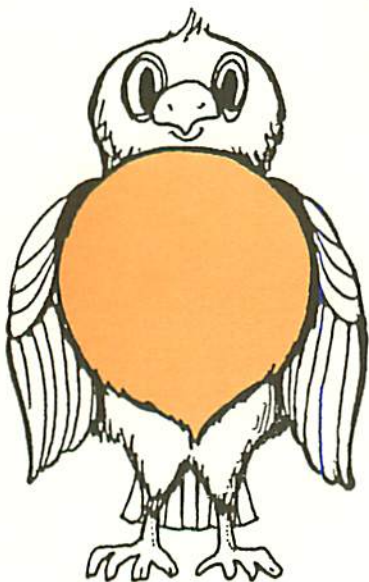
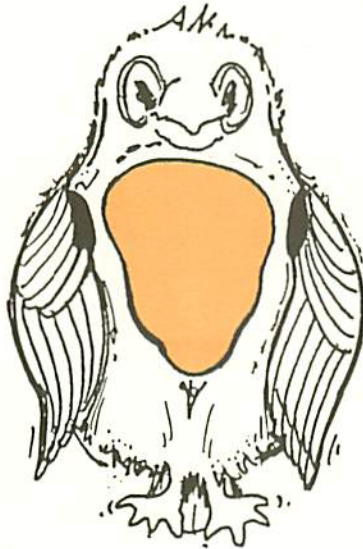
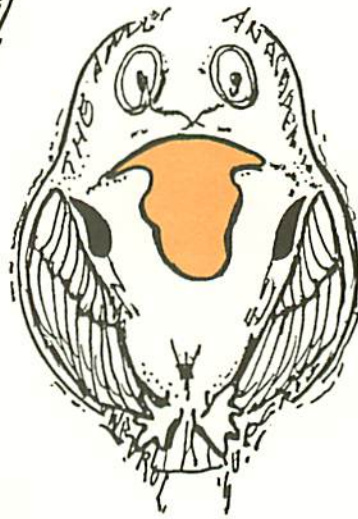


THE NEUROSURGEON



THE ROUND ROBIN LETTER
OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

OCTOBER 2003

Leigh Atkinson

NEUROSURGEON

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

FRACS FACS FRCS (Edin.)

FFPMANZCA FAFRM (RACP)

Alexandra
201 Wickham Terrace
Brisbane Qld 4000

Tel: (61.7) 3839 3393

Mobile: 0412 022 282

Fax: (61.7) 3832 2005

Email:

leighatkinson@optusnet.com.au



17th June, 2003

Dr L Nelson Hopkins MD
Secretary
American Academy of Neurological Surgery
University at Buffalo Neurosurgery
3 Gates Circle
BUFFALO NY 14209-1194

Dear Neison,

Thank you for the information on this year's Scientific Program and Social Program for the Academy.

I once again must apologise that I will be unable to attend and I would be grateful if you could put in my apologies. I am caught up with examinations and scientific meetings in Australia and South East Asia at that time.

*Kindest regards,
Yours sincerely,*

Leigh Atkinson
Leigh Atkinson

1

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28 July 2003

L. N. Hopkins III, M.D.
Department of Neurosurgery
SUNY School of Medicine & Biomedical Science
3 Gates Circle, 3rd Floor
Buffalo, NY 14209-9560

Dear Nick,

Carolyn and I have been in the Desert now for 2 years. The move was key to good health, and it looks like there has been some stability in my health for the past 9 months. So, although unexpected, the move was good. Carolyn is doing well and has been enormously supportive.

It was not easy to abruptly stop what you have been doing for a long time. Also the public is not accustomed to accepting that people over 60 can start new careers instead of retire. So, with that background, I am working on several new careers and some old ones all at the same time.

We moved the offices of SURGICAL NEUROLOGY to the desert. I hired a new Managing Editor who also was the Office Manager for a neurosurgical practice in California. She had also relocated to the desert. Now the journal is coming out on time, and we are getting a good number of papers to review. We are still airing the controversies. Most people enjoy the fact that it is easy to read, but we still want to get into the basic science in an understandable way. The advances in biology are tremendous and will leave everyone behind in a short number of years. We need to find a way to keep everyone up with what is new.

As many of you know I am a consultant to the Tiber Group, a Healthcare Strategic Planning and Market Research company. The company has a good national reputation and has been a consultant to many of the major medical centers. I am helping them with the Neuroscience initiative in building neuroscience centers around the country. Since hospitals are not

making as much money in cardiac as they did, neuroscience becomes the option. There are 15-90 million people with neurological problems including psychiatric illnesses. This will be a huge growth field in the future. A lot of research money is being spent in this area both by the government and the private sector. So, this is the time for neurosurgery to lead the way in developing this area. The way to do it is to construct interdisciplinary programs with the other neuroscience departments and to promote disease management rather than specialty services. This is what the patients want and will be cost effective. I have always enjoyed the challenge of building businesses in medicine. For the first time, I am with people who understand the ideas I have on healthcare and medicine. Academedia does not allow people to implement innovative or creative ideas. It is risk averse! That is why it is in trouble. Most of you are experiencing this problem. I am looking forward to visiting a number of you in this capacity.

I have a weekly TV segment on health. It is a great experience learning about other diseases and teaching the average viewer about medicine. It is amazing how much you can cover in a short time. We are working on expanding this segment or syndicating it.

I am seeing patients selectively but will not accept insurance payment of any kind. This has been an interesting experience for me, as many people do not understand this concept. They think all their healthcare charges are paid by their insurer and that doctors are therefore well paid. It tells us how poorly we have educated the public. Many of the people including the rich believe they are entitled to care since they paid for it through taxes. The Entitlement Mentality is a huge problem for medicine to overcome. I was not interested in undergoing the restrictions by the government or other parties anymore in my practice and did not want to pay my employees to do the insurance company's or patient's work in certification and collection. I did not have this option in an academic environment. I want to practice medicine as I really enjoy it, spending time with the patient.

I also plan to begin speaking to the public on the state of healthcare and what needs to be done to correct it. Medicine needs doctors who speak publicly on what is best for the patient. Not many are doing it. I believe that the government's legislation regulating medicine and physicians is discriminatory and unconstitutional. I was appointed to the City Health and Welfare Commission as my first political foray.

I was accepted to an On-Line Law school for the fall. It is unique and should be an interesting experience in education. I am thinking about doing something completely new after the age of 70.

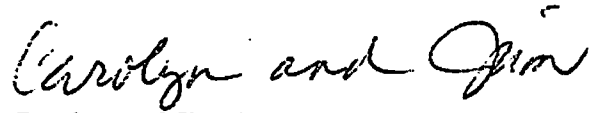
To keep abreast of neurosurgery I have visited USC, UCLA, Cedars-Sinai, and Loma Linda neurosurgery departments. I spent most of that time at UCLA. Neil and Don have done an excellent job of developing interdisciplinary relationships and excellent research.

So, the careers are in progress. I will have to make some choices but want something from which to choose. More next year.

It was a real pleasure for us to have Lyle and Gene French visit us and vice-versa. They are located five hours away in Scottsdale.

We look forward to seeing you all in Williamsburg.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn and Jim". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed names.

Carolyn and Jim Ausman



Department of
Neurological Surgery

July 30, 2003

L. Nelson (Nick) Hopkins MD, Secretary
American Academy of Neurological Surgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo NY 14209, USA

Dear Fellow Academicians:

It is a great pleasure and honor to write my first Round Robin letter. This is a wonderful concept, and I look forward to many future contributions and to hearing from others.

This year has been a productive one from an academic standpoint. Our epilepsy lab has made progress in the areas of non-synaptic mechanisms of epilepsy as well as in cortical dysplasia. Our NIH and Elekta funded multi-center study on radiosurgical treatment of temporal lobe epilepsy is moving forward. We hope to start a larger, Phase 3 trial in the near future as we collect the final data from our pilot trial. The clinic is busier than ever. It seems that there are fewer practicing neurosurgeons in California each year, putting pressure on the University to make up the difference.

My family continues to thrive. Sue Ellen is "between jobs" and is planning to move into music teaching, likely at an elementary school level. It seems that her days of singing at the opera are over, but her love of music continues. My oldest child, Eva (20), attends San Francisco State, and works part-time here at UCSF as an administrative assistant. My son, Mike (17), is entering his senior year of high school and is looking at colleges. He played Lacrosse for the first time last spring and loved it. Varsity football practice has already begun for the fall. My youngest, Monica (14), is becoming quite a ballet dancer and enters high school this year. I've fished the San Juan and Deschutes rivers this year, and hope to get my line wet a few more times before winter.

I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to join the Academy. I look forward to seeing you in Williamsburg.

Sincerely,

Nicholas M. Barbaro, MD
Professor of Neurosurgery

- MITCHEL S. BERGER, MD
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15/353-2358
 - ARTIN C. HOLLAND, MD
Brain & Spinal Cord Injury
415/476-3860
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Adult Brain Tumors & Radiosurgery
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 - MIL LARSON, MD
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415/502-3744
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Cerebrovascular Disease
15/502-5823
 - EDFREY MANLEY, MD, PhD
Brain & Spinal Cord Injury
415/476-3860
 - MICHAEL W. McDERMOTT, MD
Adult Brain Tumors & Radiosurgery
15/502-3744
 - ANDREW T. PARSA, MD, PhD
Adult Brain Tumors & Radiosurgery
415/353-2358
 - WARWICK J. PEACOCK, MD
Pediatric Neurological Surgery
15/353-2383
 - ICTOR PERRY, MD
Pediatric Neurological Surgery
415/353-2358
 - LAWRENCE H. PITTS, MD
Acoustic Neuromas (Skull Base)
Neurospinal Disorders
15/502-5823
 - MICHAEL D. PRADOS, MD
Adult Neuro-Oncology
415/502-3744
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Stereotactic & Functional Neurosurgery
15/502-3744
 - PHILIP R. WEINSTEIN, MD
Neurospinal Disorders
415/502-5823
 - CHARLES B. WILSON, MD
Adult Brain Tumors
15/476-8878
- RESEARCH LABORATORIES**
- ARTURO ALVAREZ-BUYLLA, PhD
Neural Stem Cells & Regeneration
 - RYS BANKIEWICZ, MD, PhD
Drug Delivery & Gene Transfer
 - SCOTT C. BARABAN, PhD
Epilepsy
 - GABRIELE BERGERS, PhD
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 - SCOTT PANTER, PhD
NS Injury/Schematics
 - USSELL O. PIEPER, PhD
Gene Silencing
 - ROBERT TURNER, PhD

NEUROSURGERY/NEURO-ONCOLOGY CLINICS

400 Parnassus Avenue, 8th Floor
Box 0350 (Neurosurgery)
Box 0372 (Neuro-Oncology)
San Francisco, CA 94143
415/353-7500 (Neurosurgery)
415/353-2968 (Neuro-Oncology)
Fax: 415/353-2889 (Neurosurgery)
415/353-2167 (Neuro-Oncology)

ACADEMIC OFFICE

505 Parnassus Avenue
Room M-779, Box 0112
San Francisco, CA 94143-0112
415/476-1087
Fax: 415/753-1772

RESEARCH LABORATORIES

Brain Tumor Research Center (BTRC)
Center for Neurological Injury & Repair (CNIR)
533 Parnassus Avenue, Room U-378
415/476-4590
Fax: 415/476-9687

July 30, 2003

L. N. Hopkins, III, M.D.
3 Gates Circle, 3rd Floor
Buffalo, NY 14209-1194

Re: Round Robin Letter for the Academy Meeting

Dear Nick:

Life seems to be quite good! Professionally, the Neurosurgical Program at UCSF could not be in a better position. We have successfully obtained a SPORE Grant from the NCI (Specialized Program of Research Excellence in Neuro-Oncology), on which I am the Principal Investigator. This will allow us to speed up translational research and implement new clinical trials for patients who have brain tumors. We also recently ranked #1 in the nation in Neurosurgical Departments for NIH funding, based on the recent survey distributed by the National Institutes of Health. Our clinical programs and volume continue to grow, and we are planning to add another spine surgeon and another vascular surgeon soon. Our new campus opened up at Mission Bay, and our new Brain Tumor Research Center has been designed. Construction will be implemented next year on our new Mission Bay campus. Hopefully, a new hospital will follow shortly, and is planned for this new campus within 8 years.

On a personal note, I have finally reached the stage of having a daughter who will be attending college. Lindsay will attend the University of Pennsylvania, starting in the Fall, and I look forward to traveling back to Philadelphia many times over the next 4 years. Hopefully, Harvard, my alma mater, will continue to annihilate Penn in football on a yearly basis, but we'll wait and see. My son Alex continues to be obsessed by golf, and is now winning or placing very highly in California State tournaments for his age group. I hope he will take this to the next level, but that is clearly his decision.

Overall it has been a great year, and I look forward to yet another fabulous, energetic year in 2004.

Sincerely,

Mitchel S. Berger, M.D.
Professor and Chairman

MSB:km

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

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



NEUROSURGEON-IN-CHIEF
Brigham & Women's Hospital
Children's Hospital
CHIEF OF NEUROSURGICAL ONCOLOGY
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Boston, Massachusetts

August 5, 2003

Nick Hopkins, MD
Secretary of American Academy of Neurological Surgery
University at Buffalo Neurosurgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209-1194

Dear Fellow Academicians:

This year was interesting for our family and for our service.

In the family, Katharine and I became almost empty-nesters. Our daughter, Katie, graduated from Harvard Medical School and has taken a position as a medical resident at the Brigham & Women's Hospital. Elizabeth, her twin, is a second-year student at Northwestern University of Law and is enjoying it a great deal. Our oldest son Peter Thomas has just launched a new cellular phone initiative for Seimen's in Shanghai where he lives full time. He expects to sell 800,000 telephones by the end of this year. Our younger son is engaged in the study of linguistics at Harvard College. Dia, our oldest daughter is working for Advanced, an organization that teaches about regulation of drug and instrument companies. Katharine is now writing, as well as doing her interim work. We have recruited several new faculty members, and are particularly enjoying working with Art Day as he assumes the residency program reins.

Warm regards,

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

Peter McL. Black, MD, PhD

JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

Department of Neurosurgery
600 N. Wolfe Street / Mayer 7-113
Baltimore, MD 21287
410-955-2252 / Fax 410-955-8263

Henry Brem, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Harvey Cushing Professor
Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery
Professor of Neurosurgery,
Ophthalmology and Oncology
Email: hbrem@jhmi.edu

July 29, 2003

Academy Round Robin
c/o N. L. Hopkins, M.D., Secretary
American Academy of Neurological Surgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, N. Y. 14209

Dear Fellow Academicians:

Rachel and I are looking forward to getting together with you in Williamsburg. We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary this January. We continue to be amazed by how quickly our daughters are growing up. Andrea is starting her junior year at The University of Pennsylvania. She had a wonderful summer in Cambridge, combining research on stem cells in Bob Langer's lab at MIT, with a course in Political Science at Harvard Summer School. Alisa, who turns 17 in September, spent the summer in Venice studying art, and returned home in August for an art exhibit displaying her work. Her twin sister, Sarah, had a wonderful summer doing research in Rafael Tamargo's laboratory, exploring mechanisms of vasospasm, as well as volunteering in the Children's Hospital. It was a real treat for me to have her at Hopkins. Rachel is doing extremely well at George Washington, and enjoying her work in mammography. This spring she was promoted to full professor, and is Vice Chairman of the Department of Radiology. This summer we are all planning to go together to Italy and Israel.

The Neurosurgery Department had a great year. Ziya Gokaslan has been very successful as Director of Spine Surgery, and has been named as the first incumbent of the Donlin M. Long Professorship in Neurosurgery. Irving J. Sherman is our most senior alumnus of the Hopkins training program. He has fond memories of training under Walter Dandy in the 1930s and 1940s. He and his wife Florence have donated a Chair to the department for Neurosurgical research. This proved quite helpful in recruiting Greg Riggins to lead our program in molecular genetics. After an extensive national search, Daniele Rigamonti was chosen to head our new Radiosurgery Program, which included the opening of the Gamma Knife Center at the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center. We also began utilizing our intra-operative MRI, as we are enthusiastically finding new applications for its imaging capabilities. Our practice continues to expand with over 4,000 major cases carried out at Hopkins this year, evenly divided between intra-cranial and spinal cases. We have recruited three additional P.A.s to work on the clinical service in order to assure the residents' compliance with the new ACGME guidelines. We have



Page 2

July 29, 2003
Academy Round Robin
c/o N. L. Hopkins, M.D., Secretary
The American Academy of Neurological Surgery

recruited two new clinical faculty members this year. George Jallo joined us in Pediatric Neurosurgery from his position at Beth Israel Hospital in New York, and Richard Clatterbuck joined our Vascular and Skull Base Service after completing a fellowship at the Barrow Neurological Institute.

Bob Martuza was the 2002 Walter Dandy Visiting Professor, and gave a lecture about his insights about gene therapy in Neurosurgery. In April, we were treated to the 2003 Dandy Lecture given jointly by Ed Laws and Mary Ellen Dandy Marmaduke about Walter Dandy's legacy. Both Dr. Sherman and Dr. Hugo Rizzoli, who trained under Dandy, were in the audience and shared their recollections of their time with him as well. Several members of the Dandy family participated as well.

We look forward to joining you in Williamsburg for the Academy meeting.

Best regards,



Henry and Rachel Brem

HB/saa
(round robin 7-29-03)

Datum: June 16, 2003
Prof.Brock/fu

L. Nelson Hopkins, M.D.
Secretary, AANS
Department of Neurosurgery
University at Buffalo
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209-1194
USA

Dear Nick:

This year it is a very special pleasure for Christina and me to send you our **Round Robin letter**.

The year has been magnificent.

1st: The Government of Berlin has decided to merge the Medical Faculties of both Universities of the German capital (Free University and Humboldt-University). This means that there will be only one single chair of Neurosurgery (namely ours) in charge of three University Hospitals with a "turnover" of about 3,500 neurosurgical procedures per year. This is a huge task, involving new strategies but offering unprecedented opportunities.

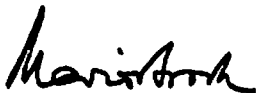
2nd: The highlight of this year was the visit of Lynne and Volker Sonntag, who spent three days in Berlin, accompanied by their charming children, in order to "inspect" the sites of your visit in the coming year (on the way to the joint meeting with the German Academy for Neurosurgery and the Germany Society for Neurosurgery in Dresden).

Very much to our regret Christina and I will be unable to attend the meeting in Williamsburg (I have to lecture in South America) but you will receive enough information to convince all Academy members that a visit to Berlin and Dresden is an absolute must in 2004.

Christina and I wish you a successful and happy meeting in Colonial Williamsburg. Our thoughts will be with you.

With kindest personal regards to each member and his family,

Yours sincerely,



M. Brock, M.D., Ph.D.
Director & Chairman
Department of Neurosurgery
Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Berlin - and Dresden - await you in October of 2004 . . .

Gendarmenmarkt kulinarisch – Ein Rundgang

Die Gendarmenmarkt ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Der Gendarmenmarkt ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Truder Vic's ☞
 Das Restaurant Truder Vic's ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Malatesta ☞
 Das Restaurant Malatesta ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Newton Bar ☞
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Refugium ☞
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Löwenbräu ☞
 Das Restaurant Löwenbräu ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

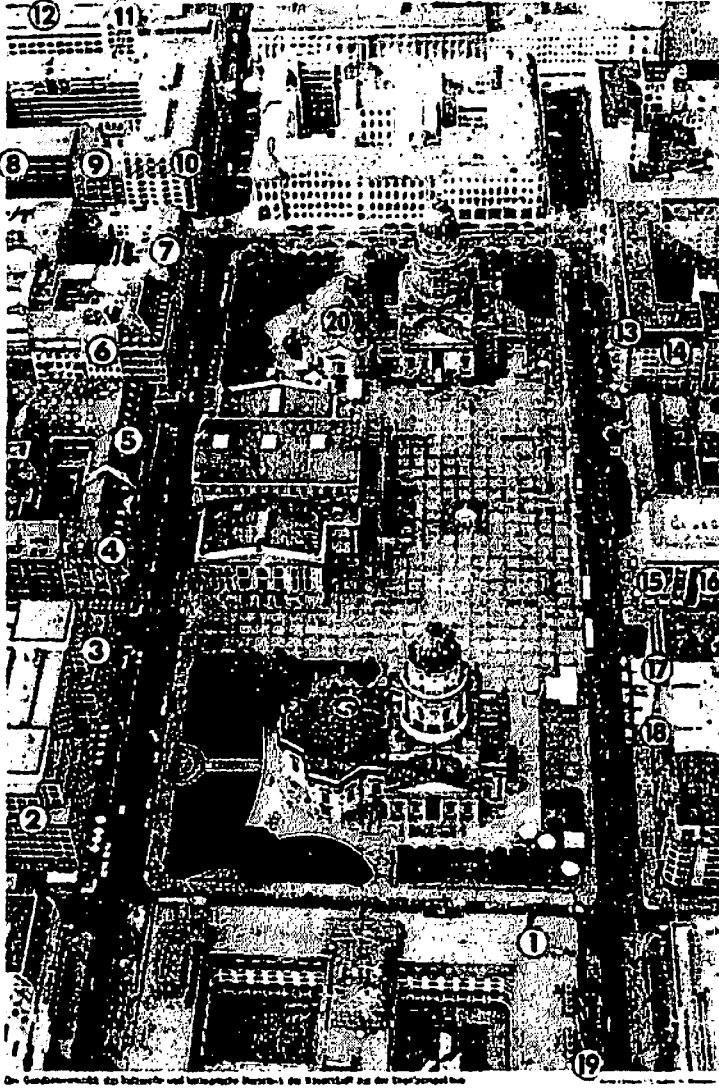
Trenta Sei ☞
 Das Restaurant Trenta Sei ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

925 Lounge Bar ☞
 Das Restaurant 925 Lounge Bar ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Gaffel Haus ☞
 Das Restaurant Gaffel Haus ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Brasserie ☞
 Das Restaurant Brasserie ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Vau ☞
 Das Restaurant Vau ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.



Die Gendarmenmarkt ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Lutter & Wegner ☞
 Das Restaurant Lutter & Wegner ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Café Möhring ☞
 Das Restaurant Café Möhring ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Guy ☞
 Das Restaurant Guy ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Aigner ☞
 Das Restaurant Aigner ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Bocca di Bacco ☞
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Borchardt ☞
 Das Restaurant Borchardt ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Französischer Hof ☞
 Das Restaurant Französischer Hof ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Edo ☞
 Das Restaurant Edo ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Flo ☞
 Das Restaurant Flo ist ein Ort, an dem sich die Geschichte Berlins wiederholt. Von den ersten Holzbauten bis zu den heutigen Hochhäusern hat dieser Platz immer wieder neue Gesichter angezogen. Heute ist er ein Zentrum der Kultur und des Lebens in der Hauptstadt.

Seasons ☞
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This page from the Berlin newspaper depicts the location of the 20 best restaurants around the Gendarmenmarkt. While in Berlin, members will stay at the Four Seasons Hotel.

COLUMBIA-PRESBYTERIAN MEDICAL CENTER

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL

Jeffrey N. Bruce, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Professor of Neurological Surgery
Director, Bartoli Brain Tumor Laboratory
July 28, 2003

Dear Academicians,

It is a pleasure to submit our inaugural narrative to the Academy Round Robin. Becky and I are delighted and honored to be among the newest inductees of this venerable group and we look forward to cultivating future friendships.

Life has never been better at the New York Neurological Institute. The depth of support and collegiality among the faculty in our department is difficult to describe but provides us with a most productive and pleasurable academic environment. Under the proficient leadership of Bob Solomon, Neurosurgery has thrived as the unqualified strongest department at Columbia. Bob has quietly emerged as one of the most effective and creative leaders of our institution, staving off overreaching University Deans while preserving accumulated goodwill.

The responsibilities of a busy neuro-oncology/skull base clinical practice are often in conflict with the demands of running the Bartoli Brain Tumor Laboratory. Finding more hours in the day often becomes more of a priority than finding new treatments for brain cancer. Nevertheless I am fortunate to have a talented crew of highly talented and ambitious medical students, fellows and residents to push the research envelope. We are grateful for the opportunity to make some modest contributions within our interests of tumor immunology and convection enhanced delivery.

The entropy of the university environment pales in comparison to the organized chaos of a four-child household. Between church/community/school volunteerism, Becky has coalesced her superb organizational skills to make sure everyone is at the proper place at the proper time with the appropriate athletic supplies, schoolwork, food, water and matching footwear.

Just when we had become accustomed to Zack's (age 20) weekend rock'n'roll jams with his friends in our garage apartment, he left to complete a successful

first year at the University of Massachusetts (where I am sure his social life has never been better). He is currently spending his third consecutive summer performing volunteer work in Central America. Sam (age 18) is a recent high school graduate and will attend Colgate University in the fall. A strenuous summer of manual labor with *Ken's Tree Care* will no doubt inspire strengthened interest in the refuge of the academic environment. The girls, Rachel (age 14) and Eliza (age 12), are spending a relaxing and productive summer among athletic camps and Yankee games. They are looking forward to pursuing musical, scholastic and athletic interests in the 9th and 7th grades. With both boys away at college this fall, I have some trepidation about the gender inequity that will befall me - (as if they needed more empowerment).

We look forward to seeing everyone in Williamsburg.

Regards to all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey N. Bruce', written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey N. Bruce, M.D.



July 25, 2003

Founded 1824

Jefferson Medical
College

Jefferson College of
Graduate Studies

Jefferson College of
Health Professions

Jefferson University
Physicians

Dear Friends,

As I dictate this letter, I am finishing my first year of back at work after three years of retirement. As you know, there was an upheaval in the Department of Neurosurgery here at Jefferson and I was asked to come back and serve as Chairman. I will probably continue here for one more year, perhaps even longer. I perform no surgery and essentially I am the department manager, which is a full-time job in and of itself. It's a lot of fun organizing the conferences, working with the residents and the junior faculty. We have a good group of people here who work very hard, with an extremely large case volume, so having a person like me who has nothing to do but take care of the details makes life easier for everyone. Being back in neurosurgery has been a great improvement in my life.

Over the last year we've spent limited time in Germany, as compared to the previous year. We were there for Christmas last year, had a wonderful time, and we went back for the second time some weeks ago to the German Academy of Neurosurgery. Before that meeting, we visited Brittany in France for ten days, shared the French food and wine and all around had a good holiday. The Germany Academy was on the edge of the Black Forest, with the usual cast of characters and was, once again, a great event. The German Academy is growing in size and stature and, from my perspective, looks like a true appendage of the American Academy.

Aside from the events I just described, we had a ten-day vacation in the Cayman Islands in March. We celebrated Christa's 65th birthday with her children and their husbands. It was a wonderful time for everyone. We were planning another party this fall to celebrate both our birthdays, but this is not working out. I guess we'll just have to get older without a fuss!

We both look forward to seeing everyone at the Academy meeting in Williamsburg.

With very best personal regards and high esteem to all my colleagues.

Sincerely yours,

William A. Buchheit, M.D.

WAB/mts/jw

Round Robin 2003: Kim and Debra Burchiel

Hello to all our friends in the Academy!

The Burchiel clan is doing well, thank you. Everyone is quite busy and active – appreciating the freedoms which we enjoy every day. In the “busy-ness” of life, it is easy to forget how privileged we are to live in this country, in these times, and to work and enjoy our families, friendships, and occupations. We are truly blessed!

So on to the brood...

When asked what profession she is currently working in, Debra states: “CEO of the Burchiel household, grade school volunteer, child behavioral specialist and domestic goddess”. It seems to be an all consuming job. She continues to enjoy both the Portland and Oregon scenes, and swears she will never leave!

As far as the children go: Jessica, our oldest spent her sophomore year at Western Washington University and will be spending a year abroad in Seville, Spain. She is planning a double major in Business and Spanish (Can you say “California”?) Adrienne, second in line, recently graduated from high school and will be attending University of Colorado at Boulder in the Fall. Meridith, age 11, is very much involved in riding in a hunter/jumper program. She continues with her Karate training (don’t be messing with that girl!). She is very much the preteen and uses the word “like” ... like often! Cole, just LOVED kindergarten and is looking forward to first grade. He too is punching and kicking his way through the martial arts, but only during class. He decided since he is stuck at the riding stable on a regular basis, that he should also give horseback riding a try and has decided he likes it too.

Kim continues to run, and has gotten pretty serious about fly fishing – caught three steelhead on a fly rod last winter! Cole is his frequent fishing buddy. Last November, Kim ran the NYC marathon and had a marvelous time. Debra was not only impressed, but happy she was able to see it (almost missed him cross finish line ...oops!). The old guy led a team of youngsters up Mt. Adams several weeks ago, so I guess there is still some spark left! He continues to be happy in his job at OHSU, and continues to work to build the department, research and training programs.

So in the words of that famous T-shirt logo: LIFE IS GOOD!

Wishing you all health and happiness,

Debra and Kim Burchiel



NINJ

NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF NEW JERSEY

NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

Peter W. Carmel, M.D., D. Med Sci.
Professor and Chairman
Co-Director
Neurological Institute of New Jersey
Office: 973-972-2905
carmel@umdnj.edu

Jeffrey E. Catrambone, M.D.
Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery
Office: 973-972-2905
njkidsneurosurg@umdnj.edu

Robert F. Heary, M.D.
Director, Spine Center of New Jersey
Office: 973-972-2334

C. David Hunt, M.D.
Director, Center for Cerebral Vascular Disease
Office: 973-972-2905
hunt@umdnj.edu

Allen H. Maniker, M.D.
Director, Center for Peripheral Nerve Surgery
and Neuro Trauma
Office: 973-972-2908
maniker@umdnj.edu

Charles J. Prestigiacomo, M.D.
Division Of Cerebrovascular/Endovascular
Office: 973-972-1163
c.prestigiacomo@umdnj.edu

Hreday N. Sapru, Ph.D.
Director, Neurosurgical Laboratories
Office: 973-972-5876
sapru@umdnj.edu

Michael Schulder, M.D.
Director, Center for Image-Guided
Neurosurgery and Stereotactic Radiosurgery
Office: 973-972-2907
schulder@umdnj.edu

Joseph Danto, Ph.D. FASN
Director, Electrophysiology
Office: 201-567-8408
jdanto@monitoring.net

Roberta J. Adler, RN, MSN
Educational Specialist
Office: 973-972-2327

Peg Black, RN, MSN, APN-C
Spine Nurse Manager
Office: 973-972-1829

Bernadette Caputo, RN, MSN, APN-C
Pediatric Nurse Manager
Office: 973-972-2897

Benjamin Reynolds, PA-C
Intensive Care Physician Assistant
Office: 973-972-2326

Thomas Sernas, MS, PA-C
Intraoperative Technical Manager
Office: 973-972-2326

July 30, 2003

Dear Round Robiners:

The past year has been a busy and exciting one for the Carmel/Bello clan. Jacqueline continues to run a very successful Division of Neuroradiology at Montefiore and Einstein College of Medicine, and actively promotes the careers of her young faculty and fellows. In addition, she has continued her CME courses at several other institutions, as well as four CIBA review courses per year. She recently has been appointed to the Philips International Advisory Board on Interventional Radiology. This allowed me to go as a "spouse" to their meeting at the Sonoma Mission Inn in California. Unfortunately, Jacqueline worked hard most of the weekend but it was wonderful play time for me. Jacqueline has also been made a Councilor representing the New York Roentgen Ray Society at the American College of Radiology.

David Carmel has worked this year as a White House Fellow serving in the Treasury Department. Under Secretary O'Neill, he was assigned to analyze the patient safety bills that were in the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Under Secretary Snow he has additionally picked up analysis of the medical voucher system that the government will be embarking on. David has loved this period of policy analysis but I think he would rather make, than analyze, policy. In this coming year he will join Pfizer in New York. Here he will be working in a number of areas, including healthcare policy, and will be reporting directly to the CEO.

Jason received his Ph.D. from Rutgers in Spinal Cord Injury Studies on May 9, and his M.D. from Columbia on May 21. As an old Faculty member at P&S, I was allowed to hand him his diploma. Quite a thrill! He has now begun his indentured servitude as a Pediatric Neurology Resident at Columbia.

Jonathan has continued to do European trading for the Wall Street firm of Angelo, Gordon. This requires him to be at the office at four o'clock in the morning. Fortunately, he has been given a promotion and is now going to run a fund for the firm. This will improve both his responsibilities and his sleeping hours.

(There are still no daughter's in-law and no grandchildren!)

My work as a member of the Board of the AMA has been interesting, often exciting, and very time consuming. The Board Chair made me head of the AMA Liability Reform Task Force which often takes me to Washington D.C.

(where I see David). The passage of HR-5 by a good majority of the House was encouraging but the fierce partisanship and division in the Senate makes the prospects for liability reform unclear. Dr. Frist called the reform bill to the floor with a procedural motion for cloture in mid-July. This resulted in a division of 49 for, and 48 against. The only way this log jam will be broken will be by some sort of bi-partisan bill. If there is a bi-partisan bill the prospects for getting 60 votes are at least a fair bet. It is interesting to see how well informed most of the senators and representatives are on many issues. Sometimes partisan demands will obscure areas of truth. The AMA name and staff have allowed us very good access to most of the members of Congress. While the AMA is not popular among all physicians and only a minority actually belong to the AMA, the AMA has high repute both with the public and the Congress. Amazingly, both the public and the many members of Congress believe that all doctors are members of the AMA and regard the AMA as the voice of organized Medicine.

Both the Washington Committee and the Washington Office have been extremely helpful in many of our undertakings with the Congress. Katie Orrico is always well-informed and active. It has been a good working partnership.

Work in the Department of Neurosurgery continues to go well; we have hired two new faculty, bring our total neurosurgical staff to seven. Jeffrey Catrambone is a pediatric neurosurgeon and Charles Prestigiacomo does intervention and operative vascular neurosurgery. Both have been booming since they got here and both have research projects in collaboration with basic scientists at New Jersey Institute of Technology. Michael Schulder, Bob Heary, and Alan Maniker are in great demand as speakers, and are peripatetic.

Jacqueline and I are looking forward to seeing all of you in Williamsburg.

Yours truly,



Peter Carmel



University of Michigan
Health System

The University of Michigan

Department of Neurosurgery

University of Michigan Health System

Julian T. Hoff, M.D., Chair
(734) 936-5015
William F. Chandler, M.D.
(734) 936-5020
S. M. Farhat, M.D.
(734) 615-0536
Hugh J. L. Garton, M.D.
(734) 615-0536
John E. McGillicuddy, M.D.
(734) 936-5017
Karin M. Muraszko, M.D.
(734) 936-5062
Oren Sagher, M.D.
(734) 936-9593
B. Gregory Thompson, M.D.
(734) 936-7493

Veterans Administration Medical Center

Suresh Ramnath, M.D.
(734) 769-7100 Ext. 5938

July 2003

Fellow Academicians,

All remains well with the Chandler family. Our younger son, Jesse, is currently a senior medical student at the University of Pittsburgh and will be married in May to Nicole Chengelis who is also a senior medical student. She is a very special young woman and we are delighted to welcome her into our family. Jesse is interested in Orthopaedic Surgery and Nicole in Pediatrics.

Our older son Scott is entering his second year in the combined JD/MBA program at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He had worked in the business world for five years prior to returning to the classroom last year.

Susie has retired from her job as a social worker in the chemical dependency field and is very busy with a variety of community projects. Bill continues to enjoy his work at the University of Michigan and is keeping very busy as a Director on the ABNS.

Susie and I had a wonderful and relaxing week sailing with old friends in the British Virgin Islands in March. There were eight of us on a 45 foot catamaran and I can recommend it highly.

Best to everyone,



**CONCORD
REPATRIATION GENERAL
HOSPITAL**

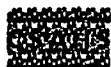
25 June 2003

**L. Nelson Hopkins MD
Secretary
University at Buffalo Neurosurgery
3 Gates Circle
BUFFALO NY 14209-1194 USA**

Dear Fellow Academicians,

The past year has seen improvements in our work load. We were delighted to move back to our own floor at Concord Hospital in November 2002, after being in temporary accommodation for more than two years. The rebuilding programme at the hospital commenced after the Olympics in 2000. The hospital was emptied of all elective work for the period of the Olympics, in case of an emergency, as we were the designated Olympic hospital. We have appointed a new faculty member to the Neurosurgical team and this has helped to reduce Noel's work load and a ten day fortnight is now achievable.

Medical Indemnity remains the hot and boring topic at all medical gatherings in New South Wales. Both State and Federal Governments have introduced Tort reform and the judiciary have become disinclined to make ridiculous awards as a form of alternative social security. Additionally, the Federal Government is providing financial backup for blue sky claims. The indemnity subscriptions remain extremely high.



**CENTRAL SYDNEY AREA
HEALTH SERVICE**

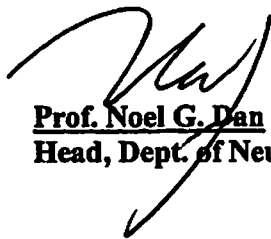


University of Sydney

Adrienne came to surgery for her incapacitating back problems and had an L4/5 PLIF and bilateral pedicle screw fusion in February 2003. She has had an outstanding recovery and now is contemplating whether she can play tennis better with or without a knee replacement. Our eldest daughter Sally, who is an Art Consultant, continues to go from strength to strength. In addition to her sales and advisory roles she now heads one of the Committees of the Art Gallery of New South Wales and is achieving considerable recognition in the art field generally. Our second daughter Lisa, is expecting a child in September/October 2003. Our third daughter Kerrie, remains totally preoccupied with her Promotional Personnel and Model business. Noel was honoured by being appointed to the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June 2003.

The SARS epidemic has interfered with our professional commitments in Asia during this year. A major commitment in China was cancelled and subsequently re-scheduled for 2004. A visit to Singapore was also cancelled. The WFNS Administrative and Executive Council Meetings in Lisbon will be prefaced by a week's holiday in Spain. We hope to attend the Academy Meeting this October and look forward to that prospect with our usual anticipation

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Noel G. Dan
Head, Dept. of Neurosurgery

July 29, 2003

Nick Hopkins, M.D., Secretary
American Academy of Neurological Surgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209

Dear Nick,

Thank you for continuing to maintain the ROUND ROBIN. It is a unique and valuable part of the Academy.

The past year has been quite busy, but quite rewarding here in Madison. The clinical program continues to grow very nicely, and with the addition of an endovascular neurosurgeon this fall, it is quite complete. Our pediatric and functional programs are growing rapidly, along with our preexisting spine, oncology, and cerebral vascular programs. We have been able to expand the residency and have developed a neurosciences curriculum in which every medical student rotates through our service. This has been a long time in coming but has reaffirmed our educational objectives. This is the year in which we have rebuilt our clinical space and opened our new neurosurgery ICU as part of an overall very demanding, but rewarding year. We are all quite busy, but it is always nice to see progress.

On the research front, it has been a very productive year. There has been a large increase in NIH funding within the department, both by the surgeons and the PhDs. We have been able to subsequently add four more PhD slots and our search for research space continues.

The Dempsey family continues to enjoy our life in Madison very much. Diane is fully immersed in her teaching, both with the University and the local school district. With her work as a teaching naturalist, she has this year been developing a new curriculum regarding the local trout streams. We are both feeling the early stages of empty nesters as both of our children are now at college. Kara is a senior at Wisconsin and Conor is a sophomore at DePaul. We are very proud of both of them as they mature, but it is a treat to have them home for the summer once again. As for myself, I am afraid I have no new recreational hobbies to report. I would be wise to spend a few less hours at work and do a little bit more running, but thus far that has been only good intentions. We have, however, continued with our project in Ecuador. This year, Diane joined me on the teaching mission and for the first time ventured into the OR to assist with the duties as a circulator. It remains a great experience for all of us.

Overall, the Dempseys are happy to report a very pleasant year. We hope that all are enjoying health and family this year.

Sincerely,
Robert J. Dempsey, M.D.
Chairman and Manucher J. Javid
Professor of Neurological Surgery
Department of Neurological Surgery

RJD:lvb

HANS ERICH DIEMATH

As I am still in the process of moving into my new apartment with the unpacking of 35 boxes still ahead, I have been so busy that I nearly missed the date for handing in the Robin-Hood Letter.

Meanwhile I have sold my house in the most beautiful living area of Salzburg. Even in times of deepest sorrow one has to stay critical as well as realistic, living in a house with eleven rooms as an old man accompanied only by his dog makes no sense. Therefore I have bought an apartment on the first floor in a turn-of-the-century building, situated in a perfect surrounding, where I can reach the river Glan in only seven minutes to take my dog Sam for splendid walks.

My family is doing fine so far, as well in Basel as in Graz and Salzburg. My second eldest granddaughter has well graduated from school and succeeded in the enrolment for the Academy of Art. Hans-Peter is part time in Salzburg and Braunau, as his wife owns a big pharmacy there, he, however, works for the Salzburg government, still they and their children are doing fine. And finally my youngest daughter Maren lives in Graz and works at the university as an assistant at the Institute of Public and European law. Her daughter, Liv-Lauren, fifteen months, is developing splendidly and the joy of the whole family.

As concerns work nothing has fortunately changed, I am still very busy as an medical expert on the court, supreme court and for insurance companies. More than 100 expertises this year.

My very severe depression after the death of Karin – no day without tears for more than one year– is diminishing. By divine ordinance I have met Lina, my first love, after 50 years! She is a widow as I am and takes care of me.

Although I am not living in a big house anymore, I would like to welcome friends and colleagues of the Academy at my place in Salzburg. You are warmly invited. However I would ask you to inform me in advance as I am still travelling a lot.

With all my best wishes for a happy and successful year to all of you!

Sincerely,

H. E. Diemath

June 30,2003

Dear Nelson:

Thank you for including me in your call for the Round Robin .Charlie used to write quite frequently with news of the family and the Department, but this a first for me

My life changed drastically after his death in 1998 I was rudderless and it took considerable time to adjust.

However I am now remarried to a mutual friend ,an American businessman who had lost his wife and we spend the winters in Florida and the summers in London, Ontario so we seem have the best of both worlds.

The Drake children and grandchildren are all well .I can't believe some of them have already graduated from college and on to a career.

The big news from London is that a former resident Dr. Ivar Mendez from Halifax, Nova Scotia who is an accomplished sculptor as well as a Neurosurgeon has made a bronze bust of Charlie to be placed on a pedestal in front of the University Hospital as well as the Victoria Hospital here in London. On the pedestal the names of all his former Residents will be inscribed. The unveiling is tentatively is October 15, 2003. I am taking the liberty of sending you the brochure

Please give my best to everyone

Sincerely



Ruth Drake-Alloway
15 45 Gloucester Road, Londobn, Ont. Canada
N6G 2S5

London fax 1-519-858-1324
Florida E-Mail rsalloway@msn.com

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

*Department of Neurosurgery
Medical School*

*Mayo Mail Code 96
420 Delaware Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Office: D429 Mayo Memorial Building
612-624-6666
Fax: 612-624-0644*

July 15, 2003

Dear Academy Members,

Life continues to be good for us. Our health is as good as could be expected at our age and we have the Mayo Clinic and Hospital practically in our back yard.

We moved permanently to our "retirement" house in Scottsdale last October. We are very comfortable here. It is set up to look and act as any country club but with the addition of lifetime care in three stages.

We are about to embark on a three week driving trip to Sun Valley, Idaho, and Seattle, Washington, to visit two of our children and four grandchildren, all of whom are teenagers. Three of them are looking forward to college in two years. We also plan on visiting "Tash" Livingston, Ken's widow, on our way. Our letter is probably not of much interest to the young but hopefully some of the older members still know who we are and what Neurosurgery has meant to us.

Lyle & Gene French



Daniel W. Fults, M.D.

24 June 2003

Dear Academicians,

A change in leadership is always a time of great trepidation in an academic neurosurgery department. Our new department Chairman, Dr. Bill Couldwell, has now completed his first year at the University of Utah. As you all know, Bill is a first-rate surgeon, scholar, and a gentleman. I am pleased to report that he has set us on a steady course into the turbulent waters of academic medicine in the 21st century. I am also pleased that he did not fire anyone during the transition. It is possible that Utah's liberal concealed weapons statutes could have influenced Bill's personnel management decisions.

With the rapid approach of my 50th birthday, I have taken on some athletic challenges before it becomes too late. I trained for and ran the St. George, Utah marathon in October, 2002. Although I finished injury-free and clocked a respectable time (3:41), I concluded this level of physical exercise greatly exceeds what we need to maintain health and longevity. So, I shall drop back to a more sane level of maintenance exercise to assure that my joints hold out for the duration.

Our oldest daughter, Erin, is starting to look at colleges now that she has completed her junior year in High School. Reading through the college brochures piling up on her bedroom floor, I have been struck by the astounding number of fine schools we have in this country. I have also been struck by the cost of putting a kid through college! YIKES! Maybe we should not have instilled in her the value of education.

Carol and I are definitely coming out to Williamsburg for the upcoming Academy meeting and look forward to seeing you all there.

Sincerely,

Dan Fults, M.D.

Department of Neurosurgery
School of Medicine
50 North Medical Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84132
(801) 581-6908
Fax: (801) 581-4385
Patient Appointments: (801) 585-6029

3644 Lombardy Road
Pasadena, California 91107
July 31, 2003

Greetings,

Big changes are happening in the Giannotta family with our youngest of three graduating from high school this past June. Two decades of carpools, sports, PTA meetings, recitals, school plays, dances, etc. has come to an end. The pending empty nest will be welcome, yet bittersweet.

Robyn graduated from Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy and will be attending UCLA in September. No, that's not a misprint! The crosstown rivalry has invaded our own home. For the summer, Robyn is working as a valet at the Ritz-Carlton Pasadena, driving some great cars and meeting interesting people.

Nicole received her Associates Degree from Marymount College and will transfer to Loyola Marymount University into the Department of Studio Arts. She is working at the local movie theatre and is currently repelled by the smell of popcorn.

Brent has chosen to stay a fifth year at USC to get a double major, in International Relations and Spanish. He is doing a summer internship with Relief International, setting up programs in Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq. He is also taking an Arabic class and spends most of his free time studying this impossibly difficult language.

Steve operates, plays golf, travels, rides his Harley... Sharon plays golf and tennis, travels... life is good.

We look forward to seeing all of our friends at the meeting in Williamsburg...

Sincerely,

Steve and Sharon



Chief
Neurosurgery Service
6565 Fannin, M.S. 409
Room 417
Houston, Texas 77030-2707
(713) 790-3980
Fax: 793-1591

Professor and Chairman
Department of Neurosurgery
(713) 798-4696
Fax: 798-3739
E-mail: grossman@bcm.tmc.edu

Address correspondence to:
Department of Neurosurgery
6560 Fannin, Suite 944
Houston, Texas 77030

July 28, 2003

Dear Members of the Academy:

This has been a year of consolidation for us, thankful for good health, engaging in rewarding work, enjoying our family, and finding travel exciting on a trip to the Galapagos Islands this month. Bob has been engaged in furthering the goals of the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation, particularly in the aspects of translational research that attempt to close the gap between spinal cord injury research and clinical applications. This is predicated upon developing protocols and collaborations to serve as the foundations for clinical trials. In the clinical area, he was awarded the John Overstreet Award for Outstanding Physician of the Year at The Methodist Hospital, an honor that gave him great pleasure. Ellin continues to work on special projects at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the most recent of which are illustrating art objects for gallery labels and researching and writing text for wall labels and visitor materials on Southwest Indian textiles and Greek and Egyptian mythology.

Our children are also consolidating their lives and work. All of them live very close by in Houston. With our combined complement of 8 grandchildren who range in age from 7 to 12 years and attend 5 different schools, we are always busy with a birthday, a school program, or a holiday celebration. This June we took two of the girls with us to Philadelphia for sightseeing and to attend Bob's Swarthmore reunion. Bob has now completed his term as a member of the Swarthmore Alumni Council.

This month we took three grandchildren on a wonderful trip to the Galapagos Islands. Our daughter Amy Coburn and husband Michael also came along. Mike is an experienced diver and supervised the swimming and snorkel expeditions. Together with Bob, we had our own medical team—ophthalmologist, urologist and neurosurgeon. Fortunately the only medical care needed was for a skinned knee and a sunburn. The children were thrilled to dive with sharks, sea lions, rays and penguins. The amazing birds, marine life and mammals of the unique islands of the Galapagos were well worth the long trip to arrive at the archipelago off the coast of Ecuador. The giant tortoises, algae-feeding marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, flightless cormorants, frigate birds and varieties of finches with unique beaks adapted to the food supply of different islands, vividly illustrate the endemic species observed and described by Charles Darwin as he described the origin of species.

In the Department of Neurosurgery, we are continuing to add faculty to develop special areas such as trauma, spinal cord injury and neuro-oncology. The textbook "Principles of Neurosurgery" edited by Bob and Chris Loftus was translated into "Simplified Chinese" and published in Beijing. We are brushing up on our Simplified Chinese.

We send our regards and best wishes to our friends and colleagues in the Academy.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob".

Ellin and Bob Grossman

School of Medicine

Department of Neurology
and Neurological Surgery

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

July 30, 2003

L. Nelson Hopkins, M.D.
Secretary, American Academy of Neurological Surgery
Department of Neurosurgery
SUNNY at Buffalo
3 Gatas Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209-1184

Dear Nick:

Way back in residency days, Bob woke up before it was light, 4:30 or 5:00, to a jangling alarm clock, quickly showered, shoveled down some cereal and took off for the hospital where he worked, the nights he was not on call, until 8, 9, 10 o'clock, staggered home ate a meal which had been ready at 7:00, read the mail, journal or textbook articles pertaining to the next day's cases and fell exhausted into bed to start again the following morning. Sometimes I had to take clean underwear and shirts to the hospital because he had never made it home at all. Fast-forward 40 years. He is an attending and he wakes up before light, same routine, works all day and comes home late. BUT the residents leave early because their ACGME - mandated time is up. What's wrong with this picture? This is what Bob is encountering at the hospital while also pursuing his research, hamstrung by HIPAA and other government regulations. Although I do not look forward to his hanging around here full time, I think he needs to retire. He used to have so much fun, but they've taken the fun out of it.



SIPRESS

"Where do you want to worry that we're spending too much money this summer?"

Mailing Address:
Neurological Surgery
Washington University School of Medicine
at Washington University Medical Center
Campus Box 8057, 660 S. Euclid Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110-1093
(314) 362-3567 FAX: (314) 562-2107

We are finding fun in other places. Provence for one - we loved a trip to southern France in June - food, wine and a new twist for us - wonderful lectures on Provençal history and the art of Van Gogh and Cezanne. Chicago for another. The whole family (son Robert and wife Jessica, both doing fellowships at NIH, and Bob's sister and brother-in-law from Greensboro, N.C.) gathered there in May for daughter Mary Connell's graduation from Northwestern Law School. Also a fun group of neurosurgery wives met there in July to celebrate some birthdays and the idea of growing old together. We did not shop - did museums instead, but managed to spend a few shekels on hotels, food and booze. Mary Connell said when she joined us for dinner, "I love it when people do not mind bellying up to the bar and ordering a good stiff drink." And always Pawleys Island where we'll all find fun in August - Mary Connell, post California bar exam and on her way to Peru to climb Machu Picchu before returning to California to clerk for a federal appellate court judge, and Robert and Jessica, and some of her family who fell in love with Pawleys last summer at the wedding.

This is NOT fun: a virus last Fall (West Nile??) left me with ringing in my ears and shingles this summer, left me with an itchy face! Looking forward to finding more fun in Williamsburg this Fall. Hope to see you there.

Julia Grubb

July 2003



Medical University of
South Carolina
96 Jonathan Lucas Street • Ste 428
PO Box 250616
Charleston • SC 29425

(843) 792-2424
Fax (843) 792-0468

Stephen J. Haines, M.D.
Professor and Chair
Surgery of Posterior Fossa
Skull Base and Cranial Nerves
Brain Tumor Surgery
General Neurosurgery

Byron N. Bailey, M.D.
Spinal Surgery
Cerebrovascular Surgery
General Neurosurgery

Sunil J. Patel, M.D.
Surgery of Posterior Fossa
Skull Base and Cranial Nerves
Brain Tumor Surgery
General Neurosurgery

Phanor L. Perot, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Consultative Neurosurgery

Istvan Takacs, M.D.
Movement Disorders, Pain,
Stereotaxic and Functional
Neurosurgery
General Neurosurgery

Cristian L. Vera, M.D.
General Neurosurgery
Epilepsy Surgery
Stereotaxic Neurosurgery

Pediatric Neurosurgery

Jeffrey W. Campbell, M.D.
Director, Pediatric Neurosurgery

Stephen J. Haines, M.D.
Pediatric Neurosurgery

Dear Fellow Academicians:

It's been an unusual year in Charleston. We were not only free of hurricanes, but we were also spared any institutional administrative disasters. As a result, we have been able to concentrate on the real businesses of academic neurosurgery and departmental development. It has been a highly successful year in many ways.

Our deep brain stimulation and functional neurosurgery program has grown rapidly under the able leadership of Steve Takacs. Steve and his neurology colleague, Ken Bergmann, implanted 50 subthalamic stimulators in patients this year with very gratifying results. Functional imaging research in these patients and the study of spinal cord stimulation for intractable angina are also under way. We were fortunate to have both Alim Benabid and Roy Bakay as visiting lecturers this year.

Sunil Patel's NIH supported work on the role of the brain stem in neurogenic hypertension enters its second year with exciting advances in both intraoperative brain stem mapping and microneurography. Sunil was invited to give medicine grand rounds at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center this year. He handled what could be a very daunting assignment for a neurosurgeon in excellent fashion. His clinical practice in complex microneurosurgery, skull base surgery and primary brain tumors continues to thrive.

Our work in evidence-based neurosurgery resulted in the publication of two general reviews, an article on teaching evidence-based medicine to surgical sub-specialty residents and we are in the manuscript editing stages for the textbook on evidence-based neurosurgery being co-edited with Beverly Walters.

The clinical practice continues to grow and is well rounded. The addition of John Deveikis, an excellent interventional neuroradiologist who came to us from the University of Michigan, has reinvigorated neuroradiology. The residency program remains strong, well-balanced and continues to attract and match excellent future neurosurgeons.

Phanor Perot remains healthy and actively contributes to our departmental conferences and helps with some VA outpatient duties. We plan to see him at the Academy meeting this year.

Reflecting on this past year's progress and success leads me to the inescapable conclusion (known to all of us but for which I can now provide specific evidence) that things will go well when the medical school administration steps out of the way and doesn't place unusual or unexpected obstacles in our path.

Hoping everyone has an even better year next year.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Haines, MD
Professor and Chair
Department of Neurological Surgery



July 28, 2003

L Nelson (Nick) Hopkins MD
Secretary, American Academy of Neurological Surgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209

Dear Nick,

The past year has been one of many changes. In April I finished my term as the Chairman of the AANS/CNS CV Section. On June 6th I finished my term as President of the New England Neurosurgical Society. On June 8th I left New Hampshire, after 25 years as a resident and faculty member at Dartmouth, to take the position of Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at Penn State – Hershey Medical Center. My youngest, Gwen, added to the adventure by breaking her arm the day before we moved. She had a splint put on in New Hampshire and her cast applied in Pennsylvania. Despite this, we all weathered the move well.

I have inherited a great group of neurosurgeons at Penn State – Professor Emeritus Bob Page, two fine pediatric neurosurgeons, Paul Kanev and Mark Dias, a young neurosurgeon, Kevin Cockcroft who did a vascular fellowship with Gary Steinberg and is now getting his endovascular training with Robert Rosenwasser before returning to Hershey and Jonas Sheehan, a talented, young skull base/tumor surgeon from Virginia.

Kim, who did her fellowship in New Orleans with Dave Kline, will be in charge of peripheral nerve surgery and I would like to do some cerebrovascular cases if I can get out of a meeting or two. I have also been lucky enough to recruit a young neurosurgeon, Tim Reiter, who did his residency and enfolded spine fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania and Jim McInerney, a stereotactic and functional neurosurgeon who did his residency at Dartmouth and his fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh before spending a couple of years in the Navy.

Waldemar Debinski, MD. PhD, Vice Chair for Neurosurgical Research, runs a well-funded, productive molecular biology lab. We have also recruited Thor Hoegnasson, MD, a young man from Iceland who has worked at Harvard and Dartmouth. It is a great group of people and I am looking forward to doing my best to make the program better year by year. If any of you have students looking for a residency position please send them my way and if you are ever in the area please stop in and say hello.

Robert E. Harbaugh, MD, FACS, FAHA
Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery
Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine
The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
C3830, Biomedical Research Building,
500 University Drive
Hershey, PA 17033-0850

STANFORD MEDICAL SCHOOL



STANFORD UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

**Griffith R. Harsh IV,
M.D.**

Professor of Neurological Surgery
Stanford Medical School

Brain Tumor Center

Stanford Medical Center
300 Pasteur Drive R227
Stanford, CA 94305-5327
T: 1-866-255-7073, F: 650-723-7813
Email: gharsh@stanford.edu

July 24, 2003

Academy Round Robin
c/o L. Nelson Hopkins
Department of Neurosurgery
SUNY, Buffalo
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209-1194

Dear Fellow Academicians:

The past year in Palo Alto has been both exciting and productive. The Stanford Department of Neurosurgery has continued to grow rapidly in terms of full time faculty, clinical cases, NIH funding of research, and scientific publications. We were fortunate to receive permission to expand our residency program from one to two residents per year just in time to help us cope with the new work hour rules. Who will pay for this increment is still an issue, however. The Stanford Brain Tumor Program has had a particularly successful year with the rapid expansion of case load, particularly in the Cyberknife Radiosurgery Program, and with the successful recruitments of a new medical neuro-oncologist, Larry Recht from Massachusetts, and of two skull base surgery ENT colleagues, Rob Jackler and Mike Kaplan, from UCSF. I greatly enjoyed putting together the program for the NSA annual meeting this June. Highlights were Charlie Wilson's discussion of "The Adoption and Diffusion of Innovative Neurosurgical Technologies" and a presentation by John Donoghue, PhD, a neuroscientist at Brown, regarding the "Future of Neuroprostheses".

Our family's activities this past year included a party in Birmingham to celebrate my parents' 50th wedding anniversary, a summer trip to France and England to attend the Rhodes Centenary Celebration and the Henley Royal Regatta, and a State Dinner at the White House, at which I did my best to lobby for medical malpractice reform. Will, age 15, has spent much of the summer traveling with us, farming with his grandparents, and rowing. Griff, age 18, pursuing his dream of joining a car company one day, worked for Ford in Dearborn this summer and will spend next year in Beijing.

I hope all of you are enjoying the summer; Meg and I look forward to October in Williamsburg.

Sincerely,
Griff

Griffith R. Harsh IV, MD, MBA
Professor of Neurosurgery

June 17, 2003

Dear Academicians,

Professional life is getting back to a normal rhythm having completed my years first as President of the Academy and subsequently, as President of the AANS. Of course, the Presidency of the Academy was little work and all fun. I cannot say that the AANS wasn't a fair amount of work, but I can say that I did enjoy it and that it was made very easy by tremendous help from a great group of guys at the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, by our superb staff at Chicago and by a much improved relationship with the CNS and particularly with the two Presidents of the CNS with whom I overlapped, Steve Papadopoulos and Mark Hadley. In fact, I will confess that I am a bit nostalgic now when I go through my e-mail every day and see mostly advertisements and almost a daily offer from an ex-Prime Minister or Minister of Finance from some African country that is interested in investing ten million dollars in a joint venture in the USA (any of you interested?).

Fortunately, because of the good help I had, I did not have to curtail my clinical or academic activities here in Miami very much at all during the last year in spite of the Presidency of the AANS so that the pace of those activities continues to be fairly steady, although I must say that it is becoming increasingly harder to stand at surgery because of the bad hip that I am planning to get replaced this coming September. I am actually looking forward to that operation very much because the orthopedic surgeon assures me that, in addition to being free of pain, I am going to be able to play excellent golf about two months after my surgery, which is something to look forward to since I have never played golf before! I didn't ask him about piano, which I have also never played before, but maybe I will be able to do it very well after the hip replacement.

From the Department, the only significant piece of news is that we have recruited a colleague for this July who is a fully trained neurosurgeon and who has also had a full endovascular training with Fernando Viñuela at UCLA. I am looking forward very much to bringing most of the endovascular activity back into the Department of Neurosurgery and under our control.

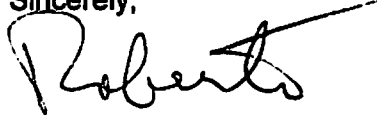
Debbie continues to be very busy with her practice as Director of Neuro-oncology at the University. She continues to struggle constantly with the balance between her professional activities and her desire to have more "quality time" with Carlos. Certainly, doing the homework with Carlos, which is getting to be very demanding in terms of time, is far from being "quality time". I do help every now and then but sadly, I must admit, not as much as I should and that is not just because of lack of time but, frankly, because I am not much help since I can't understand his third grade math and science too well! We both enjoy tremendously his sports and that does take a significant amount of time

now that he is playing both basketball and football. When he plays well and the team wins, Debbie and I are a model couple and my behavior is impeccable, but we do have some difficulty in conciliating our different ways of handling the situation when he does not play well and particularly if the team loses!! Yes ... as Debbie reminds me constantly, he is only nine, but this business of playing well, and particularly winning, is very serious business and life is short.

Rob is just about to finish his residency in physiatry and now it is payback time as an Army doctor; however, I don't think that four years in Honolulu, where he is headed, is necessarily a tough payback. Elsie is in heaven with her little Solomon who, if his grandfather can say it, has turned out to be a beautiful baby who in addition has a very charming personality. Her husband Seth passed the bar exams in Maine and Massachusetts and they decided to move to Maine where he will start practicing law and she will look for a job as a nurse clinician midwife.

This is all the news from the Heros'. Carlos, Debbie and I look forward very much to seeing all of you in Williamsburg this fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roberto". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the top of the name.

Roberto C. Heros, M.D.



University of Michigan
Health System

The University of Michigan

Department of Neurosurgery

University of Michigan Health System

Julian T. Hoff, M.D., Chair
(734) 936-5015

William F. Chandler, M.D.
(734) 936-5020

S. M. Farhat, M.D.
(734) 615-0536

Hugh J. L. Garton, M.D.
(734) 615-0536

John E. McGillicuddy, M.D.
(734) 936-5017

Karin M. Muraszko, M.D.
(734) 936-5062

Oren Sagher, M.D.
(734) 936-9593

B. Gregory Thompson, M.D.
(734) 936-7493

Veterans Administration Medical Center

Suresh Ramnath, M.D.
(734) 769-7100 Ext. 5938

July 28, 2003

L. Nelson Hopkins, M.D.
Secretary, American Academy of Neurological Surgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209

Dear Nick:

Diane and I are looking forward to the Williamsburg meeting a great deal! What a wonderful setting for one of the best annual meetings in Neurosurgery.

This past year has been another eventful one for us. Our three children are thriving. Paul, our son, is a successful otolaryngologist here in Ann Arbor. His wife, Donna, a radiologist at the University of Michigan Hospitals is progressing through the academic ranks well. Their two daughters, Lauren and Kiersten, ages 7 and 4, are growing like weeds and are smarter than whips! Our daughter, Allison is working hard at her new career in physical therapy at Oakland University in the Detroit suburbs. Our daughter, Julie, a social worker and her husband, Mike, a land manager for the Philadelphia Navy Yard, have one daughter, Katherine, and another on the way. We have enormous amounts of fun together.

In February, we had a family reunion ski trip to McCall, Idaho where my brother has a cabin. The resort is in central Idaho, a couple of hours north of Boise. Only the "locals" go there. It is a jewel of a place, rich in pioneer and family history.

Our Department is expanding. We have two new faculty members this year. Frank LaMarca, M.D., a product of the Northwestern Training Program, is a spine expert (he had a fellowship with Steve Ondra). Jason Heth, M.D., a product of the Iowa Training Program, is an expert in skull base surgery (Sam Al-Mefty was his mentor). We hope to add a couple more faculty in the next year or so to keep up with the patient volume that continues to increase. We will have new offices, a library, conference room and all the amenities that come to Departments in our Medical School.

The search process for a new Chair has begun. Bill Chandler and Oren Sagher, two of our own faculty members are on the Search Committee so the input into that group should be accurate. We hope to have a new leader on board by next July. Our Dean is first class, which makes the search process much easier. The Neurology search is just concluding with an excellent new Chair in place. Neurosciences here will have great opportunities in the future with assured space in a new 40,000 square foot laboratory facility.

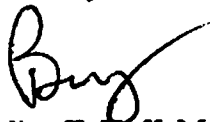
I am trying to improve my golf game this summer, but am still hampered with too short a back swing and an unpredictable short game (particularly my pitching wedge).

Diane is hard at work on a recipe book our children have requested. This volume will exceed 200 recipes and will be laced with family photographs and Diane's "favorite" concoctions (she hoped to have it finished by last Christmas and now intends to finish it this Christmas). We expect the final product to be in hand by December 2004!

We look forward to seeing you all in November. Until then, stay healthy.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Julian T. Hoff, M.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Neurosurgery

JTH:dp

P.S. Diane Hoff's e-mail address is: dianehoff_2000@yahoo.com



University at Buffalo
State University of New York

L. N. Hopkins, M.D.

*Professor and Chairman of Neurosurgery
Professor of Radiology*

August 5, 2003

Dear Fellow Academy Members,

Bonnie and I have had a wonderful year. We have received three new grandchildren and have a fourth on the way. If everything works out, we will end up with six grandchildren in early 2004. We are finding Jackson Hole, Wyoming, a magnet for our children and their children and we are still enjoying our little corner in the Western United States. We are now running three meetings a year in Jackson, including a winter ski meeting and two summer endovascular morbidity and mortality conferences.

My practice in Buffalo continues to do well although we have lost a couple of key people and are entering a rebuilding phase. The endovascular fellowship continues to thrive. We have now been fortunate enough to train nearly 20 neurosurgeons in neuro endovascular techniques. A number of them have now started their own fellowships, which should further help interested neurosurgeons to join the field.

We look forward to catching up with everyone at this year's Academy.

Sincerely,

Bonnie and Nick Hopkins

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES DIVISION

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

June 9, 2003

Dr. L. Nelson Hopkins
Secretary
American Academy of Neurological Surgery
Department of Neurological Surgery
University of Buffalo
3 Gate Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209-1194

Dear Nelson,

This year my class celebrated the 50th anniversary of its graduation from Columbia University's College of Physician and Surgeons. We had a spirited turn out of 83 classmates and our gift to the school was the raising of a significant endowment to support the international activities of our P&S students. "The Harold Brown Fellowship" was named after a beloved professor of parasitology who was instrumental in providing overseas opportunities in tropical medicine for generation of P&S students. These experiences colored our lives. For years many of our medical students have spent time overseas in third world countries, usually in tropical medicine electives. Our Faculty too has a long history of international collaborative research, educational and clinical activities. Over the past several years due entirely to student interest and activism a student "International Health Organization" (IHO) has been formed which in turn has brought together the Dean's of the four Health Sciences Schools (Medicine, Public Health, Nursing and Dentistry) recognizing the responsibility to sort these initiatives. Thus they formed for the first time a Health Sciences Office for Global Health Education and Training. Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, a noted economist on the Columbia University Faculty gave the key note address on this year's Dean's Day Program entitled "America's Vital Interest in Global Health" in which he focused on the very pragmatic reasons for providing health care (clean water, nutrition, education) for the impoverished as the only means to reduce poverty, increase productivity all in our national self interest if not for humanitarian or ethical reasons. His message was directly in line with our student and faculty initiatives in global health.

Since my retirement from active surgery I have devoted most of my time to developing international relationships in support of student and faculty activities at P&S. This year we are hosting over 50 students from foreign countries at our Medical School for fourth year electives. A similar number of P&S students are traveling to various countries in their final year. We firmly believe that a culturization to other societies is an important part of medical education today. This year Columbia/P&S consummated agreements with the American University of Beirut, Keio University in Tokyo, Seoul National University and Hallym University in Korea, Zulia University in Venezuela and Fudan University in Shanghai. These programs also support post-doctoral research.

The personal highlight of the year was a trip that Marion and I made to China last September. It was mostly an opportunity to visit the Yangtze region before the flooding and to see the major sites in Beijing and Xian. In Shanghai I had an opportunity to visit with the administration and Faculty of Fudan University and the Shanghai Medical College having just consummated the Affiliation Agreement with that Institution. The booming economy and modernization visible in Shanghai is astounding. It even made Hong Kong look a bit old. Since then we have had a number of students from Fudan University come to P&S for electives. However, the four P&S students who were scheduled to spend elective time in Shanghai canceled because of SARS.

Marion and I spent a short week in the Caribbean in preparation for her impending total knee replacement surgery scheduled for June. We have not planned to attend the Williamsburg meeting of the Academy because of this but send our warm regards to all of our friends and colleagues.

Most sincerely,



Edgar M. Housepian, M.D.

Round Robin Letters
Mieko & Takeshi Kawase

Dear friends,

We could not complete our willing to attend the American Academy Meeting for those two years, because Takeshi became too busy after becoming a vice president of the Keio University Hospital. The medical education system and health insurance system are changing rapidly in my country, and he is engaging 16 education or business committee in his university.

He is working as a leader of WFNS Skull Base Surgery Committee as well, and these few years will be the most busy epoch in his life. However, he looks enjoy busy schedule, getting up at 5 O'clock, making body exercise every morning in the garden before going to his hospital.

In this June we had an honor to be invited to German Academy Meeting in Freiburg, and we enjoyed the social program in the lovely country. It was an additional pleasure for us to spend a few days before the meeting in Zermatt, a famous mountain resort for Matterhorn and Monte Rosa in Switzerland. There Takeshi remind of his adventure 35 years ago at his student time, when he climbed up the peak of Monte Rosa, elevation of 4618meters. It was our fortunate that the weather in this summer was exceptionally hot and clear, allowing comfortable hiking around giant peak of Matterhorn.

Tsuyoshi, 31 year-old elder son is still single, working in the computer software department of Hitachi company, learning his father's life pattern of hard worker's, coming back to his home later than 10 O'clock every day.

Satoshi, 28 year-old younger son began to work in the Brain Research Center of the Riken National Institute this year, after graduate the postgraduate course. His research topic is concerning to the mechanism of growing of the axon terminal. He will marry this autumn, creating their wedding schedule now.

Recently we have not enough time and energy for active sailing. Our 20 year-old sail boat has been anchored for one year in a new harbor constructed two years ago, and we have to clean up the boat for sail in this summer vacation. In September our busy daily schedule will begin, but we will attend the American Academy meeting this autumn before or after my second son's wedding, to meet our American lovely friends.

REF: AHK/KN 110603NH

11 June 2003

L Nelson Hopkins
University at Buffalo Neurosurgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo
New York 14209-1194
USA

Dear Nick,

Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the American Academy of Neurological Surgery meeting to be held this year in Williamsburg.

Commitments in Australia really do prevent me from traveling to North America at that time.

I would be grateful if you would give my apologies to the Academy, and I do wish you well for the conference.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew H. Kaye
Head of Department

Cc Dr. David Piepgras, Department of Neurological Surgery, Mayo Clinic, Rochester,
Minnesota, USA
Dr. Volker Sonntag, Department of Neurosurgery, Barrow Institute, Phoenix, Arizona, USA



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

Neurosurgery Center for Research, Training and Education

*Coleman Pavilion
11175 Campus Street, Suite 11113
Loma Linda, California 92350
(909) 558-7070
FAX: (909) 558-0472*

July 17, 2003

L. Nelson Hopkins, M.D.
Secretary
American Academy of Neurological Surgery
Neurosurgery
University at Buffalo
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209-1194

Round Robin Letter

Dear Academicians:

As a kid, I always wanted a chemistry set and - wow I finally got one that will prevent me from enjoying being an old man! Years of research studying the effect of coumadin on tumors of all types - work inspired by my surgical chief at Colorado - Bill Waddell - resulted in identification in nature of 2 previously unknown amino acids - percarboxylated forms of glycine (Ama) and aspartate (Asa). We described our findings in the appropriate biochemical literature in the 80's and 90's but had no clue as to their significance until Dr. Rod Levine - a youngish biochemist who is Chief, Section of Protein Function in Disease (NHLBI) contacted me in late 1999. Rod's lab has 2 Nobel Prizes (Anfinson-ribonuclease ; Nirenberg-genetic code). His work centers on "oxidative stress," free radicals, and iron metabolism. Once Rod explained to me that Ama was critical to brain iron uptake and storage as well as regulating cell levels of free iron - the most dangerous and toxic free radical generator - an immediate interest was focused on a role in the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative disease, particularly Alzheimer's Disease. This curse on aging mankind is characterized by excessive iron accumulation - particularly about the plaques and tangles in entorhinal cortex and temporal lobe. To make a long story short an NIH proposal was submitted in August 2001 and funded in October 2002 to the tune of 6.55 million dollars for 5 years. Our work is in progress and you will hear more about it if the submitted abstract is accepted for presentation at this meeting. The study involves new MR sequences and spectroscopy for iron, new quantitative iron tissue levels, flow cytometry, genomics, with human studies complemented with genetically engineered mice that accumulate iron in the brain and develop a neurodegenerative disorder. We collaborate with physicists, Rod's lab, immunologists, geriatricians, psychologists, molecular biologists, neuroradiologists, biochemists, and statisticians. I have a number of graduate students including an M.D. Ph.D. candidate. The award (largest R01 to a surgeon at least in our school's history) has brought attention and

responsibility to our Neurosurgery Center for Research, Training, and Education as well as to the Surgery and Biochemistry Departments (joint appointments). This whole business is truly brain Viagra - and what a pleasure to work with a great group of scientific collaborators on a project that emanated from valid experimental results. My biochemical mentor at Washington University - Ollie Lowry - always maintained that instruments never lie - in contrast to administrators and politicians!, and he was correct! In all my years in academia I have never been as lucky to have a truly compatible and dedicated staff - we are having fun being funded. We have some excellent consultants on the project. Dr. Ron Petersen - Mayo Clinic neurologist and authority on Mild Cognitive Impairment has been invaluable in directing our subject selection. Our group continues to work on hemostatic devices and materials including a system for closing femoral artery puncture wounds. More about this later. J&J is using us as an "incubator" for development of new surgical instruments.

Shifting gears from the O.R. and clinic is literally an "enlightening" experience. The O.R. and clinic demand early to rise and late homecomings - when you arrive home you feel entitled to kickback. The lab is different - you do most of your work at home - a great deal of work goes into planning the experiments - instrumentation in the lab is now so elaborate and efficient and almost without test tubes that the lab is the easiest part of the day. I went back to the O.R. about a month ago to help with a case - it felt weird. I am not going to do it again - you can't go home again once you want to stop and there is a time to stop. Let the younger people have all the night and weekend call - they deserve it! Marie-Claire has devoted her energies to our California garden and citrus grove. Living in Redlands - so called because of the iron enriched soil so perfect for citrus - creates a certain urgency to plant since germination and flowering occur so rapidly. She has created a virtual Garden of Eden around the pool, requisite hot tub, and citrus (orange, grapefruit, tangerine) grove. Truly heaven on earth.

Our neuroradiologist daughter Claudia is adjusting to life in London with her husband who was transferred there in June 2001. He works for Morgan-Stanley - was transferred from the World Trade Center to the Times Square NASDAQ office in January 2001. They lost friends on 9/11. We went to see them in late June after a 2-day stop at the NIH to explain to people what has been accomplished with the money so far - only 9 months' work at this point - late June 2003. We got to play with our 2-year-old granddaughter and my son-in-law, Taub secured center court tickets for Wimbledon matches on Saturday, June 28. Taub also got us invited to the American Ambassador's house to the Court of St. James for a 4th of July picnic and Independence Day celebration - us and 2000 of the Ambassador's most intimate friends! From London to Paris to be with Marie-Claire's mom - who remains bright and feisty at 93. We plan to come back to England in late August to take a Baltic Cruise (10 days, Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki, Tallinn, St. Petersburg, Copenhagen) with the kids and Taub's mom. Really looking forward to this adventure. Enclosed is a drawing (in the style of Leonardo da Vinci) of our granddaughter wearing a championship Anaheim Angels hat happily positioned between the grandparents.

So far the antioxidants in our citrus crop have managed to stave off wrinkles (note Marie-Claire) and keep our minds clear - if any of you need relief from "oxidative stress" come visit, or we can arrange a shipment of citrus paradisi. We hope to see you in the fall in Virginia.

Wolff and Marie-Claire

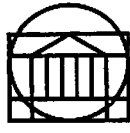
Wolff and Marie-Claire Kirsch



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0705/03

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0705/03

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



**HEALTH
SYSTEM**

DEPARTMENT OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY
August 6, 2003

L. Nelson Hopkins MD, Secretary
American Academy of Neurological Surgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209

Dear Nick:

We are happy to contribute to the ROUND ROBIN for this year, and we are very much looking forward to the annual meeting in Williamsburg. It is a particular pleasure for me because David Piepgras was the first resident assigned to me when I joined the faculty at the Mayo Clinic back in 1972!

Peggy and I continue to enjoy life and work in Charlottesville, Virginia with a wonderful expanding faculty and continuing growth of the pituitary/neuroendocrine center here. Last year, we did some 235 transsphenoidal operations. With the help of our colleagues, residents and fellows, the material is still being analyzed clinically and scientifically.

The family is doing well. We have added a fourth grandchild, and there is another one on the way. At this time, everyone is healthy and doing well in every other respect.

It's a relief to be done with chairmanship of the RRC, and I feel that I am getting out just in the nick of time, as the 80-hour work week will be extraordinarily difficult to implement if we are to continue to educate residents in an optimal fashion. I was pleased that at the last meeting of the RRC we were able to grant quite a large number of temporary exceptions to the 80 hour work limit, and also to fill a number of requests for appropriate expansion of resident complement.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons, and I think that the College has made great strides in representing all of surgery in a more effective fashion. The ACS has a superb leadership structure significant resource, and the potential of making a major impact on the future of surgical aspects of health care in the United States.

The World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies occupies a good bit of our time right now, and I hope that everyone is looking forward to the WFNS International Congress in Marrakech, Morocco, which will take place in June of 2005. We are hoping that the United States will be able to host the next WFNS World Congress and AANS has been working hard to secure this opportunity for American Neurosurgery. It is a pleasure to see the sustained interest of the Academy in international relations, and I hope that this will continue in the future. We send our fond regards to all of the members of the Academy.

With best wishes.

Ed and Peggy Laws

July 29, 2003

Dear Fellow Academicians:

We've had an eventful year. Our son, David, was married in Berkeley in August to Elizabeth Selvin. Liz is a graduate student in the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health following in the footsteps of her internationally known father, Dr. Steve Selvin, in the field of epidemiology and biostatistics. David is director of marketing for the new products division of the Sylvan Learning Centers. In October, we went to the Latin American Congress in Lima and spent a little extra time enjoying the archeological treasures of Peru. The winter was mostly uneventful, but in the spring we began one of our never-ending projects around the house. A few years ago we had an enormous tree fall, leaving a larger bare space that promptly filled with weeds. We're in the process of converting that bare space into a series of ponds connected by a small stream and plan to surround it with a collection of dwarf conifers. I think the maintenance will be my retirement project. I remain clinically active and have no intention of fully retiring soon. I've continued to serve as AANS representative to the AAMC, and I have continued to press the issue of competency-based training as the fundamental form of resident-education. Harriett remains active with the Saint John's College but she has resigned from their Board of Trustees. Our new year's resolution this year was jointly "no new incisions in 2003" and I'm happy to say that we both accomplished our goal this year, the first time in several years. The children are doing well. Kimberly, our oldest daughter continues on the faculty of Johns Hopkins University and lives a few blocks away, so that our grandchildren are close. Our son, David, lives in Baltimore, as I mentioned. Elizabeth, our second daughter, is still on the Faculty of the University of Chicago and is also actively involved in pursuing yet another master's degree. We plan to spend 2 weeks in Alaska in August, the first unencumbered vacation we've taken since 1990. We're going to go to the back-country lodge in Denali and tour the coastline. We look forward to seeing all of you in Williamsburg.

Yours sincerely,
Don M. Long, MD, PhD

DML/mp



University of Pittsburgh Physicians

Part of
UPMC Health System

Department of Neurological Surgery

July 28, 2003

School of Medicine

L. Dade Lunsford, MD, FACS
Charles Lekeell Professor and
Chairman

UPMC Presbyterian
Suite B-400
100 Lothrop Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2582
412-647-6781
Fax: 412-647-6483

L. Nelson (Nick) Hopkins, M.D.
Secretary
American Academy of Neurological Surgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209

RE: "Round Robin"

Dear Nick:

I am reminded of Cicero's famous line, "O tempora, O mores". How did we let it get to this point? I suspect we all thought we would be able to maintain some control of our own destiny, but instead we are deluged by a barrage of paperwork demands from all levels. This includes national, state, and local government, our health system employers, and our university watch dogs. Some how we survive at least for a period of time in this complex environment. Rewards of surviving seem more evanescent.

On a positive note, the department has seen a further growth in research productivity and revenue, net positive patient care revenue, and patient volume increase. Our 18 faculty members last year had experience in over 7,000 neurosurgical procedures, despite the transfer of two faculty members to other academic medical centers and the deployment of one of our faculty in the Gulf War. Dr. Don Marion has assumed the role as Professor and Chair at Boston University, and Dr. Joseph King has joined his wife at Yale University, where he will work at the Yale affiliated VA Medical Center. We will be recruiting for new faculty this year, after a health system wide moratorium for the past year. Our faculty now work between the 80th and 110% of MGMA wRVU's, plus maintaining their teaching and research loads.

On a personal note, my travel has diminished because of the watch dog needs at home, as well as the increasing hassles related to both national and international travel. I can persuade Julie to join me every once in a while, and we will certainly come to Williamsburg (easy driving distance for us, and therefore even more desirable). Having grown up 40 miles from Williamsburg, I look forward to the return visit. My daughter, Stephanie, is a project manager for the Center For Biomedical Informatics at the University of Pittsburgh. Andy will turn 21 on Halloween during the Academy Meeting (probably prompting our return home early) and is completing his electronics engineering technology degree. He may have the opportunity to do an internship in Los Angeles. Julie is pursuing a docent program at the Carnegie Museum here in Pittsburgh.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Yours sincerely,


L. Dade Lunsford, M.D.

LDL/mav



**SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE**

Department of Surgery
Division of Neurosurgery
James Markert, M.D.

July 30, 2003

Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to contribute our first letter to the Round Robin.

It has been a wonderful year for the Markerts—we added the newest member to our family in April with the arrival of our son, Hooper. He has been a delight, a happy baby with sleeping habits unprecedented in our clan. Jack, our next youngest, is every bit of two years old, and is establishing his independence on a minute-to-minute basis. His underlying winsome personality allows him to charm nearly everyone that he meets. He's actually quite taken with his younger brother, fortunately, and frequently asks to hold Hooper, generally for no more than a ten second interval before needing to move on to the next urgent Thomas the Tank Engine situation. Tara is turning seven and entering second grade. She has taken on the self-appointed role of second mother to the boys, and is pretty darn good at it. She is a sweet-natured and hard-working child. We are being introduced to the world of parenting school-age children, with her various activities—art lessons, dance, soccer, etc.—turning Laili in particular into a full-time chauffeur. While the children keep us running, they are a real source of joy to us. Laili and I continue to be active in the Bahá'í community here in Birmingham, which brings meaning to our lives.

UAB remains a great place to practice neurosurgery, with a talented and hard-working faculty and excellent residents. This past year, our clinical brain tumor practice has increased further, in large part due to the fact that UAB received a Brain Tumor Specialized Program in Research Excellence (SPORE) grant from the NCI. The focus of these grants is to encourage translational research, from bench to clinic. Additionally, our joint Program Project Grant with the University of Chicago aimed at developing effective treatments for brain tumors using herpes simplex vectors has also been refunded. I've been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with a group of bright and talented brain tumor researchers here and at U of C who play critical roles in these two grants.

Looking forward to the meeting in Virginia—

Yours truly,



Jim Markert



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL

55 Fruit Street, WH1 502
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2696
Tel: 617 726-8581, Fax: 617 726-4814
E-mail: rmartuza@partners.org

Robert L. Martuza, M.D.
*Higgins Professor of Neurosurgery
Harvard Medical School*
*Chief of Neurosurgical Service
Massachusetts General Hospital*

July 27, 2003

Dear Academicians:

It has been a very busy year for Jill, myself, and our family. Robin, our oldest daughter, graduated from the program in architecture at the Harvard Design School and now works at an architectural firm in Newton, MA. She lives in the town next to us and it is nice to have at least one child nearby and to see her periodically. Our son, Christopher, graduated from the College of Santa Fe with a degree in creative writing and film, and, like most aspiring writers, is finding work where he can. Our youngest daughter, Kathleen, married a fellow member of the San Francisco ballet, Kester Cotton. They had a wonderful west coast wedding in Grass Valley, California and, a few weeks later, we hosted an East coast party for family and friends who could not make the trek to California to meet the new bride and groom. We had recently purchased and are renovating a home in Marblehead, MA. This provided a wonderful large empty space and lawn for the party. Fortunately, both the wedding and the party were blessed with sunny, wonderful weather. Kathi and Kester are leaving the San Francisco Ballet and moving to Kester's home town of Portland, OR to join the Oregon Ballet Theater.

Jill continues to be very active in the MGH comforters, a group of quilters she organized at the hospital. They have made and donated quilts for very sick patients in the newborn ICU, a shelter for abused women, to people acutely ill on ventilators and to burn patients. The quilts are cotton, washable and represent a comforting artistic token for some very ill patients.

The hospital and our department are doing well in large part thanks to an excellent cadre of neurosurgeons who get along with each other quite well and generally look out for the common good. This is especially important in these troubling times particularly as we, like all of you, try to adapt to the new resident work hours.

Jill and I look forward to seeing all of you in Williamsburg in the fall.

Until then, may we all stay in good health,

Bob and Jill Martuza

THE CLEVELAND CLINIC
FOUNDATION 

July 28, 2003

L. Nelson Hopkins, MD
Neurosurgery
University at Buffalo
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, New York 14209-1194

Marc R. Mayberg, M.D.
Professor and Chairman
Department of Neurosurgery . S80
Administrative Line: 216 445-4430
Fax: 216 636-2061
E-mail: mayberg@neus.ccf.org

Re: Round Robin

Dear Fellow Academicians:

The past year has been an enjoyable one for the Mayberg family. Our children continue to delight us. Matthew is 8 and about to enter the third grade. He is interested in baseball, soccer, martial arts, and whichever trading cards are currently en vogue. Katherine, who is 4, will be in preschool this fall. In addition to ballet and puppies, she has a worrisome interest in apparel. The kids keep Terry and me alert and busy with the usual kid-rearing things. Terry has not yet returned to neuroanesthesia, and is deriving tremendous pleasure from her "second career" as a budding artist. She does acrylic painting and has uncovered a real talent. We live outside of Cleveland in Chagrin Falls, on a property that absorbs a lot of our spare time, energy, and extra cash.

Work at the Cleveland Clinic remains stimulating and fun. We have a terrific group of young neurosurgeons who are always asking questions and thinking about new ways to do things. Many are developing independent research programs, which also provide a source of constant stimulation. We are experimenting with dissolution of traditional neurosurgery, neurology and neuroradiology departments with the reformation of new disease-oriented departments: spine, brain tumor, stroke, and functional. This seems to be working well and at the end of the day is probably better for the patients. My laboratory research has moved into the physiology of blood-brain barrier in cerebral ischemia and I spend a certain amount of time trying to keep the laboratory funded.

I look forward to seeing everyone this fall in Williamsburg. Please be sure to call if you are going to be in the Cleveland area.

Sincerely,



Marc R. Mayberg, MD

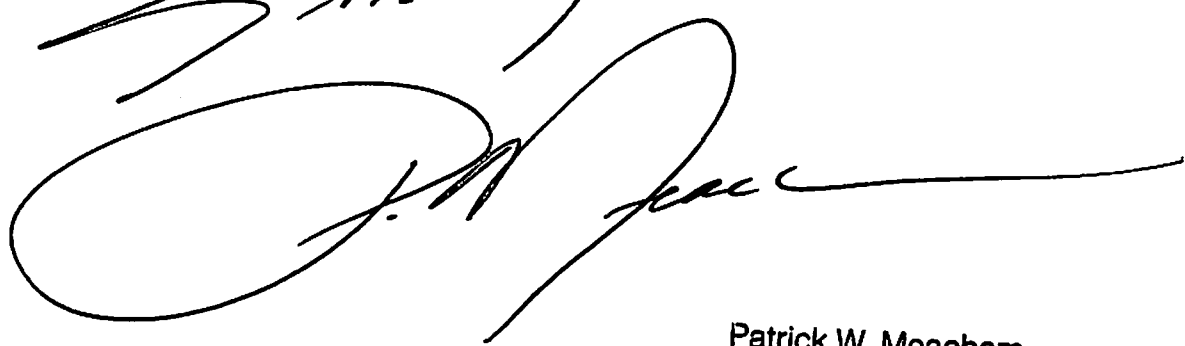
MRM/ngw
072803-1

Dear Dr Hopkins

Ms Alice Meacham
died this year. (1/19/03)

The A.A.N.S. was very
important to my parents.

Thank you very much

Sincerely


Patrick W. Meacham
1612 Stop Thirty Road
Hendersonville, TN 37075

(Widow of
William Meacham)



Mayo Clinic
200 First Street SW
Rochester, Minnesota 55905
507-284-2511

Fredric B. Meyer, M.D.
Department of Neurologic Surgery

July 29, 2003

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Well another wonderful and eventful year has passed. Fortunately, our children, family, and friends have remained healthy. I am particularly proud of my two younger and more erudite brothers who have climbed the academic ranks at Northeastern and Emory. One now holds a named Professorship in Economics while the other has received tenure as an Associate Professor in Art History. I am still, however, the superior fly fisherman.

My wife, Irene, continues to work hard at balancing being a mother of six children with her professional obligations as a staff neurologist and researcher at Mayo. She is also now a permanent member of one NIH study section. Her energy and ability to multi-task is truly remarkable. Each day I recognize how fortunate I am to have married her.


At least for this segment of my life, there is little time for self. My life evolves around family and then work with few residual moments left for indulgence. I sometimes ask myself whether this is the right path. After all, standing in a rock bed Alberta river or sailing on a 40 foot Swan in the Leeward Islands are intrinsically more appealing. Of course the question we all strive to answer is whether our retrospective end gaze will bring a lasting smile. Sometimes, I am not sure.

Certainly, my pride and joy is with my children. Briefly, Jenna (11) is smart as a whip and loves to compete in the 100 yard butterfly and 200 IM. Unfortunately she has just discovered email and the telephone. Ilana (9) is more emotional than her parents and also loves the butterfly and breast stroke. We were particularly thrilled when she finished 8th in the Minnesota State Swimming Championships last year. She continues to push hard for us to purchase a horse. Ben (8) also likes the butterfly, but would rather spend his time drawing. He seems to have a gift for this, and I must admit that some of his sketches of Michaelangelo's works are pretty good. Jake (7) who carries the middle name "Thor" is our computer guy. He is small for his age. We tell him that it is better to have a big brain than a big body. He is still thinking about that statement. Bobby (5) likes to play ball and skate board. He's rough and tumble but always wears a robust smile. Finally, there is Monet (2) who has recently decided not to sleep at night. I keep saying to her "bedtime" and she keeps responding "No!". It is a test of wills that I always loose.

My professional life continues to be one of energy and satisfaction. I greatly enjoy my clinical practice, the teaching of residents, and my great colleagues. Without a doubt, these are some of the greatest strengths of working at Mayo. The ease of surgical practice allows one to be surgically quite active but still able to tuck the children into bed at night. What else matters? Beyond my clinical obligations, I am trying to provide good reviews for the editorial board of the Journal of Neurosurgery. That board consists of a remarkable group of bright and inquisitive academic neurosurgeons. I have learned a tremendous amount from them when reading their editorial comments and analysis of submissions. Until joining the Board, I had no appreciation into the thoughtfulness and effort that went into each article submitted to the Journal.

Dave Piegras continues to lead our Department with a steady hand. We are all thrilled and honored that he is President of the Academy this year. He is so dedicated to the betterment of our profession that this honor is well deserved. We are also fortunate to have many gifted neurosurgeons in our Department, many of whom have developed tremendous subspecialty practices including Bruce Pollock (stereotactic radiosurgery and face pain), Robert Spinner (peripheral nerve), Rick Marsh (epilepsy), Corey Raffel (pediatrics), Mike Link (skull base), Bill Krauss (complex spine), and John Atkinson (vascular). Almost all of these neurosurgeons were recruited onto the Mayo staff by Dave. In addition to his work for our profession, this enhancement and development of our Department should prove to be a great legacy.

Irene and I wish our best to everyone,



Fredric B. Meyer, M.D.
Professor of Neurosurgery

July 30, 2003

Dear Friends,

We are writing you this year from Nova Scotia. We spend the month of August here every summer and find the climate to be substantially better than that of Alabama in August.

Mary Jean's mother died in March of this year, the last of our living parents. She was 92 years old and until the last couple of years was quite alert and active. We hope we do as well.

In February of this year our friends Peggy and Evan Zeiger gave us their dog, a six year old King Charles Cavalier Spaniel. At the time the dog was given to us he was beautifully trained. Whenever a dog enters a household either the owners train the dog or the dog trains the owners. The two of us have proved difficult to train, but the dog (his name is Charlie) is making steady progress. Fortunately, from the time he was a puppy, he flew in small aircraft, so he goes everywhere with us.

Things continue to go well with the Division of Neurosurgery at UAB. We now have twelve faculty and will gain additional operating rooms when our new hospital opens in the summer of 2004.

We are organizing Dave and Jane's meeting in Williamsburg this year and hope everyone will attend. Williamsburg is a national treasure, and the opportunity to visit with your friends in the Academy should not be missed.

Come and see us in Nova Scotia (if you can find us).

Warmest regards,

Richard and Mary Jean Morawetz



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Dear Fellow Academicians,

Tere and I have completed a busy year. I have completed my year as the interim head of the practice plan and Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. Although it was a good experience, I am anxious to get back to full time neurosurgery where the wins and loses are easier to define.

Golf highlights for the last year included a trip to our first Masters, a trip to Banden and Pacific Dunes on the Oregon coast following the N.S.A. meeting, and a week in Scotland. We found out that Professor Lindsey Simon is the only neurosurgical member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club.

Our oldest son, Ben, has moved to New York City to become a wine specialist for Zachy's Wine Auction House. It appears more appealing to him than working as a health care actuary.

Tere gives the piano students the summer off and spends much of the summer at the farmhouse in central Pennsylvania. It has become a great place to recharge our batteries.

Highlights of the neurosurgery program include continued funding of the spinal cord injury program. Pediatric neurosurgeon, Dr. William Whitehead, joined our staff in July after completing a fellowship at Toronto Sick Children. Our basic science neuroscience center opened July 1 and we are at negotiations with the hospital to develop a clinical neuroscience center.

I remain concerned about the professional liability crisis. Reform is needed at the both the state and federal levels.

Tere and I look forward to seeing you in Williamsburg.

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

SECTION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

Emerson Hall 139
545 Barnhill Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana
46202-5124

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul".

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

317-274-8422
Fax: 317-274-7351
www.iupui.edu/~neurosurg/



SECTION OF PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF ALABAMA
1600 SEVENTH AVENUE SOUTH, SUITE ACC 400
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35233
(205) 939-9653 FAX (205) 939-9972



JEFFREY P. BLOUNT, M.D.
PAUL A. GRABB, M.D.
W. JERRY OAKES, M.D.
R. SHANE TUBBS, Ph.D.
JOHN C. WELLS, III, M.D.

Dear Nick:

Life continues to be kind. The health of my entire family is good and there are no serious problems.

Watching two boys grow, both physically and emotionally is rewarding. Matthew is 13 and going to be an eight grader. He is a good athlete (soccer) and making reasonable academic progress. This year was a milestone with Matt growing past his mother in height. Peter is 10 and preparing for fifth grade. Both boys' soccer teams are the "Thunderbolts" which makes equipment purchasing easier.

Jean has retired from the active clinical practice of orthopedics. She continues to be active in our church, as soccer "mom" and with her own tennis schedule. The demands of mother, wife, personal time and active medical practice eventually pushed the limits of the twenty-four hour day. With more reasonable responsibilities her life is now manageable.

At Children's the practice continues to grow. There are four pediatric neurosurgeons doing in excess of 1000 cases this year. We will produce more than forty peer reviewed papers and run multiple laboratory projects. For neurosurgeons, the little group is quite harmonious with each person carving out an area of clinical and academic expertise.

Training residents and fellows continues to be exciting and rewarding. The communication of knowledge is one of the most satisfying aspects of life.

Pediatric Neurosurgery continues to prosper with a wait list to publication of five to six months. By the time this letter is published an exciting out growth of our journal will likely be in place. Stay tuned!

Jean and I are planning for the 2004 meeting of the American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgeons that will be held in Costa Rica at a Melia resort on the Pacific Coast. Planning that meeting has been challenging but hopefully will be an enjoyable experience for all.

All in all, I am excited about the opportunities of the next year and will be eager to see what the future will bring.

Jean + Jerry Oakes

Department of Neurosurgery

T.S. Park, MD, Chief
Jeffrey R. Leonard, MD
Matthew D. Smyth, MD
Jeffrey M. Gidday, PhD
Jack R. Engsborg, PhD
Prithvi Narayan, MD
Diana Healy, FNP
Harle Minger, PA-C
Trisha Weatherly, PA-C
Joan Pagli, PT
Karen Good, PT
Tiffany Gates, MA

Research Laboratories
Jeffrey M. Gidday, PhD
Jack R. Engsborg, PhD
T. S. Park, MD
Matthew D. Smyth, MD
Jeffrey R. Leonard, MD
Max Zhang, MD, PhD
Ajyng Xiao, MD, PhD
Yanli Zhiu, MD
Temer Altay, MD
Yolanda Rangel, PhD
Ernesto R. Gonzalez, BSN
Aarti R. Shah, MS
Ronald S. Perez, BS
John W. Standeven, EE, PhD
Sandy A. Ross, PT, MHS
Mary L. Ulrich, MS
Michelle L. Truener
Fran S. Davis
Connie Trout, PTA

Administration
Diana Borlinghaus, Office Mgr.
Therese Urthel-Anderson
Barham Forghash
Rose Ann Overley
Rockie Jones

July 28, 2003

L. Nelson Hopkins, MD, Secretary
American Academy of Neurological Surgery

Re: Round Robin letter

Dear Academicians:


The Park family had some ups and downs last year. Our daughter, Mina, passed a bar examination and works as a corporate lawyer in New York. Our son, Tom, works for an international consulting firm in Frankfurt, Germany ; currently he is in Tokyo where he will work for a few months. Both of them are doing well and moving along their career. My wife, Hyun Sook, is undergoing treatment for gastric cancer diagnosed three years ago; she is doing well and we pray for cure of the cancer.

Our pediatric neurosurgery service at the St. Louis Children's Hospital continued to grow. The clinical volume increased greatly and we were fortunate to be able to recruit two full time pediatric neurosurgeons, Mathew Smyth and Jeffrey Leonard. Matt came from neurosurgery residency at UCSF and pediatric neurosurgery fellowship at Children's Hospital/UAB. Jeff did his residency and fellowship with us in St. Louis. My main clinical interest is dorsal rhizotomy for spastic cerebral palsy and we had a small celebration for surpassing 1,000 dorsal rhizotomies.

We continue RO1 funded laboratory research. But the outlook for continuous laboratory research is not bright as we will be overwhelmed by the increasing clinical load that we need to carry.

We will not be able to attend the meeting this year and plan to see you all next year.

Sincerely yours,


T. S. Park, MD
Neurosurgeon-in-Chief
St. Louis Children's Hospital

One Children's Place, Suite 4520
St. Louis, Missouri 63110-1077
neurosurgery.wustl.edu/faculty/park.htm
(314) 454-2810
(800) 416-9936

St. Louis Children's Hospital is a member of  HealthCare.

Russel H. Patterson, Jr. MD
146 West 57th Street Apt #65A
New York, NY 10019
TEL=212-586-9237 FAX=212-315-3877
email=mail49212@pop.net

June 17, 2003

Dear Friends,

Julie and I remain in good shape, probably because of numerous medical "checkups." Prior to retirement, I don't think I ever went to a doctor unless something was broken or lacerated. Now, it seems to be always something. If it isn't Lipitor, it is vitamins or exercise. But no complaints; at least we're still chugging along.

One of our greatest pleasures is attending neurosurgical meetings, there to meet with friends of long standing. I don't quite understand how someone can retire and drop all contact with neurosurgeons. After all, neurosurgery was about 90% of most of our lives for many years, and a good part of our wives' as well.

The children continue to be just fine. Daughter Ritchie and her husband (both physicists) have a fascinating three-year-old girl. We see them the most because they're in Ithaca, which is just a short flight away.

Hu and Lee Ann are in Silicon Valley with two girls, 3 and 7. The girls seem to be deep into add-on extracurricular activities. Hu's with a startup (Chief Architect of a novel storage system) that has attracted the attention of some major companies.

Xander is still in Oregon with a new, serious girlfriend. We get to meet her in July. In the meantime, he writes for The Oregonian, co-chairs the Green Party of the Pacific Northwest, and is the Exec for The Physicians for Social Responsibility in Oregon.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Williamsburg.

Best regards,

Russel

13623 N.E. 32nd Place
Bellevue, WA 98005-1400
June 28, 2003

TO: L. Nelson Hopkins, M.D.
Secretary, American Academy of Neurological Surgery

RE: Round Robin Letter

Dear Fellow Academicians:

It is with great pleasure to be able to once again write a letter for the Round Robin. But as I reflect on the past year I realize that I have done nothing of interest to neurosurgeons. Lucy and I enjoy quiet days of retirement with minimum travel and our three daughters and nine grandchildren are not doing anything exotic or spectacular as we watch the younger ones work their way through the undergraduate years.

So I look into the Academy archives for an example of the Round Robin forty years ago, Vol. 23, August 1963. It was called THE NEUROSURGEON in those days, edited by David Reeves, with details and articles from the previous year's meeting, short biographies and photographs of newly elected members, and each letter included relevant photographs, usually member & wife or children or recent interesting trips; even in those days Academicians were world-wide travelers thus the detailed descriptions and photographs are fascinating. Also included in this volume were the documents of the dedication of The Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Oct. 30, 1962 and the Presidential Address by Hunter Shelden titled "Wave Lengths, Absorption, and Resonance". I wish there were some way for each of you to see this collection of five decades of our Personal Journal of the Academy. We must create a repository where current and future members can have easy access to this vital history of neurological surgeons and our specialty in the second half of the 20th century.

In 1964, Dr. Reeves wrote: "We can say with pride and realism that the American Academy of Neurological Surgery is the 'Blue Book of Neurological Surgery' in our country. To maintain this unique position it will be necessary for us to elect new young members of great promise, character, and ability, and this should be the great assignment for us in the coming years". May all of you accept your responsibility in continuing to remember and to fulfill this assignment during the next fifty years.

Lucy and I look forward to seeing all of you in Williamsburg!



Byron C. Pevehouse, M.D.



Mayo Clinic
200 First Street SW
Rochester, Minnesota 55905
507-284-2511

July 31, 2003

David G. Piepgras, M.D.
Department of Neurologic Surgery

Dear Fellow Academicians:

It seems impossible that it's the end of July and that the deadline for the annual Round Robin letter is here. Although the summer has raced by, it hasn't gone unnoticed that it has truly been a glorious one in Minnesota, much to the delight of all of us, particularly the farmers and our tourists. Much to her satisfaction Jane has been spending a lot of time in her perennial garden which this year is truly spectacular. How wonderful it is to come home at day's end to this beautiful and peaceful surround.

The great sadness of our year was seeing my younger brother decline and succumb earlier this month to metastatic carcinoma. He was a great guy and although we are feeling a major sorrow from his loss, I must say I find myself smiling daily as I remember his wonderful character.

Among the highlights and milestones of our year, Jane and I marked our 40th wedding anniversary sharing the occasion with some of our children and grandchildren on the edge of Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. Regretfully it was much too short of stay as we enjoyed the hiking, the scenery and especially the opportunity to share our love of it with our grandchildren.

Another happy change has been our department's move to new quarters in Mayo's newly opened adjoining Gonda Building. By design, this facility is intended to better integrate and maximize efficiencies in our outpatient practice. We share floor space with our neurology colleagues including clinical neuroscience laboratories, library and our adjoining outpatient clinics. Our secretaries and nurses also are enjoying improved work space and we are delighted with the new environment. It's a "first class upgrade" which will serve us and our patients well.

Our department is running well though we here at Mayo are all struggling to maintain financial margins in the face of cost pressures and declining reimbursement. Looking to the years ahead with increasing numbers of our nation's population in the Medicare age group, the challenge will be to decrease our costs even further to maintain a positive margin for all payor groups. I trust most of us are sharing this realization. Is there a light at the end of the tunnel?

Our staff and resident corps are outstanding and I am very proud of the whole department for their commitment to clinical excellence and scholarly initiatives. After nearly 12 years as Department Chair, I think it's time for a change in this regard and have happily decided to turn over the Chair responsibility to someone else by June of 2004. I'm so appreciative of the support I've had from all my Mayo colleagues as well as friends in neurosurgery across the country. The wisdom and counsel that has come from fellow Academy members, whether in our various forums or friendly discussions, has been immensely helpful to me. I have been greatly honored to be a member of the Academy and to serve as an Officer, especially this past year as President. Jane and I extend our thanks and also our sincere hope to see all of you in Williamsburg this fall.

Sincerely,

David G. Piepgras, M.D.
Professor and Chairman

DGP:cbh

Dear Nick,

At the risk of stating the obvious...time seems to move too quickly. The past year has been both busy and exhilarating.

The Neuroscience Institute at the Albany Medical Center has taken on a life of its own. The two newest additions to the faculty have redefined care in this region. As you know, Dr. Alan Boulos, a former resident in our training program returned from a two-year fellowship with you to head our endovascular neurosurgery program. Alan has exceeded all volume projections within his first six months. I cannot imagine how we survived prior to his arrival. Dr Darryl DiRisio, our spine surgeon, is leading an initiative to develop a comprehensive spine center, with the enthusiastic endorsement of the hospital. I have been able to raise funds to endow chairs to support their academic endeavors. The research affiliation with General Electric Global Research Center and the placement of a 3T research magnet has allowed our neurologists and neurosurgeons, under the guidance of Dr Earl Zimmerman, to perform breakthrough science in Alzheimer's disease and related dementia's. Dr Sally Temple in our Center for Neuropharmacology and Neuroscience has just been awarded the prestigious NIH, Javits Investigator Award for her work in stem cell research. Working with these and the other members of the Neuroscience Institute is a source of pride. I find myself in the OR more often and later at night, but feeling enthusiastic rather than fatigued.

My work with the AANS is another source of sustenance and pride. Rarely can one associate with such diverse and exceptionally talented individuals. Over the past 10 years I have been privileged to work with many friends as well as develop new friendships. We have taken the first quarter of my presidency to plan out the organization's agenda for the coming year. Attention has been focused on organizational structure, the charge given to the various committees and future planning.

At home, my grandchildren continue to evolve and constantly amaze me. Cathryn age three is a force to be reckoned with. She definitely has her own opinions and lights up a room with chatter, animation and antics. Andrew, age 10 months, is content to smile and observe. Their mother, my daughter, Christine and husband Matt are adjusting to life in Phoenix. So far Matt likes the golf; the heat is another story. Richard, my son, is in his last year of law school at Brooklyn Law and has found his niche. He loves law and has shown greater promise and accomplishments with each successive year of study. He will be looking for a job in NYC in corporate law. Peggy and I struggle to keep up with the professional and social commitments but we both seem to be thriving. Peggy's work continues to unfold and she is focusing on business development and intercollegiate affiliations within the Capital Region as Vice President for Operations at Albany Medical Center.

With that update, I'll close wishing you all a healthy prosperous year.

Sincerely yours,



A. John Popp, M.D.
Department of Surgery
Professor and Chairman

Dear Friends:

The Quest Family has had a very happy, healthy and productive year. Our daughter, Wendy and her husband Peter presented us with Luke Oliver last December. Luke is the first male born in the family since Don and is adorable; not Don – Luke. Our granddaughters Blake and Halle are both 2½ and wonderful. Halle's parents Amy and Ted are expecting a baby in October. Susan and Jared say not just yet!

I had a very unmentionable birthday this year and to celebrate it Don is taking his three son-in-laws, Ted the pro golfer, Pete and Jared to Ireland for a week of golf and camaraderie. I think that's fair don't you? Our girls want to know where we are going – I say right to the jewelry store.

Actually Don is taking me to Spain and then to the European Congress Meeting in Lisbon in September. This should be a wonderful adventure – the vacation not the meeting.

Don continues loving neurosurgery at Columbia – amazing group of attendings and residents continue to make the Department terrific. Don recently had the privilege of becoming Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, a position in which he functions as a faculty mentor for 30 students in each class of the four years of medical school. He undoubtedly will need my assistance with this honor!

I continue being, wife, mom, grandma and volunteer – all of which I love and are wonderful but the grandma part is just amazing. Don feels the same way about the grandpa part!

We are anxious to see you in Williamsburg and meanwhile we send our love and warm wishes to each of you.


Ilona



LORI COHEN RANSOHOFF, D.D.S.
MAXILLO-FACIAL PROSTHODONTIST
915 MOORING CIRCLE • TAMPA, FL 33602 • (813) 223-9472

July 6, 2003

Dear Vick,

Thank you for your kind invitation to the AAMPs. Joe and I shared many fond memories of the AAMPs meetings. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend. My son Jake is entering eighth grade, and my daughter Jade is entering second grade. They attend separate private schools, so of course travel during the year is difficult.

Once again, thank you for your invitation.

Sincerely,
Lori

Bob and Peggy Ratcheson
2124 Silver Ridge Road
Hamilton, MT 59840

August 14, 2003

Dear Fellow Academicians,

Greetings from the Bitterroot Valley of Montana, where heavy smoke from nearby forest fires is once again obscuring the wonderful mountain views and making our eyes sting, but also is interfering little with the fishing and is producing spectacularly colored sunsets. We will end up being here for a month, with visits by children, grandchildren, and friends complementing Bob's father-daughter trip with Abby to Yellowstone Park and Peggy's annual "Bitterroot Babes" trip (which this year was a low-key trip to Pony, Mt., that included fishing and horseback riding, but no near-death adventures as in previous years).

The highlight of this past year was the excitement of having Abby's field hockey team win the Ohio State Championship. It was the perfect end to a perfect (22-0) season, the first state championship of any kind for her school, and cause enough for Bob to attend the play-offs in Columbus in between interviews with resident applicants. Abby attended a hockey camp at Wake Forest in July and is back now for pre-season practice. She also worked in a pharmacology lab this summer, participating in a project that dealt with the molecular biology of breast cancer. Her academic interests are leaning toward science (maybe even medicine) and English. As a rising Junior, she has started the process of looking at colleges and has fallen in love with every one she has visited so far.

We are happy to report that our son, Alexey, is doing much better. After spending four years in a "therapeutic community," he seems to be handling his schizophrenia pretty well. He has moved into a group home, started a DJ business for parties, and has renewed his acquaintanceship with a former girlfriend who lives in St. Louis. We are keeping our fingers crossed that his progress will continue.

After a gruesome field trip last fall to Mali and Burkina Faso, Peggy left the Museum of Natural History to devote more time to family, supervise a kitchen re-modeling job (that inextricably has taken six months), and lay plans for a business enterprise involving the procurement, documentation and appraisal of cultural artifacts. Want that perfect pot, rug or basket but don't know where to get it? Give her a call!

This has been a busy year for Bob. He remains active clinically and finds the administrative and financial responsibilities of the department more complex and growing. The medical liability issue continues as a major threat to many academic neurosurgical units and his is no exception. He enjoyed being President of the Society of Neurological Surgeons and, in particular, the research for his presidential talk. He is looking forward to serving as President of the AANS and is delighted that Peggy will have more free time to accompany him in the travels this new responsibility will entail. Fishing remains a welcome and enjoyable recreation and continues to renew the spirit. We wish everyone well and look forward to seeing all of you in Williamsburg.

With best regards,

Bob and Peggy



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

College of Medicine
Department of Neurological Surgery
<http://www.neurosurgery.ufl.edu>

PO Box 100265
Gainesville, Florida 32610-0265
Tele: (352) 392-4331
Fax: (352) 392-8413

July 30, 2003

L. Nelson Hopkins, M.D., Secretary
American Academy of Neurological Surgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo NY 14209
Fax: 716-887-4378

Dear Nick:

Best wishes to everyone at Round Robin time which comes so rapidly each year. Joyce's and my lives continue much the same as in the past. I have cut back on my clinical practice and will focus on trigeminal neuralgia and hemifacial spasm. It has been my good fortune to be able to treat several thousand patients with trigeminal neuralgia over the years and I am fortunate that Bill Friedman has given me the opportunity to continue with this practice and also to continue the microsurgery laboratory. The last five years, since passing on the Chairmanship, have been one of the most productive times in my career. NEUROSURGERY will be publishing a book in the fall based on the Millennium and 25th Anniversary Issues of the journal. It was gratifying to receive the Medal of Honor of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies and to be able to continue to participate in courses around the world.

Joyce continues to be busy with her many activities including helping with our grandchildren when our children are on call in their practices and work. All of our children continue to pursue medically related careers. I am happy to report that all of our children are happy with their medical careers even though we hear some negative comments in our environment about medicine as a career. I know the children are proud of their work. There are many wonderful ways of serving each other and medicine continues to be one of them. We hope to join the group in Williamsburg.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

Albert L. Rhoton, Jr., M.D.
R.D. Keene Family Professor

ALR/lad

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

July 27, 2003

L. Nelson Hopkins, MD
University of Buffalo Neurosurgery
3 Gates Circle, Buffalo, NY 14209-1194

Fellow Academicians,

Jas and I are enjoying some now available time to travel and see our kids. A few weeks ago, while in Palm Springs where Michael and Megan from San Diego were visiting us, I received an unexpected cell phone call from a Senate Judiciary Committee staff person. Would I write them a letter summarizing my perspectives regarding pending tort reform legislation? Apparently I had been identified to them by the Utah Medical Association as one who'd practiced neurosurgery for more than three decades without a malpractice suit.

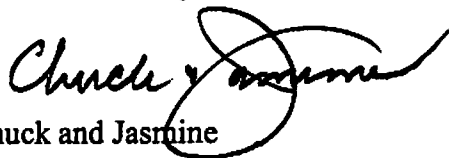
In addition to other practical ironies (ie, essentially telling neurosurgeons to steer their practices away from trauma services and urban emergency rooms), I illustrated the counterproductive, perverse disincentives integral to the present system by pointing out that I would be required to pay about \$92,000 for medical liability insurance this coming year. In other words, if at the age of 67 years I wanted to significantly slow down I couldn't afford to practice at all.

Meanwhile, Senator Edwards (D-NC), who had only engaged in medical malpractice law for a relatively short period of time, accumulated \$14 million dollars and had then decided to go into politics, would be one of the plethora of attorneys in the U.S. Senate soon deciding whether the present system should remain in place, unaltered. I received another phone call. This wasn't exactly the sort of input they were seeking. No kidding.

Am still doing a lot of speaking on our Olympic Games experience which is always enjoyable. We had a terrific medical team and a rewarding experience. As I am sure both Shigeaki and Hideko would agree, however, it's a relief to have it a good memory.

We're hoping to get to Williamsburg this fall and see all of you.

With our best regards,



Chuck and Jasmine

Hugo V. Rizzoli, M. D.
6100 Kennedy Drive
Chevy Chase, MD.-20815

Phone- 301-654-6486
Fax—301-907-4619

16 July 16, 2003

Dear Fellow Academician

Thought I'd write a brief progress note .

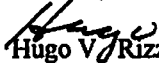
The George Washington University Hospital moved to a new fancy Hospital across 23rd St. from the old one , last August.

I continue to go to the office one day a week to see two or three patients and meet with the students rotating on Neurosurgery . I continue to hold my own- though it has been more difficult since August 2001, when my wife, Helen, died

The Third Annual Hugo V. Rizzoli Lecture was given at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, last fall by Dr Shucart ; I believe the 4th one, this fall. will be given by Dr. Apuzzo.

Best wishes for a great meeting in Williamsburg this fall.- I doubt that I will be able to attend.

Sincerely,


Hugo V Rizzoli



**Thomas
Jefferson
University**

**Jefferson
Medical
College**

**Jefferson
University
Physicians**

**Department of Neurosurgery
Division of Cerebrovascular Surgery
and Interventional Neuroradiology**

909 Walnut Street
3rd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107-5102
215-955-7000
Fax: 215-503-7007

Robert H. Rosenwasser, MD, FACS
Professor of Neurosurgery
Vice Chairman of Clinical Services
Director, Division of Cerebrovascular Surgery and
Interventional Neuroradiology
Surgical Director, Neurosurgical ICU
Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience
robert.h.rosenwasser@mail.tju.edu

Ronald P. Benitez, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery
Division of Cerebrovascular Surgery and
Interventional Neuroradiology
Director of Neurosurgical Trauma
ron.benitez@mail.tju.edu

Rocco A. Armonda, MD
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery
Division of Cerebrovascular Surgery and
Interventional Neuroradiology
rocco.armonda@na.medd.army.mil

Erol Veznedaroglu, MD
Instructor of Neurosurgery
Fellow, Cerebrovascular Surgery and
Interventional Neuroradiology
erol.veznedaroglu@mail.tju.edu

Robert C. Sergott, MD, FACS
Director, Noninvasive Ultrasound Laboratory
215-928-3130

Mariana Evanitsky, RN, CNRN
Clinical Coordinator

Gerri McGinnis, MSN, PhD
Research Assistant Professor
Director of Clinical Research Studies and
Outcome Management
gerri.mcginis@mail.tju.edu

Beth Ann Noble, RT
Research Manager

Administrative Staff

Janice Longo
Practice Operations Associate

Nicole Naphys
Administrative Assistant

August 4, 2003

L. Nick Hopkins, III, M.D.
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209

Dear Fellow Academicians:

I hope this note finds all of you well and having had an enjoyable summer. Deborah and I have had an uneventful summer, however, she is recovering from a two-level cervical fusion and doing quite well. This occurrence, however, has caused us to stay close to home, which is sometimes more relaxing than being out and about.

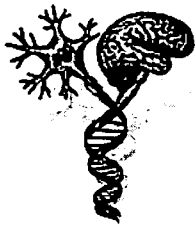
It's been a great treat having Bill Buchheit back at the helm and he has done a remarkable job in getting this department organized once again.

Our fellowship continues to flourish. We currently have Kevin Cockcroft as our Fellow who trained with Russell Patterson and then did a vascular fellowship with Gary Steinberg, who is now pursuing further training in endo-vascular techniques. He will be with us a total of 18 months, and then he will return to Penn State where Bob Harbaugh, as you know, has just taken the Chair. The service continues to grow and the interest from neurosurgeons and neurologists in pursuing this additional training is really quite remarkable and I think Neurosurgery is in very good shape.

We look forward to seeing all of you in Williamsburg this fall and wish you well.

With very best regards,

Robert H. Rosenwasser, M.D., F.A.C.S.



Division of Neurosurgery

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

James T. Rutka, MD, PhD, FRCS(C), FACS, FAAP

Professor and Chairman
Dan Family Chair in Neurosurgery

Phone: 416-813-8441 • Fax: 416-813-4975 • Email: james.rutka@sickkids.ca

Website: www.surg.med.utoronto.ca/NEURO/NEUROindex.html

Neurosurgeons

Mark A. Bernstein
Michael D. Cusimano
Peter B. Dirks
James M. Drake
Mahmoud Fazl
Michael G. Fehlings
Fred Gentili
Ab Guha
Robin P. Humphreys
Andres M. Lozano
Eric Massicotte
Rajiv Midha
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Paul J. Muller
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David W. Rowed
Michael L. Schwartz
Harley S. Smyth
Charles H. Tator
Kamal Thapar
William S. Tucker
Michael Tymianski
M. Christopher Wallace

Neuroscientists

Karen D. Davis
Maureen Dennis
James H. Eubanks
David A. Houlden
William D. Hutchinson
Andrei Krassioukov
C. Jane McClade
Jean Saint-Cyr

Emeritus

Robert Elgie
J.F. Ross Fleming
Harold J. Hoffman
William J. Horsey
Alan R. Hudson
William M. Loughheed
Thomas P. Morley
I. Bernard Schacter
Ronald R. Tasker

Dr. L.N. Hopkins,
Secretary,
American Academy of Neurological Surgery,
3 Gates Circle,
BUFFALO, NY 14209, U.S.A.

July 28, 2003

RE: Round Robin Submission 2003

Dear Nick:

SARS, West Nile Virus, Mad Cow Disease, Monkey Pox Virus, trouble in the Middle East – it has been a tumultuous year for all! We were particularly hit hard by the SARS epidemic in Toronto as you probably know. Precisely how this corona virus managed to respect the borders between our two countries and not, for example, infiltrate into Buffalo and New York remains a conundrum. I can tell you that SARS forced major closures in the downtown teaching hospitals, and impacted significantly on our elective neurosurgical practices. We are just now recovering. Waiting lists have now grown, clinics are longer, and we are all trying to make up for lost time. Thankfully, the epidemic is now over, and life is returning to normal.

We welcomed two new faculty members this July: Dr. Taufik Valiante, who did an epilepsy fellowship with George Ojemann, will be stationed at the Toronto Western Hospital; and Dr. Abhaya Kulkarni who has a PhD in Clinical Epidemiology is joining us at The Hospital for Sick Children and taking over the practice of Dr. Robin Humphreys who has just retired.

This past year, we had numerous visiting professors to the University of Toronto including Drs. Benzel, Branch, Pollack, Couldwell, Eisenberg, Mayberg, Fahlbusch, Mackinnon, and Hockley. Their contributions to our academic program were exceptional and I would like to personally thank them once again.

Our faculty garnered over \$2 million in grant support this past year, and the total number of publications was 103. We were fortunate last year and this year to have received our top choices in the resident match in Canada, and we are very pleased with the four residents who are joining us this year.



The Hospital for Sick Children, Suite 1504
555 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5G 1X8

The finances required to renovate our home in Toronto will keep us fairly close to home this summer. We do plan to take a couple of short canoe and camping trips to Northern Ontario where we have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves in years past. Our son Daniel is 18, and he will be going to McGill University to study music this year. Hana, age 15, has just danced at the School of American Ballet summer program in New York City. Her every waking moment is spent dreaming about being a professional ballerina. And Marissa, age 12, spent the summer at tennis camp and is doing exceptionally well too.

It has been a pleasure to be associated with the Academy, and I look forward to seeing all of you in Colonial Williamsburg.

Sincerely,

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

James T. Rutka, MD, PhD, FRCSC, FAAP, FACS

JTR/sn



Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität

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

Universitätsklinikum Bonn
Sigmund-Freud-Straße 25
D-53105 Bonn

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

Nick Nelson Hopkins M.D.
Department of Neurosurgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo NY 14209
USA

Telefon: (+49) 228 - 287-6500
Telefax: (+49) 228 - 287-6573
E-mail: Johannes.Schramm@ukb.uni-bonn.de

Bonn, 29.7.2003/heu

Fax 001 716 887 4378

Dear Academicians,

this is the first ROUND ROBIN letter from us. The privilege of becoming a member of the Academy and a lovely meeting in Phoenix was one of the enjoyable events during last year. I really look forward to the meeting in Williamsburg, which unfortunately Dorothea will not be able to attend.

Our two daughters are continuing their studies in biology and law and Moritz will have an exciting new school year, since he will attend Ampleforth college in Yorkshire, Great Britain for two terms, starting September. This will be the first time for the two adults to be staying alone in an otherwise empty house, but fortunately Moritz will come back after a few terms.

Professionally life is characterised by some new events. Positive news is that building works have started for a new ICU suite plus a new OR suite. We will have to move around to temporary rooms for several years but then we will finally have a completely renovated hospital, since the wards are currently being finished with their renovation. These positive news have to be weighted against the immense pressure that is building up with the introduction of a new remuneration system for the hospitals. The DRG-system forces the whole University Hospital to re-consider all its economic arrangements. Our budget has not been increased for 5 years now despite rising prices. Staff cuts and pressure to save on drugs and disposable goods are a burden. It appears though that preliminary calculations make it likely that the neurosurgical specialty can survive under the new rules, which will be fully enacted from 2004 onwards. Our practice here is changing a bit since one senior staff member became a Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Gent, Belgium, and another is going into practice outside the university hospital. There were a number of well-deserved advancements into more senior positions and we now have a very happy and strongly rejuvenated group.

At present I have been working two weeks very hard clearing the conference table and the desk of the piles of old papers and manuscripts to be ready for the upcoming family holiday in La Provence in the south of France.

I look forward to seeing you in Virginia.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Schramm'.

Johannes Schramm, M.D.



Children's Hospital Boston

Department of Neurosurgery
Director of Clinical Pediatric Neurosurgery



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Department of Surgery
Professor of Surgery

R. Michael Scott, M.D.
Children's Hospital Boston
300 Longwood Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
phone 617-355-6011 | fax 617-734-2628
michael.scott@tch.harvard.edu

July 14, 2003

L. Nelson Hopkins, MD
Secretary, The American Academy of Neurological Surgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209-1794

Dear Nick,

It is a pleasure to respond to your request for a letter for this year's Round Robin. The academic year has been a good one for our Pediatric Neurosurgery group. Our graduating fellow, Ethan Benardete, took a position at SUNY/Downstate and will have a great opportunity to participate in the rebuilding of the Department there. Our new fellow this year, Ed Smith, is from the Mass General and is extremely well trained. We have a great group of residents, and under the mentorship of Peter Black, Art Day, and Mark Proctor, the teaching program has flourished. Peter has added several new faculty people over the past year to the adult service, and compared to the four faculty we had when I started here in 1988, there are now 15 of us! I finally completed my long term review of our Moyamoya patients, which took more effort and time than I thought it would but I am delighted that the paper is finished. We are in the process of constructing a new research and clinical building at the Children's Hospital part of which will contain new OR's and Intensive Care Unit space and we are planning for the installation of an intraoperative magnet facility as part of the new operating room suite. I've been very impressed with the utility of intraoperative MRI in pediatric neurosurgery, particularly for resecting small, deep tumors or for removing residual tumors in potentially surgically curable cases. It has been interesting to talk with others around the world about these facilities and whether they have proven useful in given practices.

Susan continues to spend baby-sitting once a week with our two grandchildren and our children continue to be well and happy in their chosen fields. Elizabeth has a nice job at UCSF facility in Fresno where she is a mid-wife and teaches the obstetrics residents. We visited her and her Greek Orthodox Priest husband earlier this year, where they live in the small town of Dunlap an hour outside of Fresno. Their home is in the middle of nowhere but her husband's diocese is building a beautiful Greek Orthodox cathedral on the grounds of the retreat center where they live. The church is truly a remarkable

Page 2
Round Robin

work of art, filled with old world craftsmanship, engraved with wooden altar screens, elaborately decorated icons, and elaborate tile work on the floors and walls. Both sons continue to have steady jobs and continue to enjoy their music. Rob, the piano player, has several steady jobs in Provincetown at the tip of Cape Cod, and even gets advertised in the local papers. Susan's daughter, Heather, also continues to work in the Children's Hospital Intensive Care Unit, giving Susan her opportunity to baby-sit, as I mentioned above. My mother who had lived in Philadelphia died this spring, ending our family's last attachment to the Philadelphia area. We are going to have a family get-together on the Cape this summer in her memory. She was a great lady who was a sort of god-mother to generations of neurosurgical residents at Temple University where her husband ran the department for many years. I am anxiously awaiting the results of the search for Raj Narayan's successor there. I'm mindful of the wonderful traditions of teaching and service in the Department there.

We will look forward to seeing everyone in Williamsburg.

Regards,



R. Michael Scott, MD

RMS:grc



Drexel University College of Medicine

In the tradition of Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann Medical College

Simeone Center for Neurosurgery

Nick Hopkins, M.D.
American Academy of Neurological Surgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209

Dear Nick,

This has been an exciting year!

Last July 2002 the Drexel University College of Medicine became America's largest medical school when it was born from the amalgamation of two venerable Philadelphia institutions, Hahnemann Medical College and the (Woman's) Medical College of Pennsylvania (where W.W. Keen was professor when he performed our country's first successful brain tumor surgery). We joined this well equipped institution, attracted by a long history of innovative spinal cord regeneration research.

Our team had to leave the last place when under new management half of the practicing board certified neurosurgeons left or retired early, and our NIH-sponsored CNS gene therapy research team was fired.

The fourth edition of *The Spine* is nearing completion with two more editorships on different subjects in progress.

Christina and Katie have matriculated to new schools with enthusiasm. Their future choices remain open.

Our Automotive Design and Safety Foundation has an active board which is helping us find and fund the ideal site for the car museum, library, and driver safety program.

When all this happens, we shall turn a new page.

Yours sincerely,



Fred Simeone

72

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BARROW NEUROSURGICAL ASSOCIATES, LTD.
2910 NORTH THIRD AVENUE
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85013-4473
TELEPHONE (602) 406-3181 FAX (602) 264-2417
INTERNET ADDRESS: <http://www.bnaneuro.net>

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ANDREW G. SHETTER, M.D.
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FELIPE ALBUQUERQUE, M.D.

June 12, 2003

Dear Fellow Academicians:

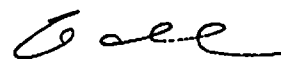
Lynne and I want to thank every one who came to Phoenix for the 2002 meeting. We hope you enjoyed the cities, especially Phoenix and Scottsdale, and the beautiful surroundings including the desert, Sedona, and possibly the Grand Canyon; as well as the meeting itself. We were honored to be local host and want to thank all of you, especially Don and Ilona Quest for a memorable meeting. Williamsburg will surely also be a great meeting. Looking beyond Williamsburg, our family recently went on a site visit to Berlin and Dresden to prepare for the 2004 meeting. These two cities are fantastic and the local hosts, Mario Brock and Gabriele Schackert, are planning a great pre-meeting and full meeting respectively.

The last year was active for our family. Lynne was president of ARCS (Achievement Reward for College Scientists) which, along with involvement in other organizations and commitments, as well as being a mother and wife, kept her very busy. Alissa is enjoying life in Los Angeles, working for UCLA, Department of Neurosurgery and teaching Yoga. Christopher will be a senior at Arizona State University and is enjoying college life. Stephen just finished his first year in middle school and will be a seventh grader. He had Mrs. Spetzler (Robert and Nancy's daughter-in-law) as his math teacher!! My year was occupied with the usual activities, however, highlighted by being the Honored Guest of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons' meeting in Philadelphia. I want to thank the Congress, the Executive Committee, and especially Stephen and Penny Papadopoulos for making this an exciting and memorable event.

Our professional group here at the BNI continues to grow and we are now up to 17 attendings. We now have three residents per year for each year of the seven year program. Our fellows, residents, and colleagues continue to impress me and I am privileged to be part of the team. A new BNI tower is becoming a reality with ground breaking ceremonies scheduled for November.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in historic Williamsburg.

Sincerely,



Volker K. H. Sonntag, M.D.

VKHS/dn
DR: 6/13/03
DT: 6/13/03



Robert F. Spetzler, M.D.
Director, BNI, J.N. Harber Chairman
of Neurological Surgery
Professor, Section of Neurosurgery
University of Arizona
350 West Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85013-4496
(602) 406-3489

June 19, 2003

L. N. Hopkins, M.D.
Department of Neurosurgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209

Dear Nick:

As time continues to accelerate, it seems just a short while ago that I wrote my last *Round Robin* letter.

Professionally, the year has been rewarding as new and old faculty worked together to keep the Barrow Neurological Institute humming. The quality of the residents, fellows and attendings are a constant source of pride. I am particularly proud of their productivity, but more importantly of their collegiality. It is humbling to send residents and fellows out into our society whose surgical and decision making skills are of the highest order.

On a personal note, this has been a significant year because Nancy and I have been granted the miracle of a granddaughter. The conflicting emotions of the title "grandfather" are ameliorated by my setting a new record in crossing the Grand Canyon in 4 hours and 52 minutes this year. In the company of the Hopkins and 56 other participants, this annual event has turned into a real "happening!" Between hiking, biking and running to counter my new grandfather status, I have encountered surprisingly few difficulties in adjusting to sleeping with a grandmother!

With kindest personal regards and best wishes to all, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Spetzler".

Robert F. Spetzler, M.D.

BENNETT M. STEIN, M.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

411 CLAREMONT ROAD
BERNARDSVILLE, NJ 07924

TEL: (908) 696-0293
FAX: (908) 696-0283

July 3, 2003

Nic Hopkins, MD
Neurosurgery
University @ Buffalo
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209-1194

Dear Nic,

I have been out of touch for so long that it is difficult to know where to begin.

First off, I wonder if you would have, in the files of the Academy, the current address and phone number of Bob Fisher. I have been asked to give a talk at the fall reunion of the Dartmouth Medical School and since Bob was my first mentor and the inspiration for my entering NS; if he is in the NH area, I would like to invite him over. I know that he was previously located in OK but thought that he had returned or summered in NH.

Second – as follows is my 2003 contribution to the “Round Robin.”

The past few years in “retirement” seem to be busier than when I was fully employed. Having recovered from quadruple bypass surgery in 1998, I have returned to full physical throttle, not withstanding two previous disc surgeries. What started out as a challenge to get my son involved in ice hockey 8 years ago, has turned into a full-time quest for me. I play with different groups 2-3 times per week, non-checking of course. This coupled with Lipitor and Zestril seem to be keeping the body in good shape. I truly believe it is the exercise and not the poisons that do me the most good. This theory is endorsed by a teammate who is 84, in perfect shape, and calls me “junior.” You might ask how the initial purpose of this has worked out? Well my son casually skates backward with ease faster than I skate forward at open throttle. He, Charlie (named after a couple of famous colleagues), has turned out to be a fine hockey player, on two championship teams and also a super skier, having garnered 20 gold medals in the NASTAR. I had planned to take him Heliskiing this past March, but realized that at that time of the year his team would probably be in the finals, so we backed out. I understand that Spetzler’s “mountain tamers” had a great ski. Son Charlie also did well academically, receiving his middle school math prize and has been accepted and will matriculate at Taft for high school in the Fall.

As far as the rest of the family is concerned; there is one granddaughter, six months older than her uncle (Charlie), who is straight “As” and the anchor of her swim team. Daughter Marjorie and this branch live in Granville OH. Her husband used to be my

Heliskiing partner, when I could afford to take him, and is now a top engineer with Kaiser Aluminum. My other daughter, Susan lives with her husband in my former home in Weston MA. However, they recently bought a 70-acre Christmas tree farm in VT where all those crazy politician live. What do you do with 3000 Christmas trees on the top of some mountain?

The most important member of the family is my wife, Bonita. After getting Charlie launched, returning me to full power, she decided to come out of "retirement" and take up real-estate, having abandoned the nursing career and a Master's degree. Does that make anymore sense than my daughter's tree farm? In any event this real-estate business has really turned her on – works dawn to dusk, meets interesting people, sees interesting properties and makes no money! I hope she gets solvent before this bubble bursts. As always, Bonita has a lust for travel and last summer she and I took our bikes and drove to Nova Scotia. This was a marvelous experience and I also learned that the birthplace of ice hockey is there. This year I had to take some brake parts of a Lamborghini I am restoring to Clarence NY near Buffalo. So we made a driving trip with bicycles to Corning (very interesting glass museum), Cornell U. which I had always thought was rural and small, like Dartmouth – it is enormous – and then on to Niagara Falls, sorry we didn't have time to visit with Nic.

You have probably guessed that there are a few more things, not previously mentioned, that serve to keep me occupied. They are: annual sixth grade science lecture on the nervous system, Charlie assists, occasional interesting medical legal work, landscaping and maintaining 6 acres with tractor, home handyman and "Bens Motor Service" a not for profit outfit which includes fully operational shop (I took two welding courses, incognito), 10 British and Italian cars (not for reliable transport), 6 running – 4 not and all of the tools known to man. I am often in touch with Fred Simeone who is the oracle when it comes to this subject.

I occasionally talk to my former associates and know that the department is in good hands, continuing to grow and prosper notwithstanding the Dean, my old nemesis who now runs the hospital. I also occasionally talk to Larry Pool. He is a masterpiece, very sharp of mind. Now that Charlie will be in CT for school, we should see more of Larry.

I hope to last long enough to complete these tasks and look forward to reading about other members of the Academy.

Best regards,

Ben & Bonita



Tokyo Women's Medical University

8-1 Kawada-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN 162-8666
Tel. 81-3-3353-8111



L. Nelson Hopkins, M.D.

Editor, Round Robin

University at Buffalo Neurosurgery

Department of Neurosurgery

3 Gates Circle

Buffalo, NY 14209-1194, USA

Dear Academician:

I was reelected this year to the President of the Tokyo Women's Medical University for a third term of office. My major work at present is the administration of the University, especially for the education and the promotion of the research works.

Japanese Government has, this year, started first time to select 30 universities as the Center of Excellence (COE) for research and to provide special financial support for the project. Our University has been fortunately selected as one of COE and it is a great honour for us. Our project is to establish a research and clinical center for regenerative medicine, including blood vessel, cornea, bladder, liver, heart, nerve etc. Cellular sheets culture method is our own developed technology and several patient's own tissues are using for the regeneration of tissues and organs.

We are also constructing a computer assisted operating theatre where the intraoperative monitoring system based on an open MRI and robotic surgical instruments are working and developing.

Four years ago, I visited several hospitals in the United States and European countries in order to learn the best system of modern hospitals, and on July this year, our new out patient's clinic building has been constructed and opened. This is the largest modern out patient's clinic in Japan where 5,000 patients a day are managed and the electronic charts are using.



Tokyo Women's Medical University

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Tel. 81-3-3353-8111



My activities as the President of the University so far continue to be enjoyable and rewarding working with many people in different fields.

On the home front, my wife is busy and very happy to taking care of our grand daughter Nana who is 3 years old. Our elder daughter Momo has opened recently her dental clinic and younger daughter Lily is busy for her hospital works as an orthopedist. Our elder son, Fumi is working as an architect and younger son, Kazu is working in the University hospital as a rehabilitation doctor.

With my best regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kintomo'.

Kintomo Takakura, M.D., Ph.D.,

President of

Tokyo Women's Medical University

Susan and John Tew

8 Corbin Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45208

August 15, 2003

Dear friends in the Academy!

Last year our family added a new bride and a new groom. Neal married Katie Zehnder from Columbus, OH in May and they are living in Washington, DC. where Neal is pursuing his studies in philosophy and theology at Catholic University. Katie, an accountant, has been working for the Beckett Foundation, a not for profit organization that works to defend religious freedom and is awaiting the birth of their first child.

We missed the Academy meeting in Phoenix last October because Margaret was married to Chris Romero , originally from the Boston area, now from San Francisco, that weekend at Stinson Beach, CA. They are living south of the city in Woodside, where Margaret is a project manager for residential renovation and Chris is a contractor specializing in carpentry. They are active bikers, hikers, surfers, yogis, & gourmet chefs!

Matson and Nicole are busy raising our grandsons in Boulder, CO. where Matson works for the Sofamor Danek Division of Medtronic. Nicole is a full time, creative and patient Mom of Mac, 2, who learned to walk just as Nicholas, 4, discarded his training wheels from his bicycle. She is also pregnant, due in September, and bets are on: baby sister or baby brother.

John's attention and energy has been focused on two arenas this year. Professionally, he retired from the Chairmanship of Neurosurgery in July 02 when Raj Narayan from Philadelphia became the new Professor and Chairman. This does NOT mean that John has retired! He maintains an active surgical schedule and has become the Director of The Neuroscience Institute where his first responsibility is fund raising.

Bicycling and appropriate level of fitness have become a passion with John! Last summer son Matson invited him to join the Velo Sports Co. in July on the second stage of the Tour de France, from the Pyrenees to the Alps. I'm still in awe that they were able ride the same course as Lance Armstrong and that they both returned safely. This summer's ride was shorter and local. Spearheading 40 other cyclists who formed the Waddell Team they participated in the MS 150 mile bike "Tour de Farms," to raise funds and awareness for the new Waddell Center for MS at The Neuroscience Institute.

My work is much less risky. Three good friends and I have created an Adult Spirituality Institute for lay people at our major seminary where we have developed short term, non credit courses with our favorite professors! We are into our fourth year of operation and are feeding a real hunger for adult formation in our faith.

On the lighter side, under the heading "new work," another friend and I have attended Clown College at the U. of Wisconsin for the past 2 summers (1 week courses). With designer faces and costumes from wigs to shoes, we are having lots of fun exploring our skills as Freckles and Satoeey entertaining at social agencies and at birthday parties for grandchildren to octogenarians! This has opened a whole new world of childlike wonder and freedom!

Perhaps the biggest surprise for John and me this year has been how quickly our year old black standard poodle, Beauregard, has stolen our hearts and provided such joy, laughter and exercise. When someone tells you, you need a dog, don't wait to understand what they mean by that, just get one!!! With Beau in the back seat we've taken many more road trips this year especially to our "Barn" in Spring Island, SC. We love this special hide away, we love the way we feel and rest there and invite any of you who might be in the area to "Come and see, be our guests for a few days and experience "low country hospitality!"

We look forward to seeing you in Williamsburg this fall!

Susan and John Tew



INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY



DIVISION OF NEUROSURGERY

Chairman:
DGT Thomas MA FRCP Lond & Glas, FRCS Ed & Eng
Professor of Neurological Surgery

THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR
NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY
BOX 32
QUEEN SQUARE
LONDON WC1N 3BG

Telephone 020 7829 8750
Fax 020 7278 7894
email: Neurological.Surgery@ion.ucl.ac.uk

31 July 2003

Dr LNelson Hopkins MD
Secretary
The American Academy of Neurological Surgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo
NY 14209
USA

Dear *Nick*

This has been a busy year at Queen Square. The National Hospital and the Institute of Neurology have both gone forward with large scale projects involving both new construction and major new scientific developments. There has been a major rationalisation of service and research aspects of neuro-oncology in North London and I have taken on the additional new role of Chair of the Brain and CNS Tumour Board for the North London Cancer Network for a three year period. Marwan Hariz has accepted the appointment to a Chair of Functional Neurosurgery and joined us in October 2002. There are many changes both to the education of the Residents and to their hours of work. Thus, the training has been shortened by 2 years, while the European Time Directive has shortened their working week to 56 hours so they now work a shift system.

Hazel remains very active professionally with continuing research into the usage of blood and blood products in the London area for the National Blood Transfusion Service.

William has been working in Paris for several months but has returned to London to undertake a course in Journalism.

With best wishes to you and all Fellow Academicians from Hazel and myself

Yours sincerely

David

David G T Thomas

June 28, 2003

L. Nelson Hopkins, MD
Department of Neurosurgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, New York 14209-1194

Re: Round Robin News

Dear Dr. Hopkins:

Life has been good for me this year considering age, health and professional commitments. Age, like fine wine, only gets better with each passing year. My health continues to improve as I go forward post cancer treatment -- my sixth! However, based on my pathology, my oncologist indicated four additional years would be better. I can't wait.

This past year has been filled with nursing and medical meetings, speaking engagements, and writing for several publications due out later this year. To add to this work agenda, I am busy raising funds for UNM Medical School as Vice-President of the La Tierra Sagrada Society. As a novice in this field, I am enjoying the change of pace and the associated perks. And, to think I was retired...

The geopolitical environment in the world along with the SARS threat, have necessitated my staying stateside for awhile. A Mississippi paddle wheel cruise was taken last November with an extension of four days in New Orleans. I highly recommend such a waterway trip as it is so enjoyable and fun. You will relive past history as you ply the Mississippi River and tour the ante-bellum homes and countryside. The addition of a New Orleans sojourn was another highlight. My annual trip to Hawaii, post Xmas holidays, was very pleasant and afforded me the diversion and rest I sought.

Family health matters are positive this time as visits, phone calls and e-mails kept me informed of their personal affairs and happenings.

Albuquerque, like so many southwestern cities, is experiencing a severe drought, 90+ temperatures, and serious fires so far this summer. Problems with arsonists setting off ground fires are of grave concern to all of us since more than 500 acres have been torched -- one due to teenagers setting off fireworks. It just isn't the fires but the smoke damage, wandering livestock and wild animals as well as

displaced individuals needing attention and assistance during such happenings. No one realizes the immediate impact nor the long-term consequences of such fire devastation this has on people, the environment, and local governments. Emotions run high with many in a state of shock seeing the speed and height of these flames. Yes, this is a rather unusual season for us in Loboland. Maybe, something good will come of all of this in New Mexico's Land of Enchantment.

I want to wish you all the best of health and much happiness as each year passes. Please send some rain our way!

Cordially yours,



Agnes M. Walker

(Mrs. A. Earl Walker)

1445 Wagontrain Dr., S.E.

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87123

Bryce Weir, O.C.
230 Westridge Rd.
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T5T 1C1
E Mail: bkaweir@telus.net

Dear Fellow Academicians,

Greetings from the north-west.

We are now comfortably ensconced in our old home and I am exploring the concept of life without premature intra-operative aneurysm ruptures, post-operative purulent incisions, ingrates for patients, hostile relatives, frivolous law suits, and rampant bureaucracy. Anyway those are my current rationalizations for enjoying days marked by sleeping-in, unaccustomed indolence and sybaritic overindulgence.

The past year had some pleasant and inspiring moments. Mary Lou and I slept in the same room as President and Mrs. Coolidge did at the State Game Lodge in South Dakota and stood where Custer fell in the last battle on North American soil. We paid silent tribute at the moving World Trade Center Site. In Vienna we visited palaces and museums and attended the opera. We had saunas in Finland and wonderful hospitality. There have been trips to be with our children and grandchildren who have spread out across Canada.

I am tidying up the loose ends of my neurosurgical career. My last article as first author in J. Neurosurg will be out soon, 35 years after my first. I am working to complete the editing of the neurosurgical portion of "Stroke: Pathophysiology, Diagnosis and Management." 4th. edition. I feel fortunate to have lived through such an exciting time in the history of neurosurgery. How the years flew by.

Mary Lou and I look back on our decade in the U.S.A. as a magical interlude. We were showered with kindness and friendships. There is no match for the American generosity of spirit. To top it all off my colleagues at The University of Chicago saved my life from an illness. Words cannot express our gratitude.

With any luck we will be with you in Williamsburg. All the best.

Bryce

