between their various sporting endeavors and other activities. An occasional fine Manhattan restaurant and nice bottle of wine round things out. I recognize how privileged I am to be where I am in life, with phenomenal work colleagues here at Columbia in an academic neurosurgical setting that I truly cherish. In addition, all kidding aside, having three wonderfully independent and healthy sons puts a smile on my face daily. I apologize for the long introduction, but I thought it important for you to know what is happening when the Tasmanian Devil like tornado of three whips across the hotel lobby next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Guy M. McKhann II". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Guy M. McKhann II, M.D.

MILLER

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Jacques J. Morcos, MD, FRCS (Eng), FRCS (Ed)
Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Otolaryngology
Specializing in Cerebrovascular
and Skull Base Tumor Surgery

June 24, 2007

Fellow Academicians,

It is with great anticipation that Fiona and I await our upcoming trip to Las Vegas. I am sure the success of the Meeting will prove to be one of the safest "bets" that city has seen in a while!

The year has seen my 12 year old daughter Isabella more than survive her first year in middle school, excelling in most subjects but particularly doing very well in the languages, arts and creative topics. In the process, she remained very sporty and equalized her mother's height and surpassed her shoe size (!). My 10 year old John continued to be a great 3 point shooter and power batter deserving his nickname "Diesel", but he particularly blossomed as an electronic wizard of handheld computer games, the Wii, Game Boy and Game Cube, for the techno-geeks among you. Instead of retraining myself in endovascular surgery, I should clearly have recruited him in our Department for his superior hand-eye coordination skills, except that my Chairman refuses to compensate in Miami Heat basketball tickets, pasta, shrimps and root beer! And lastly, my 8 year old Christina retained her well deserved undisputed title of Daddy's-girl-who-can-do-no-wrong, through her angelic face, tempered disposition and love of school and learning. She spontaneously recites the parts of the brain (I swear I never taught her this!) and when asked why she rolls her eyes up, she responds: "I'm trying to see my brain!" The family has also acquired a yellow lab, Tessie, whose breeder produced a pedigree that traces her ancestry directly and unequivocally to British Royalty of the canine type. Fiona (who is as British as scones and afternoon tea) has made me so aware of the significance of this lineage, that I still bow to her and kiss her front paw every time she greets me at the door!; the dog that is. As for Fiona, the family's pillar, walls, windows and ceilings; I know it is cliché to say, "I don't know how she does it!", but let me say this: "I don't know how she does it!" All I am good for is to treat everybody to great skiing vacations, remind everybody not to walk barefoot, show off to my kids my love for math and science in their homeworks and school projects, and then disappear in the bowels of my professional life.

Speaking of professional life, I am honored to have been voted this year's President-Elect of the AANS/CNS Joint Section of Cerebrovascular Surgery. The



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MILLER

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Jacques J. Morcos, MD, FRCS (Eng), FRCS (Ed)

Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Otolaryngology

Specializing in Cerebrovascular

and Skull Base Tumor Surgery

field is clearly undergoing a radical metamorphosis with a slate of new challenges and opportunities. The core values and skills of microsurgery however do and will survive and expand within the explosive advance of endovascular technology. I am looking forward to participating in a proposed ELANA prospective trial with regards to using non-occlusive techniques in high flow bypass surgery whose technology is very close to becoming FDA approved. My other hat as a Skull Base surgeon continues to be very full and fulfilled, in no small part due to my long collaboration with a world-class team of neurootologists, head and neck surgeons, oculoplastic surgeons, and more recently spectacular sinus endoscopists, with the mission of exploring avenues of maintaining aggressive resection rates, yet achieving at least equivalent dural repair rates through less morbid approaches.

I continue to be proud of my neurosurgical partners (Roberto Heros, Barth Green and others) and particularly of our residents. When you spend 7 years training, mentoring and molding a fresh mind, the process is so stepwise, that it is hard to realize how much has been achieved, on both ends. The resident graduation last week reminded me of this. To paraphrase a dictum from my elementary school days at the hands of the Jesuit priests in Lebanon although I agree it sounds "cheesy" today: "If you plan for 1 year, plant a flower; if you plan for 10 years, plant a tree; if you plan for a lifetime, educate somebody".

See you all in October.

Jacques Morcos, M.D.



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July 2, 2007

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Washington University
Chairman, Dept. of Neurosurgery
660 S. Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Dear Fellow Academy Members:

Lake Las Vegas is a wonderful site to host an academy meeting. It is a self contained resort. There is no need to go to the Strip.

IU residents continue to be a great source of pleasure and admiration. We have expanded to two residents per year. Finishing resident, Dr. Jamie Miller won the Van Wagenen Award and will continue his brain tumor research at University of Tubergen in Germany. He will return to join our staff after completing his fellowship.

We have recruited Dr. Eric Horn from the Barrow Neurologic Institute to develop our spine program and do spinal cord injury research. We were also fortunate to recruit Dr. Xiao-Ming Xu as the Mari Hulman George Chair in spinal cord injury research. We are continuing to recruit an additional pediatric neurosurgeon.

The local university politics has centered around an attempt by the hospital to develop a new relationship with the practice plan (Indiana Clinic), moving a portion of our practice outside the traditional downtown medical center and considering a merger with the private neurosurgical group in Indianapolis. Our hospital system has committed to a Neuroscience Center of Excellence that will include a new psychiatric hospital, a new neuropsych research institute, and a medical office building that will house all neuroscience related specialties.

On the personal side, Tere and I were able to return to Pittsburgh to watch the US Open at Oakmont. Our son, Jonathon who has moved from New York to San Francisco is working primarily on Genentech marketing accounts. His older brother Ben is auctioning wine for Hart Davis Hart Company in Chicago. Our daughter Jennifer has taken on a new retail position. Tere lost her mother of 95 years in April. She passed as she wished in her home with her family.

We are very much looking forward to this year's academy meeting after missing last year's meeting because of Tere's mother's poor health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Paul".

Paul B. Nelson, M.D.
Betsey Barton Professor
Neurological Surgery

PBN/jld

DEPARTMENT OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

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email=mail49212@pop.net

July 18, 2007

Dear Fellow Members,

Julie and I are cruising along with a few barnacles on the hull but no major leaks. Julie spends a good portion of her time with the Visiting Nurses and also with Learning Leaders, the latter being a group that develops volunteer teachers for the public schools. I've got a number of odd jobs, like treasurer of a fishing club, that keep me glued to the computer. If things get slow, I fiddle with the computer, mess it up badly, and then spend a couple of days getting the machine back in order. Or, if all else fails, there is nothing like upgrading the motherboard or installing Microsoft Vista to kill time. They say that keeping the brain active delays the onset of dementia, so when Julie complains about the computer, I tell her that my therapist prescribed it. For physical exercise, like all New Yorkers, we do a lot of walking. I like to walk in Central Park, but Julie likes to walk from Bloomingdale's to Saks, to Lord and Taylor's. Hopefully, she won't learn about Bergdorf, Prada, and Buccellati.

We visit our children and granddaughters in Ithaca, Portland, OR and Mountain View, CA from time to time and also host them either in Vermont or in NYC. Sometimes we'll meet for a holiday in some mildly exotic rental house, which is much fun. We still go to a number of neurosurgical meetings each year, which not all retired colleagues seem to want to do. We find it hard to kick the meeting habit and to give up on so many friends that date back to ancient times. Probably, when the next generation of neurosurgeons heads for the retirement community, we'll follow docilely behind them.

Best to all,

Russel

13623 N.E. 32nd Place
Bellevue, WA 98005-1400
July 15, 2007

TO: Ralph G. Dacey, Jr. M.D.
Secretary, American Academy of Neurological Surgery

RE: Round Robin Letter

Dear Fellow Academicians:

It is a great privilege to be able to once again write a letter for the Round Robin. But as I reflect on the past year I realize that we have done nothing of interest to any of you. Lucy and I enjoy quiet days of retirement with minimum travel; our three daughters and nine grandchildren are not doing anything exotic or spectacular – two have graduated from university and eight are still in school, grade levels from eight to twelve. They all appear to be happy, productive and secure in attaining future goals. What else can grandparents wish for their descendants?

The deterioration of the federal Medicare program continues locally and I presume also nationwide as well, both in reimbursement for the doctors and access/quality of service for the patients. The most competent general internists are “opting out” into groups of “Concierge Practices” requiring monthly or annual retainer fees while not accepting Medicaid or Medicare patients. Another prevalent option is that Internists are declaring or acquiring subspecialty qualifications in order to augment income by billing for various procedures unique to that subspecialty.

My suggestion for all of you is to: STAY HEALTHY !

May you have an enjoyable, productive meeting at the Ritz-Carlton, Lake Las Vegas.

Lucy & Cone Pevehouse



MOUNT SINAI
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

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Chairman

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July 10, 2007

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Secretary, American Academy of Neurological Surgeons
Washington University, Department of Neurosurgery
660 S. Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

RE: ROUND ROBIN LETTER

Dear Ralph:

It is always a pleasure writing to our friends in the academy. We should, as a group, continue the tradition of round robin letters as it offers members the ability to read the latest on each of our members.

Things have been stable on the home front with some exciting new things. Alex is now one of our two chief residents at Mount Sinai, which is particularly rewarding for me. I enjoy watching him run the service and come into the operating room prepared for each case and technically very competent. As both his father and chairman, it gives me true joy to watch his maturation into a well-rounded neurosurgeon. Additionally, Alex and Lauren had a son, Hayden Michael, on June 3rd. Lauren was supposed to deliver in the third week of June, the week she finished being chief resident in emergency medicine. Her graduation dinner was wonderful with Hayden, almost 3 weeks old, in attendance cheering his mother on. Lauren has taken a job in the emergency room department at North General Hospital, an affiliate of Mount Sinai, 20 blocks north. She will start in September and be there probably just through June. Once Alex finishes residency, he intends to do a year fellowship in pediatric neurosurgery. The site of that venture is still undetermined.

Illana and Lawrence moved this past year but remain in our town of Saddle River, New Jersey. The two grandchildren on their side are now 8 and almost 10 and we like to have them around. Our grandson, Lawrence, who is 8, is convinced that he does not have to go to college because he is going to play for the Yankees immediately out of high school. A-Rod remains his idol. Illana has been working with Skadden, Arps in mergers and acquisitions

RE: ROUND ROBIN LETTER

Page 2

as she did prior to having children, but in a much more reasonable position now. Her hours are very well controlled. Lawrence, our son-in-law, joined his father in business this year after being extraordinarily successful in a software company. They are all delighted.

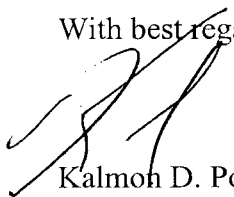
Linda published her textbook "Handbook for Ethics Committees" published by Johns Hopkins University Press. It came out this year and looks beautiful to me. I am waiting for the reviews, but I do not expect it to be on the Times bestseller list. She is thrilled with it and now considering other positions. She has several teaching jobs, training residents in medical ethics and as a consultant with the Visiting Nurse Hospice program in New York.

Our department continues to thrive. There will be a change this coming year. I will have been chairman for 17 years and felt it was time to step aside and allow my vice chair, Dr. Joshua Bederson, to step up to the chair position. After discussions with the Dean and the CEO of the medical center, a search committee was created and they decided that Josh would be an excellent replacement. We will have a smooth transition as of July 1, 2008, but I intend to stay on operating four years beyond that. It will give me more time to concentrate on putting together my series of sella and parasellar cases as well as the series of angle tumors. Josh is very excited and I believe that he will do a superb job in continuing the growth of the department with modifications as he sees fit for his style. I have no doubt that the department will adapt to his directions with mentoring as needed from the old timers.

Academically, the department has also continued to grow. We received a new RO1 with Dr. Sehba in Dr. Bederson's lab and a Goldhirsh Foundation Grant in Dr. Germano's laboratory. Both took a good deal of effort, and I am sure will result in some fine work.

We look forward to seeing everybody this coming fall at the meeting in Las Vegas.

With best regards,



Kalmon D. Post, MD
KP: hvps/sdu

J. CHARLES RICH
2397 EAST 1300 SOUTH
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84108

July 5th, 2007

Ralph G. Dacey, MD
Washington U Dept of Neurosurgery
660 So Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

Academicians,

Things are well with us. We're in and out of Salt Lake, but more and more in Rancho Mirage, CA. The weather is better here during the winter for sure.

We enjoyed the AANS Meeting in Washington, DC. Seeing Don and Ilona with all their family there together was great. It's always nice to be reunited with old friends.

While Michael Moore's *Sicko* is getting a lot of attention, to the contrary, I've been alarmed with the prevalence and apparent public acceptance of various alternative medicine modalities. They are pervasive here in the Cochella Valley of Southern California. I've encountered (via that social homogenizer, golf) chiropractors with conspicuously consumptive lifestyles – whose colleagues derive a good part of their income from making spinal adjustments on pets. Also, busy naturopaths with a side-practice of homeopathic veterinarian pet care, including hugely profitable sales of pet nutritional supplements.

For those of you cloistered in large Health Science Centers dealing everyday with daunting problems and hazardous solutions, here's news to be heeded: there's a flourishing, lucrative and remarkably entrepreneurial alternative medicine industry out there. They are true believers and apparently multiplying like rabbits.

Jasmine and I hope to make it to Las Vegas this fall. We look forward to seeing you.

Highest regards,



J. Charles Rich, MD

Hugo V. Rizzoli, M.D.

5100 Dorset Ave. Apt 102
Chevy Chase, MD. 20815

Phone (301) 654-6486
Fax-(301) 654 3018

10 June 07

Dear Academicians:

I'm sorry to say I will not be able to attend the meeting this year- I do wish you all a great meeting! My 91st birthday will arrive in two months. It was enjoyable to see many of you here in Washington at AANS meeting in April.

I still go to the GWU Neurosurgical Clinic one day a week to see an occasional patient.

Wishing all of you a Healthy and Happy Year..

Sincerely,



Hugo V. Rizzoli

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Professor and Chairman
Department of Neurosurgery
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June 7, 2007

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., MD
Washington University Department of Neurosurgery
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

Dear Ralph:

As this academic year comes to a close, it is an opportune time to share with our colleagues a sampling of what the year has provided. To begin with, there were no shortages of challenges. I have indeed just completed my second year as Chairman of the neurosurgery program at Baylor College of Medicine, a program that has experienced a significant level of restructuring and redirecting over the recent past. The good news is that the residency program is healthy and thriving, and that this opportunity allowed me to successfully recruit seven neurosurgeons in a single year. As they say, everything is big in Texas. Of particular benefit has been the ability to better integrate the training program among all the participating institutions and in particular with M. D. Anderson where I maintain a base.

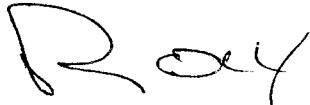
I am blessed with my association with wonderful and capable colleagues and administrators who collectively make this a livable and indeed enjoyable experience.

On a personal level, I am blessed with the friendship, affection, and support of my wife Kristin with whom I enjoy playing Scrabble and traveling, especially in Europe. My son Marc lives in New Mexico and works for a flower company, and my daughter Corinne, who is married to a young Navy man, is raising their one year old daughter right outside of Seattle.

My older step-daughter Brittany graduated from the University of Texas a year ago and is working in a company in downtown Houston trading natural gas, and her younger sister, Jessica, is a senior at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. Jessica, who is majoring in International Communication, just completed a semester in England. This provided an opportunity for our family to join her there at the end of her studies for some vacation time and a tour of the country.

I look forward to reading all of your letters and for an enjoyable meeting in Las Vegas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ray". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent capital 'R' and a trailing flourish.

Raymond Sawaya, MD
Professor and Chairman



Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität

Klinik und Poliklinik für Neurochirurgie
Direktor: Prof. Dr. J. Schramm

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Prof. Dr. J. Schramm, Klinik für Neurochirurgie, Sigmund-Freud-Straße 25, 53105 Bonn

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr. M.D.
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USA

Prof. Dr. J. Schramm

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Bonn, 05.06.07/nei

Dear Academicians,

Things move on, it is only six weeks after the AANS Meeting and already the round robin letter is due. Last year's doctor's strike is over, the situation has normalised and for some of the doctors the negotiations have led to an improved payment grade, which however, has yet to come true. The new contract for better doctor's payment started in November last year, but our administration was able to delay the start of higher payouts until now. So the discontent among junior doctors is persisting.

At the same time since January the new European Working Time Directive has now to be followed and the German rules demand that the regular weekly working time should be no more than 42 hours or, if the junior doctors opt for it, this can be increased to 54 hours per week. Surprisingly the junior doctors in my department all wanted to work the 54 hours and many of them are for angry that they are not allowed to work more. I understand however, that in many non-university departments junior doctors are not keen on working more. They slowly have come to realise that their training is suffering due to the short hours and general discontent is spreading.

In our own department things are changing also, within three or four months we will be moving into our temporary OR suite which has recently been erected and then our old OR spaces will be completely cleaned out and rebuilt from scratch. This supposedly will take two years and then, hopefully, a complete overhaul of the neurosurgical clinic is finished with a new intensive care unit, complete overhaul of all wards and most labs and finally the new OR.

There are some good news also, another two of my senior fellows are leaving the department because they have become chiefs elsewhere, one in a university department and the other one in a regional hospital not far away. So a new challenge is arising due to the thinning out in the various levels of competence within our neurosurgery group. On the other hand this is a beautiful chance for some people to climb up the ladder and to develop further.

On the family side nothing new happened. Our two girls are approaching the final stages in their dissertation procedures, one in biology and the other one in law and our son is still abroad entering his third year of his medical studies.

Dorothea and I try to combine the traveling to meetings and other places with some relaxation time which I seem to need a bit more frequently and on shorter intervals than in the past. This year I will go to the Epilepsy Course in Cleveland, I will not be able to make it to the CNS and whether I can arrange to go to the Academy Meeting, is as yet undecided. The location certainly looks wonderful and I hope we can make it.

Best wishes

Johannes Schramm, M. D.

July 20, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

Please forgive the lack of a proper letterhead, the result of waiting for the deadline before submitting my letter. The other reason is that after 19 years at UMDNJ/New Jersey Medical School I have moved to the North Shore LIJ Health System in New York, centered in Manhasset (East Egg to all you fans of **The Great Gatsby**). As vice chairman of the department and head of the Brain Tumor Institute, I will have the opportunity to build a comprehensive program, and to pursue other projects of stereotactic interest with colleagues in neurology and neurosurgery.

The NSLIJ institutes are named after Harvey Cushing, given the involvement of HC's family with the system (North Shore University Hospital itself occupies a portion of the estate of Betsy and Jock Whitney, Cushing's daughter and son-in-law). Tom Milhorat has done a great job building a full-time and increasingly academic department at NSLIJ and it is exciting to join that effort. The neurosurgical department at UMDNJ remains impregnable and continues to grow annually, thanks to the efforts of Peter Carmel, my mentor since medical school and for years to come.

Heading the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery remains great fun. The amount of energy and creativity in the field and the organization is astounding. The indications for DBS are expanding along with those for stereotactic radiosurgery, both of which clearly will be a major part of neurosurgical practice for the foreseeable future. Soon we will also see the introduction of neurosurgically directed "biological" treatments for a variety of functional disorders.

All is well on the family front. Lu is maintaining her practice in clinical psychology and her organizational involvement as well. She remains the president of Psychoanalysts for Social Responsibility, a section of the American Psychological Association. Ilana and Talia (15 and 12) are doing great. We hope to see you in Nevada in October.

Michael Schulder



Children's Hospital Boston

R. MICHAEL SCOTT, M.D.
Neurosurgeon-in-Chief

The Christopher K. Fellows Family Chair in Pediatric Neurosurgery



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Department of Surgery
Professor of Surgery

July 5, 2007

Dear Academicians:

The year – as always it seems – has been eventful for my family and for our department. In the department, we “graduated” our 15th pediatric neurosurgical fellow this year, a real milestone for our group. The ABNS supported and endorsed the efforts of our pediatric neurosurgical board in its accreditation of pediatric neurosurgeons, one of the wonderful surprises of the academic year. Our department leadership changed hands as Peter Black stepped down after 20 years as Chairman, and Art Day took his place. It has been universally acknowledged that Peter did a remarkable job as Chairman, taking the Brigham from a minuscule caseload to one of the busiest departments in the country, tripling the faculty size and adding a large research staff. Art will take over the department at a very good time in its history, and we all welcome his outstanding teaching and clinical skills as the leader of our group.

In our family, my daughter Elizabeth has a new child, Lucy. Susan was able to be out in California for the new baby’s birth, and we have seen them several times in Oakland since then; they will be out to visit at our summer home in Mattapoisett for two weeks in August. David has been touring Europe with a rap group (“Guru”) playing a variety of instruments and adding a jazz flavor to their music. They draw large audiences wherever they play, and I was surprised at the warm reception this music gets overseas. Rob continues to play in and around Boston and on Cape Cod, both with his own jazz trio and with a rock band (“The Grab Brothers”), with whom he makes considerably more money, of course. We all had a difficult time this June when their Mom, Cathy – whom many of you knew – died suddenly after a syncopal episode. Her death was a release from years of disabling mental illness.

At home, we are nearing completion of a top floor kitchen renovation in our South End home, and those of you who have been through this sort of thing know how difficult the process can be. We eat dinner on a card table and watch TV using a rabbit ears antenna that allows us one station reception. They say just another three weeks . . . Susan is back to work in the New England Medical

Center OR two days a week, along with babysitting her daughter Heather's kids on a weekly basis, and she remains a very busy woman indeed.

The highlights of my year were discovering the effectiveness of our new intraoperative MRI as a clinical tool, the experience of working with the four other pediatric neurosurgeons in our group as a real collaborative, and the chance to play with our jazz group ("The NJQ" -- The Neurosurgical Jazz Quintet) at several of our major neurosurgical organization meetings. We will miss seeing everyone in Las Vegas because we had scheduled a walking trip with my brother and his wife in Croatia in the fall. We know that the Academy meeting will be successful, and will look forward to seeing everyone next year.



R. Michael Scott, M.D.

July 16, 2007

Dear Academicians:

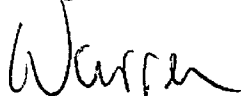
Things are just beginning to get interesting at the Selman household. We now officially have our first teenager, as Jack turned 13 on March 30th. Hadley and Jordan are wondering what happened to their sweet older brother, but all in all they remain best of friends.

The summer is filled with the usual impossible schedule of multiple camps at different locations on the same day, so Diana is logging many miles on the family SUV. She maintains her sanity by keeping her beautiful gardens in great shape despite the draught that has plagued Ohio.

The faculty of the Department of Neurosurgery are adjusting to our new roles as members of University Hospitals Medical Group. We continue to work closely with our colleagues in Neurology as we develop our Neurological Institute on the Case Medical Campus, as well as throughout our system hospitals.

Diana and I look forward to seeing you all in Nevada in October.

Best regards,



Warren Selman

PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL

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301 SOUTH 8TH STREET
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PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

Frederick A. Simeone, M.D., F.A.C.S

Simeone Center for Neurosurgery
215-829-6700 fax: 215-829-7747

July 1, 2007

Dear Ralph:

This year promises to be a landmark in my life.

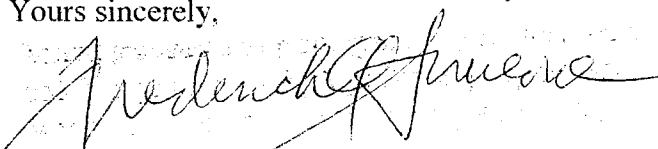
Shortly after completing graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania in environmental science, Christina was appointed Environmental Policy Analyst for the Governor, and she has moved to Harrisburg. Policy jobs are difficult to find and she believes this position is a perfect fit for her goals. This fall, SAFE (Simeone Automotive Foundation Exhibition) will open. This is a 5.1 acre site with a track and a 100,000 square foot building, which includes two conference rooms, board rooms, a large auditorium, but mainly 55 sports racing cars from 1908 to 1975. The theme, "The Spirit of Competition" will explain the evolution of these cars, in dioramas representing their actual racing venues, and show how competition improves the breed. We hope this site will be a destination for men and women interested in sports racing specifically, and competition philosophy in general. There will also be a driver program on simulators for young teenagers to train them before they actually maneuver a real car.

This will obviously be a full-time effort. Consequently, I have turned my practice and our Center's activity to Dr. William Welch. Bill comes as a former Professor of Neurosurgery and Chief of the spine service at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Besides a vast bibliography of books and papers, he brings with him a laboratory, and extensive experience in all forms of spinal surgery. He will be Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Chief of the service here at Pennsylvania Hospital. Bill is certainly up to the challenge of managing the large surgical load we have typically enjoyed here. It was 42 years ago at MGH that I did my first procedure as a staff neurosurgeon, and that is enough.

Whether a car buff or simply someone who would like to see how technology evolved through beautiful cars in interesting dioramas, you are all welcome to SAFE, which is just a few minutes from the Philadelphia International Airport.

Details are readily available through our office, which will continue to be open while I remain indefinitely as a consulting neurosurgeon tending the office practice as usual.

Yours sincerely,



Frederick A. Simeone, M.D.
Professor Emeritus of Neurosurgery
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

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VOLKER K. H. SONNTAG, M.D.
TIMOTHY HARRINGTON, M.D.
ANDREW G. SHETTER, M.D.
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FELIPE C. ALBUQUERQUE, M.D.
NICHOLAS THEODORE, M.D.
PETER NAKAJI, M.D.

June 26, 2007

American Academy of Neurological Surgery
2005 Round Robin

Dear Fellow Academians:

From the successful meeting at Reynolds Plantation in Georgia to the meeting coming up near Las Vegas, the year certainly has flown by.

The biggest event during this year in our life was the marriage of our daughter, Alissa, to Tyler Resh on April 28th. The two met at UCLA years ago and after several years of dating and a year of engagement, the wedding took place in Phoenix. It was great. She made a beautiful bride and her proud parents, relatives, and friends celebrated the event. Tyler and his family are wonderful people.

The rest of the year was relatively uneventful. Trips for meetings, conferences, and to institutions as well as work, kept me busy.

The BNI continues to grow. I am indebted to my colleagues, residents, and fellows who keep me enlightened and on the go at work.

At home, Lynne continues to be very busy with her commitments to the community, philanthropy, and neighborhood, keeping the family going on a steady course. Chris continues to work for the indoor professional football team (they did not have a good season), and enjoys it. Stephen is now a junior in high school and is doing great. He loves the school, is doing well academically, and loves to play lacrosse. He was captain of the JV team. Lynne and I just came back from a trip to China. What a dynamic, charming, growing country. The people were friendly and the country amazing. Beijing was getting ready for the Olympics which I think will show off China very nicely.

I hope this finds you all well. Lynne and I are looking forward to getting together in the sun and warmth of Nevada. See you there.

Sincerely,

Volker K.H. Sonntag, M.D.

June 18, 2007

Dear Academicians:

The year passed like a blur. Nancy and I are the proud grandparents of two girls that we just treasure. The fortunate circumstance of having both our children and their families close by provides us many opportunities to get together and enjoy each others company. Our children are doing well and we are grateful for their health, happiness and success.

Last month we crossed the Grand Canyon for the twentieth time accompanied by 114 hikers and visitors from several countries, including neurology residents, neuroradiology attendings and fellows and naturally neurosurgery residents, fellows and attendings, as well as children, extended friends and colleagues and our Visiting Professor Dan Barrow and his wife Mollie. The 23.9 mile trek with a one-mile change in elevation remains a challenge and is an accomplishment that everyone treasures. Although we had a couple of hikers who didn't get out until the next morning, everyone eventually made the crossing without a major incident.

Professionally the BNI continues to do well and we savor the quality of our residents and fellows who challenge us with their insight, intelligence commitment and skill. The camaraderie that exists between the residents, the attendings and other services continues to be a source of great pride and satisfaction.

It is with some trepidation that I look forward to carrying the mantle of being your President as I have long steered away from holding any office since Volker has so capably represented our institution and has unselfishly dedicated so much time on behalf of organized neurosurgery. I am in awe of so many of you who have similarly served on behalf of all neurosurgeons and recognize the debt of those of us who have counted on your unselfish service to represent the rest of us. I do want to let you know that no matter how undeserved I am most honored to be your President elect and will do my best not to tarnish this office during my term.

Finally, nothing gives me greater pleasure than to share with you that Nancy, the love of my life, continues to be well and healthy.

Robert F. Spetzler, M.D.

Professor Lindsay Symon

CBE TD FRCS FRCSE FACS(Hon)

"Maple Lodge", Rivar Road, Shalbourne, Wilts, SN8 3QE

☎/Fax 01672 870501

E-mail: lindsaysymon@tiscali.co.uk

Dear Academicians

This year Ralph's reminder arrived in plenty of time, although trouble with my (new) E Mail provider means that this will travel in the old accustomed way. However we now have an Email address- lindsaysymon@tiscali.co.uk- having been dragged into the twentyfirst century by my son and son in law.

We have had a busy two years with visits in 2005 to Finland and Estonia with the Archeologists, finding Tallinn an especially interesting city, and taking Lyme disease as a souvenir for Pauline from Finland. Fortunately, though undescribed in Lindsay's old Textbooks of 50+ years ago, the target rash was enough to prompt the diagnosis and Pauline went off to Canada to see relatives on large doses of dexacycline which cured the problem. Later that year we had a visit to Sri-Lanka which included the Northern areas of Amaradupura and Polonarua, hard to get to now with the Tamil insurrection.

In 2006 we had Pauline off with her Choir to Languedoc, interesting visits to Cahors and the Cathar areas, Lindsay being otherwise engaged on some golf course or other. In the fall of 2006, we went for the second time to Sicily with the Archeologists, and again enjoyed the Temples and Mosaics of that marvellous Island- not to mention the marsala. The British can take some credit for the development of sherry, madeira, port and marsala- all popularised by the Royal Navy in days gone by.

The family are all well, Fraser continues as a freelance on the internet in Scotland, elder Daughter, Rosemary, is well and a busy GP, they are very successful these days, she and her husband, also a GP - as evidenced by their new 36 foot yacht ! Younger daughter, on the Middle Eastern desk of the Financial times, is busy travelling to, especially Africa and reporting conditions there for the paper.

Grand children are well, one grandson in Glasgow in second year Medicine, Another still in prep school planning to go to Marlborough where his brother was Head Boy, one granddaughter going to Oxford to read History and French, another in a Lycee aiming at a Baccalaureate, and the eldest granddaughter working in child care.

Pauline is as ever, busy with her Choirs and harp, while the old chap plays golf, this year with some success- the Howell Salver from the Army Medical Services GC (rounds of 65 and 70 -net of course), the Summer cup and Victor Ludorum from the Caledonian Club summer meeting in France - and Captain elect of the Society. He remains on the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, and generally enjoys life. He was pleased to see Donnan's book on the Penumbra published - brought back many memories!

International travel is, however, low on the list, but if any old chums are in London, give us a call, we are not far away, and would love to see you,

*Yours affly,
Pauline & Audrey Symon*

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Toronto Western Hospital
University Health Network

June 6, 2007

Dr. Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Washington University
Department of Neurosurgery
600 South Euclid
Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Dacey:

I have not recently contributed to the Round Robin but offer a small contribution this year.

I still do a bit of consulting particularly with Worker's Compensation head injury cases and though this may seem very dull, it isn't really, there being many unexpected related problems to solve. I also continue to run my own office although I haven't done any surgeries since 1999. It is very satisfying to see someone that one operated on 20 or so years ago (particularly if the outcome is favourable). I am very interested in and try to be as active as possible in supporting the Nature Conservancy of Canada on the board of which I served some years ago. I am particularly involved with helping out with preservation of the wonderful Old Growth Forest in the Oak Ridges Moraine which stretches from the Niagara Escarpment in the west, north of Toronto, to the east, to near the Bay of Quinte. This is related to the last continental glaciation 10 or 15,000 years ago. I got involved in it because we owned some land in the very best part of the forest.

We also own some Lake Huron shoreline land on Manitoulin Island which is notable for several threatened or endangered Great Lakes endemic plant species, but I haven't yet been able to work out a means of preserving this.

As for the children, my eldest son, James, has been living in Belgium near Brussels for the last three or four years because his wife is the general manager of a Boston based pharmaceutical company's factory there - a most demanding job. In April, I spent two weeks with them and was taken on an interesting tour of the Battle of Waterloo, the Maginot Line, the Friesian Islands in the North Sea, to mention several. They will return to the Boston area next year.

My eldest daughter is absolutely devoted to windsurfing but manages to find time to work as an investment advisor.

My younger son and his wife, with their 1 ½ year old daughter, would really rather live in Kingston, Ontario where they own two 19th century limestone houses but are forced to spend time in Toronto as well.

The youngest, my second daughter, works for the U.S. Consulate General in Toronto. If I really understand what she does, she researches economic problems that can affect both countries such as the softwood lumbar dispute and the problems of intellectual properties.

I think it is unlikely that I will make the meeting this year, perhaps I will do better in the future.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Tasker".

R. Tasker, O.C., M.D., FRCSC
RT/ng

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Ralph G. Dacey, JR M.D
Washington University
660 South Euclid, BOX 8057
St Louis, MO 63110

Date 29th May 2007
Enquiries to Karen Grant
Direct Line 0141 225 5554
Email karenggrant2@nhs.net

Dear Mr Dacey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Dacey'.

The American Academy of Neurological Surgery Annual Meeting

I would like to thank Mary Jean & Richard Morawetz and Bonnie & Nick Hopkins, for their kind invitation to the Annual Meeting which takes place on Wednesday 31st October in Las Vegas.

It is, however, with regret that due to other commitments, I shall not be able to attend. I do wish you every success with the forthcoming event.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Teasdale'.

Sir Graham Teasdale
Chairman of NHS Quality Improvement Scotland

David Thomas

The National Hospital
Queen Square
Division of Neurosurgery Box 32
London, WC1N 3BG

Dear Fellow Academicians

I retired from the National Hospital /Institute of Neurology in September 2006. I was first appointed to the staff there in 1976 and succeeded Lindsay Symon as Chairman in 1995. A symposium was held at Queen Square on my behalf in June in conjunction with the annual meeting of the British Neurooncology Society.

I continue as Emeritus Professor in the University of London based in the Department of Surgery at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, and work part time with colleagues on development of new tools for brain tumour surgery. Hazel also continues to work part-time in the National Blood Service.

Since September Hazel and I have had the chance to travel more simply for pleasure (and generally not connected with neurosurgery!) A particular high point was our visit in January to Noel and Adrienne Dan in Sydney for the fourth test. I have never before attended an England v. Australia Test Cricket Match in Australia. England, sadly, did not do well and lost not only this match but all five of the five day games in the series.

William, Clare and our three year old granddaughter, Athena, returned to London and have an apartment very close to ours. Having the family close by certainly keeps us active.

With best wishes,

David Thomas

To: Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., MD
Re: Round Robin Letter
Date: June 14, 2007

Dear Friends:

This has been a crazy year both for geopolitical matters as well as unusual global weather patterns. New Mexico has witnessed extremes in moisture and wind. After my 2006 letter to the Academy, Albuquerque experienced torrential rains for weeks – not unlike a Katrina event with flooding, land erosion, loss of property, damage to homes and other structures. The Catholic Church even published another article in early September to stop the novenas as God answered our prayers for rain! Well, three months later, unexpected heavy snow arrived and our city, and most of New Mexico, came to a dead stop. Suddenly we had a blanket of several feet of snow. I have never experienced such a huge mound of white stuff covering a city in years past. Hospitals, schools and expressways were closed, and airports were non-functioning. This was not a one day event, but of several weeks duration. Albuquerque was totally unprepared but learned valuable lessons and now has contingency plans ready for similar disasters. Well, the spring rains and tornadoes followed with a vengeance. This May, as it turns out, was the sixth wettest since records have been kept. And, to think our climate is supposed to be desert-like. (FEMA seems to reside in New Mexico!) Who knows what surprises our summer season will bring.

Our Governor (King Bill) Richardson has thrown his hat in the Democratic presidential race so he is seldom around Santa Fe anymore. We have to read the newspapers or watch TV to get his spin on political issues, or even what country he is en route to negotiate a conflict impacting the US and our leadership on a global level. Some of his pronouncements cause heated discussions back home.

Sadly, the Iraq fighting perpetuates with continued loss of our valued men and women. My grandson is in the National Guard (ROTC) and a senior at Texas A & M. I worry he will be involved in the mid-east hostilities while President Bush tries to justify the US presence there. Yes, this has been one crazy year so far.

On family matters, all seems status quo for the moment. As usual I have been kept busy at the UNM medical school and hospital with committee appointments. In a few months I'll be evaluating the annual research proposals and determining who will get a little "seed" money or scholarship support. I enjoy this endeavor as it keeps me mentally stimulated and up-to-date on medical developments.

This year I have been invited to speak at several professional gatherings or conferences with more presentations slated in the months ahead. As president of my senior nursing class at Northwestern, I will return to Chicago for my 50th class reunion celebration. How time flies....

I won't be attending the Academy meeting in Las Vegas this year although my thoughts will be there as you renew friendships and gain new medical knowledge. Best wishes for a successful event.

Agnes M. Walker *AMW*
(Mrs. A. Earl Walker)

P.S.: Don't send any rain or snow our way. Enough already!!

CLARK WATTS MD

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cwattsmjd@msn.com

June 29, 2007

The NEUROSURGEON:

It has been some time since we have contributed to the Round Robin, and a lot has happened to us. I retired from operative neurosurgery in October, 05; the festivities were dampened because as the final date drew near I ruptured an L3,4 disc. I had excellent surgical care, but my view of our medical system from the patient side was somewhat depressing. More than ever I am convinced our system needs revision, but more on that later.

For ten years I have taught, as an adjunct professor at the U. Texas School of Law in Austin, a course each Fall on the law of medical practice (for those of you who are interested two of the 28 semester hours are devoted to medical liability subjects). I have a small law practice (no advertising, just word-of-mouth), composed of three areas of interest. I represent health care providers (mainly physicians) who have business before the state agencies in our capital, Austin. I consult in commercial ventures (imaging facilities, ambulatory surgical units, etc.) interpreting federal and state regulations unique to the health/medical industry. I represent physicians in settlement/mediation actions in medical liability matters. Quite frankly, some of the problems are as interesting and challenging as medical practice.

We have 13 grandchildren, and just recently our first great-grandchild. We do a lot of traveling, but the difficulties encountered, especially with foreign security is beginning to wear on us; we are looking to confine ourselves more and more to the U.S. Having said that, our next major trip, this January, is to and on the Amazon River. In August, we will make our usual sojourn to Santa Fe for the Opera season. For those of you who enjoy the Art, and have not experienced this rendition, we strongly encourage you to do so. From mid June 'til the end of August—what a delight! Let us know if you need more information or help.

I am convinced more than ever that this next election cycle will bring us some form of universal health care, at least from the business side. And, quite frankly, I think we need it. It must improve access and be manageable economically. Universal "medicare" would be a disaster, based upon my experience with Medicare, as a provider and as a patient. We should all be discussing this subject, not because the Academy itself should do something, but to ensure the members have the experience from across our country, which they can take back, and plug into the political arena. I do not think the problem is that difficult once a decision is made: will it be

market oriented or government run? To be considered: employer/employee divisions of responsibility, tax credits/tax deductions, deductible coverage/catastrophic needs, "welfare" support/facility (provider) reimbursement.

Finally, there are several areas in our specialty that do concern me. One is the degree to which other specialties are able to manage the diseases we include within the scope of neurosurgery. Is there any thing we still manage entirely within the specialty? Possibly the acute epidural intracranial hematoma. The other matter involves the indications for spinal surgery. I wonder what our residents are being taught today. My chief had a saying, which I found to be quite true: if one operates for pain that is what you will get. In a difference of opinion over the indications for lumbar disc surgery I questioned the need for surgery in a patient without objective signs of neurological dysfunction, equivocal imaging, and pain. My worthy opponent, a distinguished university professor charged I was a "purist". No just a traditional neurosurgeon. Perhaps we are paying too much attention to spine surgeons in other specialties, perhaps out of a sense of competition.

Well we wish all the very best, and perhaps we will see you some time, somewhere.

Clark and Patty Watts

May 24, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

This has been a great year for us. First, a new grandchild for Francie and for me my first opportunity to watch an infant morph into the beginning of his second year. When my children were little my head and time were lost in neurosurgery as a student and resident.

In October I was recruited back to the Health Technology Center as a Senior Advisor, half-time on the Research team. As some of you know, this is a non-profit technology forecasting organization dedicated to the future of health care and health-related technologies. I had been away from it for three years after resigning to do another project, and it is great to be back looking at where these technologies are going.

My children are living abroad. Becky is the Mission Director for the USAID office in Sri Lanka, and we plan to visit them there in December. Byron, the herpetologist and now an Associate Professor at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica spends a substantial part of his time in the jungle on an iguana project.

GAIA, the AIDS organization that I co-founded 7 years ago is remarkably successful working in Malawi on empowering women as the base of our mission to slow the spread of HIV/AIDS. Presently, we taking care of 5,000 orphans who are clothed, kept and cared for by foster mothers, delivering home-based care and the teaching women to do income-generating activities and smaller ventures through micro-loans.

My other African project is in Uganda, where the goal is delivering surgical services to the villages that account for 85% of the population. The mechanism is through educating non-professional clinical officers specially trained in surgery and anesthesia coupled with restoring the District Hospitals to the condition that existed before the Last King of Scotland put them in disrepair through neglect from which they have not recovered. Progress is slow because of politics there and funding in this country.

Francie and I continue to enjoy robust good health, and life after neurosurgery brings great satisfaction to me. Francie feels similarly about life after life as the Assistant Chancellor at UCSF. She's involved in many areas principally two book clubs, the Asian Art Museum, travel and a circle of friends.

I hope that all is well with all of you. The death of Buz Hoff was a tragedy. We were and had remained very close. Possibly I will attend a neurosurgical meeting of some sort in the coming year and renew many friendships that I miss.

All the best,

Charlie

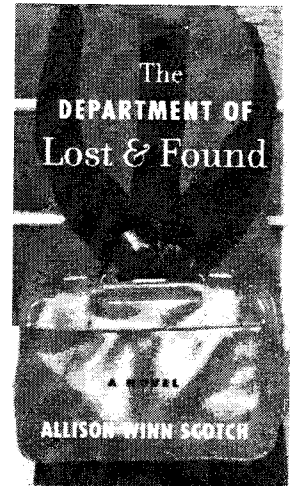
Charlie Wilson and Francie Petrocelli.

Greetings from the Winns in the Big Apple. Since our last contribution to the Round Robin, there has been a lot of activity and two new additions to our family. When we had the opportunity many years ago to move to NYC, we were not ready to move here. Now, however, it is a great place for us to live. We have the interests and time to take advantage of the City, its museums, theatre, opera, sports, you name it. Best of all, however, is living in the same city as our children and grandchildren. We often lament that we did not live closer to our parents while our kids were growing up. Debbie's mother (92 years old) and still living on her own, frequently comes up from Philadelphia to visit her great grandchildren.

Our latest addition is Amelia Miller (for Richard's mother) Scotch. Allison &



Adam's 2nd child, was born 12/5/06 (see below, left). Brother Campbell (age 2.75 yrs) & the family dog, Pedro, are adjusting well. They live on the Upper West Side, about 15 minutes from our apartment on the Upper East Side. In May '07, the hard back edition of Allison's novel, *The Department of Lost and Found* (right) was published by William Morrow/ Harper Collins. It has received superb reviews in Cosmo, Redbook (where it was excerpted and



picked as its selection of the month of May), and Marie Claire, to mention a few.

Allison was picked by Literary Guild as "a writer to watch." It is a great read, very funny and extremely entertaining--the critics are calling it, "smart and well written," "an impressive debut," "a bonbon of a book," "too good to pass up." Adam, our son-in-law is enjoying his fatherly activities. His hedge fund had another banner year.



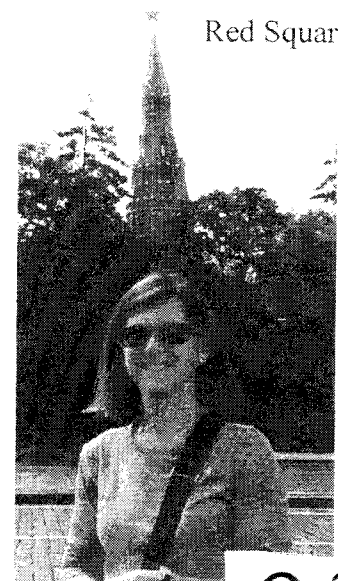
An earlier addition, Mia Isabelle, (age 18 months) and her parents, Randy (our son) & Tammy, live on the Upper East Side, about fifteen minutes from our apartment. Tammy is taking a hiatus from her work in the financial sector to be a full-time mom and, of course, Mia is thriving with this arrangement. When Randy's company, Capital IQ, was purchased by Standard and Poors/ McGraw Hill a few years ago, Randy agreed to stay on for at least three years. The company has expanded even more last year with multiple international acquisitions.

We continue to enjoy working at Mount Sinai. Richard remains focused on his lab, on teaching medical students and residents and on patient care, and Debbie is

doing PR work for the Department of Neurosurgery. Our commute is not very onerous: a one minute walk down Fifth Ave from our apartment unless there is a very strong wind coming up the Ave., and then it takes Debbie a little longer.

We took in some interesting sights this year: our big trip last year was to Russia last summer where we joined a group from Cornell and MIT on a cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg; Debbie took her annual ski trip with friends. However, the truth is that life for us in NYC so exciting; we are reluctant to leave the "City." We fit in golf when we can, although Richard plays a lot more than Debbie, often with Randy. Debbie is still playing tennis and enjoying it. We love having people visit from out of town. Let us know when you are coming (212 996 6120) and we'll get together for dinner, a visit to the garment district with Debbie, a show on Broadway or whatever interests you.

Debbie and Richard





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June 12, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

I would be less than honest if I did not admit that moving from Past President of the AANS to Past Past President has been a relief. We are still playing catch-up at the Wirth household for things put aside during my year as AANS President. Fortunately for us, my colleagues have been very generous and supportive throughout this experience and the practice of neurosurgery, which I have always enjoyed, continues to be as interesting and as challenging as ever.

Our biggest events this past year have been the birth of Charlie Wirth, my first grandchild, and the birth of twins, Elsa and Liam Nagle, Lynn's 3rd and 4th grandchildren. We continue to be awed by the maturity, hard work and self-sacrifice devoted to the care of these grandchildren as well as our other two grandchildren, Kate and Graham Ponder, who are a little older. Our new schedule happily allows a little more time for our direct involvement in our children and grandchildren's activities and we are both enjoying this immensely. We look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas this fall.

Phil and Lynn

July 14, 2007

Dear Fellow Academicians,

It is a distinct honor for me to join the membership of this prestigious Academy, and I wish to thank the members and particularly Sean Grady for supporting my candidacy.

For those of you who don't know me, I'll provide a brief bio and will plan on getting to know you all much better during upcoming meetings. I'm from a small town in north central New Jersey, where my memories mostly revolve around a state championship in soccer my senior year of high school (I also played on a mediocre baseball team). I attended Harvard College where I also played soccer, and then Stanford for medical school. I worked and traveled around the world prior to arriving in New York City for my internship in general surgery at Columbia-Presbyterian. There, Academy members Paul McCormick and Bob Solomon were fellow residents (Bob may not remember, but he took me through my first ICP monitor placement). I received my neurosurgical training at MGH in Boston under the tutelage of Academy members Bob Ojemann, Nick Zervas, Roberto Heros, Paul Chapman, Bob Martuza, Peter Black and Larry Borges, among others. When I was a very green junior resident, Marc Mayberg served as my Chief Resident and led me through 'the ropes'; later Joe Madsen was my fellow Chief, and Chris Ogilvy soon followed us (all Academy members). Following residency, I spent fellowship time in Toronto with Alan Hudson and then in New Orleans with David Kline, learning about complex peripheral nerve surgery. In 1989 Academy member Gene Flamm then invited me to join him at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and I have been a faculty member there ever since.

I have been very fortunate to have terrific faculty colleagues and residents at Penn. My practice is a challenging combination of complex cerebrovascular and peripheral nerve disorders, along with a sprinkling of tumors and spine and pain. Clinical research is emphasized in our department, and we enjoy solid support for these activities. I remain very involved in the activities of the Peripheral Nerve Task Force of the AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves, where wonderful colleagues from around the world share in the excitement of our small subspecialty.

My family is my main delight – my lovely wife, Marirosa Colón, and our three children, Camila (16), David (13) and Daniel (11). They keep me energized and grounded, and I feel their love and unflagging support at all times.

I look forward to seeing you all in Las Vegas.

Sincerely yours,

Eric L. Zager, MD