

2014 Historical Synopsis

The 76th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery was held at the WaterColor Inn & Resort in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida, September 17–20, 2014. The area is near what is affectionately known as “the Redneck Riviera” (in Alabama) with sparkling white, powdery quartz sand, warm Gulf of Mexico water, and balmy (not to say hot) air temperature.

The Local Arrangements were handled by Mark and Lori Hadley, with their usual aplomb, to include dinner venues, dancing, golf, tennis, fishing, etc.

At the business meetings 10 new members were accepted into the Academy and the number of active members continues to increase incrementally until the maximum of 120 is reached. Investment of the roughly 1.2 million dollars in assets of the organization will be apportioned somewhat differently with a larger amount apportioned to conservative equities.

A bylaws change was enacted to provide for the automatic change to senior membership status after 20 years of Active Membership or upon obtaining the age of 60 years after 10 years of Active Membership, whichever occurs first. Senior Members will now be allowed hold elected office. These changes would eliminate the need to query individuals qualified for senior status on an annual basis, reduce their dues and open opportunities for additional Active Members.

The 2015 Annual Meeting will be in Heidelberg, Germany and Jackson Hole, Wyoming was selected as the site for the 2016 meeting. Mitch Berger will be the President this coming year and Mark Hadley was unanimously voted in as President–Elect.

The Scientific Program Committee, chaired by Fred Lang, presented the usual array of outstanding papers, symposia and special

lectures. President Fred Meyer's address focused on "The Triple Threat – Administrative Burden, Avarice and Arrogance".

Some selected papers addressed: Sentinel AVM hemorrhage; decision-making insights from deep brain microelectrode recordings; regeneration of the degenerative disc, CSF drainage and induced hypertension to improve spinal cord perfusion after injury, post-genome era treatment of ependymomas; erythropoietin therapy following prenatal ischemia.

There were two special lectures: The early diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease and the next day, Tumor Heterogeneity. There were two entertaining and informative debates: The indications for fusion and decompression for Spinal Stenosis and the merits and disadvantages of Prospective Registries vs. Randomized Controlled Trials.

Multiple other topics were covered during the course of the meeting with the usual, first-rate presentations the Academy is known for.