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David G. Piepgras, M.D.
Mayo Clinic
200 First St., S.E.
Rochester, MN 55905

Dear David,

Only a month late; things are not as punctual in retirement! If there is still time you could add the following as an addendum to my last contribution to the R.R. (not railroad); if not in time save it for next year and if I am still around, publish it.

The entire family continues to enjoy retirement including Bonita and #1 son-Charlie. the only problem is that I don't have time for everything that I wish to do. Every week goes whistling by and before you now it , also the months.

I have recovered fully from the quadruple bypass surgery (Mar.'98) and back to playing ice-hockey for two hours B.I.W. I keep telling myself I'm too old for this but hope springs eternal since there is another man with my group who is 80-he calls me junior-most of the other players are in their 30 & 40ties. This however is great exercise and along with the medicine keeps the Bp down-sometimes too down ie 97/50. My internist has this fetish about cholesterol and that is off the scale at 108. Isn't there something about brain cells needing cholesterol to function? - I forgot. In any event between the ice-hockey and doctors, my arteries will become as smooth as silk-hopefully on the inside-and I will have lost my teeth and memory if this keeps up!!

Son Charlie is fantastic-the best thing that has happened to me. He does well in school (when he stops telling the teacher and class the answers) and is terrific in ice-hockey, scoring from the defense on his "sqirt" team. This also puts lots of mileage on the car; some 55K in two years with travel hockey, and yours truly doing the chauffeuring.

All three of us went to Australia the summer of '98 and then to Bali and China this past August. Both of these were fabulous trips all arranged by Bonita. Charlie has now been to 12 different countries and on his third passport. The most memorable part of the trip for him was Singapore Airlines First Class and the caviar. With this

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life style he should become a neurosurgeon, or on second thought, a broker, executive (hospital or otherwise) or professional athlete. Which brings me to my closing comments.

As a patient, I am even more impressed with the chaotic state of affairs in the health care system. Doctors are receiving a fraction of their charges via medicare and lab and hospital charges are disallowed and turned back to the patient. Throughout it all the trial lawyers are making a killing. I had a major AVM medmalpractice case come to trial and settle for 4 million when the jury hung in Sept.'98. The "Boarded neurosurgeon" who testified against me committed perjury (documented) not known to the jury. When the AANS professional conduct committee was contacted, I was informed that the only way they would take action was if I personally and at my own expense pressed charges and brought my attorney to Chicago for a hearing. This is not my problem now but this man will predictably be a problem for AANS members in the future. Just when I thought I was home free, a sheriff drove up to my home recently and handed me a summons regarding a 1983 AVM case in which the AVM was totally removed (proven by angio); the patient did well for 14 years and in 1997 had a bleed and a recurrent AVM was demonstrated. He lives in N.J. and there is no limitation on "discovery" which essentially means that in N.J. a neurosurgeon may be accountable for any condition that recurs at any time!

I lived through the "golden age" of neurosurgery; best of luck for the future.

Sincerely,

