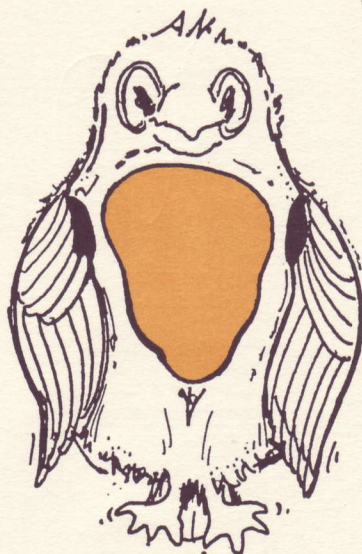
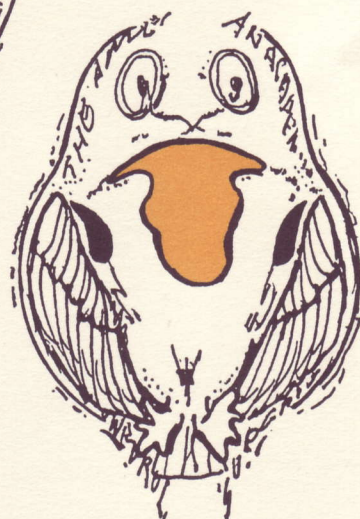
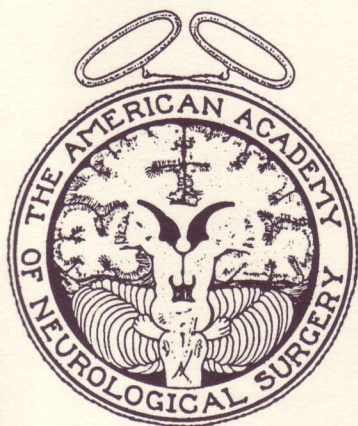


THE NEUROSURGEON



**THE ROUND ROBIN LETTER
OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS**

October 2004

Round Robin of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery

2004 Edition

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June 28, 2004

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Dear Dr. Hopkins:

I hasten to write this Round Robin letter since I failed last year to communicate. I will try not to be too long, as a person at age 90 is inclined to be, but I do want to mention the loss of two of our members, Hunter Sheldon and Larry Pool.

Larry Pool, with whom I was very close and communicated frequently, recently died at age 98. He was extremely active all his life, having been a world-champion amateur squash player at Harvard and, for many years, Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at Columbia. Larry was a prolific writer during his academic career and continued to write for the more than 25 years he was retired. I believe he wrote as many as four or five books, some of which I still have. When he was 93, he wrote a paper about his military service during World War II. He typed the manuscript on his portable typewriter and included old photographs taken during his time overseas. The article was very good and was published in *Neurosurgery* (Vol. 46, No. 3, March 2000, p.721).

I was pleased to have been invited by Dr. Jim Goodrich to give a presentation at the AANS meeting in Orlando about my experiences in World War II. Because of a transitory illness of one of my family members, however, I was not able to attend the meeting. With very little notice, Jim came to my rescue and read my paper before the Society.

In my investigation for that paper, I learned that the American Board of Neurological Surgeons, established in 1940, had by 1942 certified 160 neurosurgeons. (Larry Pool was one of the last two survivors of that group.) According to a paper written by Glen Spurling and Barnes Woodhall five years after World War II, the plan was that board

Round Robin Letter
June 28, 2004
Page 2

certified neurosurgeons (MOS #3131) would not be sent overseas; those of us who were partially trained (3131-C) would receive the overseas assignments. A notable exception was Larry Pool who, having joined the Roosevelt Evacuation Hospital, served for three years in North Africa, Italy and France.

There were very few people going into neurosurgery at that time. World War II, with its resulting casualties needing neurosurgical care, provided the real stimulus to the growth of the specialty.

As for Betty and me, we are in reasonably good health. At age 90, one has a number of small defects and illnesses that are not too serious as long as the brain continues to work properly. It is a happy life and Betty and I are very fortunate to be able to continue to live in our own home. I have an office, where I go every day, and a computer, which enables me to keep in touch on a regular basis with many of my friends and colleagues, as well as my own family. We recently visited with two of our children and our four grandchildren while in Boston for my 65th Harvard Medical School Class Reunion. Seven of the surviving 28 members of the Class of '39 (there were originally 125) attended.

Betty and I send our best regards to all the Academy members. I wish I could have attended the meeting in Virginia to see everyone.

Sincerely yours,



Eben Alexander, Jr., M.D.

EA/cs

Eben Alexander III M.D., F.A.C.S.

Neurosurgery

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July 31, 2004

Nick Hopkins, MD
Secretary, Academy of Neurological Surgeons
University of Buffalo
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Buffalo NY 14209

Re: Round Robin Letter

Dear Fellow Academicians:

The last year has been full of changes for the Alexander clan. Holley has been making unprecedented progress in her painting, and her fellow artists seem to spend more and more time in our basement studio around the classes taught by her mentor, Robert Cormier. Eben IV has had a very exciting sophomore year at Proctor Academy in Central New Hampshire, where he has enjoyed several very stimulating teachers, daily skiing through the winter, demanding roles in school plays, the wonders of coed dorm life, and even an early Friday morning wood-stove-sauna and outdoor swim club that kept meeting all through the winter (chain-sawing through the ice, especially on January 16, when central New Hampshire was setting an all-time low of 25 degrees below zero!). He will be "on ocean" for the fall trimester, sailing from Gloucester, MA to San Juan, Puerto Rico on a tall ship that is an "Ocean Classroom" for Proctor. We will meet him in Puerto Rico just before Thanksgiving, then go Scuba diving in Saba. Bond had a great year in kindergarten at Charles River School, but seemed to identify more with the sports and academics and dorm life he has seen on visits with his older brother at Proctor.

We have just spent a wonderful week in North Litchfield Beach, South Carolina, with my parents, sisters, their husbands and children. Fortunately for me, Dad is still very sharp of mind, a rich source of advice and insight. In prior years, we went from the week with my parents to Holley's family vacation home on the Albemarle Sound. Unfortunately, it and the four homes around it were totally destroyed September 18, 2003 by a tornado embedded in the northeast eye wall of Hurricane Isabel, a very destructive category 2 storm that swept through eastern North Carolina. We will therefore be spending this next week in New Bern, NC, with a good friend of mine from medical school, who will spend the week training Eben IV and me in deep Scuba diving.

Round Robin Letter (continued)

My neurosurgical career has also undergone major shifts. In 2001, I had been hired at the University of Massachusetts in Worcester by Dr. Bennett Blumenkopf, a friend and colleague from residency at Duke in the early 1980s. Bennett had arrived there in 1998, with the vision and noble mission to rebuild the division of neurosurgery residency training program that had been lost before his arrival. However, the Institution was suffering from the stress of overwhelming financial hardship due to declining reimbursements and diminished state funding. When the new Chairman of Surgery, Dana Andersen, arrived from Yale in 2002, he found the Institution was unable to carry through on its promises of support. His short-sighted solution of retrenchment has cost him the loss of at least two neurosurgical faculty and several other surgical faculty, resulting in the loss of additional residency training programs and overall decimation of his "Department" of Surgery.

My personal lessons from witnessing this debacle in this era of financial hardship include the following:

- 1) Long term vision is critical in the avoidance of catastrophic losses to an academic surgical program
- 2) Support and enhancement of the most revenue-efficient facets of an academic surgical program are paramount for survival
- 3) Sharing of resources from the more efficient generators is necessary in supporting financially weaker divisions or subspecialties
- 4) Leaders favored by the Institution in general may not be the most desirable leaders during periods of financial crisis – their short-term solutions to the challenges can be devastating to the program in the longer run
- 5) In unity there is strength

In addition to all of this change, we may face a more fundamental climatic shift: I have been assessing new job possibilities in New England, North Carolina and elsewhere. I am still interested in both academic and private practice neurosurgical options, and would appreciate any specific thoughts that my fellow Academicians might have. Alas, we will be unable to attend the meeting of the Academy in Germany this fall, but look forward to rejoining all of you in the fall of 2005!

Until then, best wishes for a joyful and prosperous year!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eben Alexander" followed by a circular flourish containing the letters "EA".

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6/15/04

Dear Academician,

The Ausmans are now in their fourth year in Southern California. The warm dry climate has been good for health and spirits.

Carolyn is busy putting together a small mountain retreat 45 minutes from the desert.

Jim has recently joined the faculty in neurosurgery at UCLA as a Clinical Professor and will assume an increasingly active role in teaching. His consulting work with the Tiber Group, a strategic planning and market research company in Chicago, takes him to medical centers and hospitals all over the country. He has learned a lot about the challenges facing physicians and hospitals and has been involved in helping to solve these problems, mostly with neurosurgeons. He continues his weekly TV segment, now moved to prime time. *SURGICAL NEUROLOGY* takes a lot of his time. Hopefully the provocative comments are taken constructively by most. As times change, we, too, must change.

We won't be in Germany this year. Hope to see you all next year.

Our best wishes,


Carolyn and Jim Ausman



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June 25, 2004

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Dear Fellow Academicians:

This has been an exciting year with many things happening in professional and personal areas. I spent the first part of the year looking at some interesting job possibilities, but, in the end, decided to stay in San Francisco. It's an incredibly hard place to leave, and my family, most especially my youngest child, would have had the most difficulty. I became the Residency Program Director at UCSF, as directing a residency program was the main reason I was looking elsewhere. Taking the job on as the 80-hour workweek rules were instituted was a challenge. Becoming a new member of the Senior Society was an added bonus.

Sue Ellen and I just finished our yearlong home remodeling job. It began in June 2003 and was scheduled to be finished in October. The house is great and I'd love to have any of you visit when you are in the Bay Area. Eva, my oldest, is continuing at SF State and works at UCSF as an Administrative Assistant, a job that allows me to have lunch with her about once a week. Mike just graduated from high school and will start as a Creative Writing major at Carnegie Mellon in the fall (there still may be a pre-med interest in there somewhere). Monica changed to a self-study high school in order to allow more time for ballet. Sue Ellen will be teaching science and music in after school programs this Fall.

All in all, it has been an exciting year with everyone doing quite well. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Nicholas M. Barbaro, MD
Professor and Vice-Chair
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Datum June 28,

Dear Mike!

We do hope this letter arrives in time so as to be included in the Round Robin Letters of 2004.

Obviously our life during the past months has been centered around the visit of our American friends to Berlin. We do hope this will be a "major event" in the lives of most. Those who have visited this city (at a "Post-Convention Meeting" of the Academy some twenty years ago) will definitely have the impression of being in another city. Of course this change would never have been possible without the agreement and the support of the United States of America.

Let me bring the following to your attention: Prior to the second world war Berlin had only one Medical School: that of the Humboldt-University. When the Russians seized the Eastern Part of Berlin (in which the Humboldt-University is located) it became almost impossible to enter the University without being a member of the Communist Party. This is the reason why the Free University of Berlin was founded. The funds to build the medical campus of the Free University were risen by a campaign headed by Ellinor Dulles, the sister of John Foster Dulles. A Benjamin Franklin Foundation was created to raise the funds.

When, following the reunification of Germany, the last American soldier left Berlin, a colleague of mine, Professor Klaus Hierholzer and I suggested that the name of our campus be changed from Universitaetsklinikum Steglitz to Universitaetsklinikum Benjamin Franklin in order to pay clear and permanent tribute to our American friends for what they had done for the sake of freedom of thought in this city.

Recently severe economical problems threatened to cause the closure of the Campus Benjamin Franklin. A mass-movement among the Berlin population led the Government to give up its original plans. The campus Benjamin Franklin is as alive as ever, now a part of the traditional Charité.

We are looking forward very much to welcoming our fellow academicians in October!

*With kindest regards,
Christina and Marielena*

July 2005

Dear Fellow Academicians,

First, let me say how proud I am to have become a member of your distinguished Academy. Moreover, I am delighted to be able to attend an annual meeting for the first time and to discover that it will take place in Berlin.

While reading the members' names in the last edition of the Round Robin, I realized that many Academicians are friends who know my career, which I shall summarize below. But as this is my first Round Robin letter, I would like to start by introducing my family – an important part of my life.

My lovely wife Rachel came from Paris to Belgium 37 years ago. We have one daughter, Nathalie, who is 35 years old. She has been married to Alain Verstandig for 10 years; and they have 2 beautiful children, Nina, 8, and Dylan, 5. We are very proud of our son-in-law and daughter. Furthermore, we have such a wonderful relationship with them that sometimes we forget that we are their parents – we feel like friends. Alain is an engineer, and Nathalie is a chemist and has an MBA in business and administration. After some experience in their respective professions, they decided to leave their comfortable life (Alain at Shell, Nathalie at Pfizer) to found a brand new company called NetExpat, the purpose of which is to help the companions of expatriates find jobs in their new host country. That is an original idea they are developing in many countries worldwide. Our grandchildren, Nina and Dylan, very often come to visit us. Each year, we spend 1 or 2 weeks of vacation with them without their parents. Last winter, we traveled to the Caribbean Islands, where we swam with the dolphins – it was great, not only for the children but also for the grandparents! They want to try again, and they have asked their Mom and Dad to come with us next year. Nina plays piano and Dylan football; and both of them are starting to play golf, as all the family does. My scores are below those of Rachel, Nathalie, and Alain, who are good golfers, especially Nat, whose handicap is 13. I dream of playing more often, but it stays a dream . . . I think I should install a putting green in my office at the hospital where I spend much of my time!

A description of the Brotchi family would not be complete without mentioning our cat, Dundee, who has shared our life for 17 years. During the last 15 years, he has participated in all my scientific publications, often spending his evenings 'writing' with me. He is an expert in spinal cord tumors. I have sometimes had to refrain from placing his name in the authors' byline, as his contribution to the topic often has been more relevant than that of some of my co-authors. I should do it in the future.

I was born in Liege, in the French part of Belgium, during World War II. My parents came to Belgium to study medicine and dentistry because of the anti-Semitism that was prevalent in their homeland of North Romania (today called Moldavia). We escaped the Holocaust, thanks to luck and under the protection of a Belgian family who kept us hidden from the Gestapo during the war. I keep in touch with their children, grandchildren, and family. I shall never forget them, for I owe them my life!

A few words on my career: I obtained my medical degree from the State University of Liege in 1967 and completed the neurosurgical training program at the same institution. My mentor was Professor Joel Bonnal. During the same time, I did fundamental research in the Neuroanatomy Laboratory at the University of Liege, where I spent 19 years with Professor Michel-Alexandre Gerebtzoff, whose major research interest was in histoenzymology of the peripheral and central

nervous systems. In 1979, I obtained my PhD; my thesis was on the histochemistry of focal epilepsies. Parallel to my laboratory research, I was fully involved in neurosurgical practice; and in the 1970s, I published papers (along with J. Bonnal) on sphenoid meningiomas and sinus repair in parasagittal meningiomas in the *Journal of Neurosurgery*. In November 2001, I moved my practice from Liege to Brussels, where I created the Department of Neurosurgery at Erasme Hospital, which was the new academic hospital of the University of Brussels. At the beginning, we had 15 beds and less than 10 patients, which allowed me to sleep in my department when it was snowing or foggy (fortunately for me, because we were still living in Liege at the time, and it was extremely cold that winter!). That also allowed me to train my nurses by doing patient rounds at midnight, as well as on a daily basis. I also appreciated receiving breakfast in bed (like the patients) from the nurses. Rapidly, however, the department grew, eventually expanding to the 60 beds we have today. In 20 years, I have trained many neurosurgeons, several of whom became Chief of the Neurosurgery Department or Professor of Neurosurgery at different Belgian Universities. At present, I am surrounded by a very dynamic young team, including three senior neurosurgeons, who are excellent surgeons and also leaders in their field of expertise. The team helps me to maintain the department at a competitive level and to devote further time to my major research interest in intraspinal cord tumors. In 2000, after battling for 10 years, we succeeded in convincing the government to allow us to obtain a Gamma Unit. From the beginning, I believed that we should attract radiation therapists and physicists to work with us. Recruitment attempts were successful and, at present, the multidisciplinary Gamma Knife team is very active. Neurosurgeons, radiation therapists, and physicists collaborate closely and produce scientific papers every year. In addition, we all have the chance to work in a hospital environment that is highly conducive to neurosurgery and the neurosciences and equipped with a PET scanner and a cyclotron, which allowed us to develop PET-guided neurosurgery, including Gamma Knife procedures. Most recently, we received (in 2003) a mobile, low-field operative MRI unit. Of course, procuring all those instruments required considerable funds. I must say that I have devoted much time in identifying private and public sponsors to convince politicians of the need to support clinical neurosurgery and our experimental neurosurgery laboratory.

The year 2003 was rich in events with the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) and our private life. The main professional event of 2003 was being nominated the President-elect of the WFNS. As a neurosurgeon, I feel that this election is an achievement of my career and one that is accompanied by a great responsibility. My life has always been based on the principle of mutual respect of human beings, and my goal is to further an understanding of this worldwide through ties with the international neurosurgical community.

Also in 2003, we moved from our big apartment with a large garden to a town house. It is a house that was built in 1938 in an art deco style and which Rachel has completely and beautifully refurbished. It is very pleasant to be in town with small gardens all around and with all the shops and buses within walking distance. Although we no longer have our garden, we have a very pleasant yard with flowers and a big lilac tree. The terrace on the roof in the front of my office quickly became the most attractive room in the house because it is well equipped for listening to music, while working in tranquil ambiance with a beautiful view of the surroundings.

All my accomplishments have been possible only because of the support of my family and professional team in all endeavors and to them I give heartfelt thanks.

Jacques Brotchi

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

June 25, 2004

Dear Academicians,

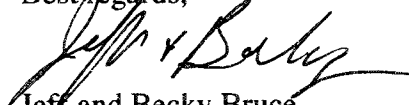
The Neurological Institute continues to thrive under Bob Solomon's seemingly effortless leadership. In addition to their high level of productivity, our group of highly collegial and supportive neurosurgeons creates a pleasurable and interactive working environment. Don Quest continues to do a great job running the residency program. In addition, I have the pleasure of overseeing a superb group of hardworking and innovative students and residents in the Bartoli Brain Tumor Laboratory where we are continuing to persevere (at least until the grant money runs out).

On a personal note, Zack (age 21) has completed two successful years at the University of Massachusetts studying political science and Latin American studies although his "alternative" rock band is one of the campus favorites and occupies much of his free time. His adventurous yearnings have taken him to Mexico City as a business apprentice working with the CEO of a dot com company for the summer. This opportunity was a great sacrifice as he felt compelled to cut his four-year growth of dreadlocks.

Sam (age 19) completed freshman year at Colgate University (school motto: "Good education must be expensive") enjoying scholastic success and singing with the venerable "Colgate 13" acappella group. Working for Ken's Tree Care this summer will assure him adequate beer spending money for the upcoming year.

Rachel (age 15) and Eliza (age 13) have been busy fulfilling their scholastic, athletic and musical potential. Rachel will spend July in Spain taking Spanish classes at the University of Salamanca while Eliza will spend three weeks at Skidmore College taking a writing course ("nerd camp" as Eliza likes to call it). Rebecca continues to carry the responsibility of overseeing this chaos, allowing me to live my life of quiet desperation.

Best regards,



Jeff and Becky Bruce



Founded 1824

June 25, 2004

Jefferson Medical
College

Jefferson College of
Graduate Studies

Jefferson College of
Health Professions

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Physicians

Dear Fellow Academicians:

I am in the last days of my return to active duty at the Department of Neurosurgery here at Jefferson. I am pleased to report that Robert Rosenwasser will succeed me as Chairman of the Department, effective July 1. Bob's surgical skills and leadership qualities are just what the department needs to lead it into the next decade.

It has been a very interesting time to be a non-operating Chair. Having such a great faculty made my job a lot easier, and at times I felt more like a CEO. It seems we were just overwhelmed with paperwork, details, meetings, etc. I expect everyone's got the same concerns – where neurosurgery is going to be in 20 years, with the 80 hour work week and other issues. All considered though, it has been fun to do.

Christa and I plan to spend the rest of the summer in Philadelphia. We'll then return to Germany the 1st of September. We'll attend the meeting in Berlin and Dresden, then make a tour through Europe, returning here at the end of October. After that, we plan on spending about 50% of our time at our home in Germany, and the other 50% here in Philadelphia.

During the year, aside from work and planning for the next year, we had several nice trips to Europe, a nice trip to France with our children and two super trips to the Caribbean, to Grand Cayman. We incorporated the trip to France with the German Academy Meeting, which is always nice.

Best regards to all.

EVA-CHRISTA BUSHE
Lerchenweg 8~D-97074 Würzburg
Tel: 0931 84422 Fax: 0931-82375
E.Bushe@t-online.de

Würzburg, 11.06.2004

Dear Friends,

How much I enjoyed reading the Round Robin last year and catching up on the news of so many old friends. I'm so pleased that the next meeting will be in Germany and especially in Dresden. I look forward to seeing you all in October.

I am still on the Board to rebuild Dresden's famous church, The Frauenkirche. The exterior will be finished in June, marked by the putting of the cross on the top of the dome. The interior will take another year to complete. It is a huge event in the life of the people of Dresden.

As for me, life goes on with not many ups and downs. In the winter, I traveled a lot to escape the dark season, and now I enjoy our new golf course and try not to let the game frustrate me.

My daughter Karin lives in Kempten, which is 250 km south of Würzburg. Christoph and his family live northwest of Berlin, which is a 650 km drive from home. My six grandchildren range in age from 11 to 23, and each one is different. I love them very much and enjoy watching them grow up, even if it demands a lot of traveling.

Hopefully, many Academicians will come to the October meeting in Germany. I want to be there to welcome you!

With kindest regards,

yours Eva Christa

August 3, 2004

Dear Fellow Academicians:

Time has passed quickly since our last meeting in Williamsburg, and now we are anxiously eagerly await this year's meeting in Berlin and Dresden. Joan and I were fortunate to have visited Berlin and Postdam approximately 3 years ago and can assure you that the history and architecture alone would make this trip exciting and educational. The benefit of sharing the experience with friends will be a decided plus.

This year has been filled with travel, both domestic and international, much with a connection to neurosurgery and neurosurgical friends.

We enjoyed exploring the Southwest on two individual occasions. We welcomed the New Year in Santa Fe with Don and Iona Quest and Barbara and Mike McWhorter. With Mike at the helm of the group's "party van," we explored Santa Fe and ventured into its environs getting a glimpse of what the southwest is all about. In June we returned for the NSA meeting. We were fortunate enough to be welcomed back by the Quests and to share our luxury accommodations with the Ratchesons, Salcmans, and Seljeskogs. We both had the opportunity to be challenged by the Las Campanas golf course. I was further privileged to accompany Don on his practice round for the then upcoming, now long past, challenge match among Don, Steve Giannotta, Art Day, and Ralph Dacey. Surprisingly, I've not heard anything about the outcome!?!

In March, between Santa Fe visits, we went to Morocco where we had a chance to visit long-standing friends from Joan's days as an investment banker. Coincidentally, members of the planning committee for the World Federation of Neurosurgery, which will meet there next June, were meeting in Marrakech during our stay there. Ed and Peggy Laws joined us for a trip over the Atlas Mountains to Taroudant – a verdant resort near Agadir. We had a wonderful time traveling with them. We found Morocco fascinating. I encourage you to make the trip. The WFNS is a great excuse for experiencing the unforgettable Central Square in Marrakech at sunset, the bygone era of the medina in Fez, the Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca as well as the mandatory camel ride and trip into the desert.

Neurosurgery in New York City continues to be challenging and interesting. For the past year, I have been the President of the New York Society of Neurosurgery and have had the benefit of Phil Stieg as my Treasurer. The year was filled with many interesting programs including the annual "Stump the Professors Night" where host, Peter Carmel, did an admirable job challenging all the NYC area professors with extremely interesting cases. The highlight of the fall program is the Elsberg Lecture. This year Ed Laws will add his name to the illustrious roster of neurosurgeons who have held The New York Society of Neurosurgery's Elsberg Lectureship. In addition, my tenure as the American College of Surgeon's Neurosurgery Regent has just begun. I appreciate the opportunity to represent the specialty in such an important forum.

When we're in New York, Joan and I continue to split our time between the City, during the week, and Eastern Long Island, on weekends. Over our years weekendening on the East End, we have developed many friendships with both weekenders and locals, so our weekends are very full.

We look forward to seeing all of you in Berlin.

Sincerely,

Martin B. Camins, 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.
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S. M. Farhat, M.D.
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Hugh J. L. Garton, M.D.
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Jason Heath, M.D.
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Frank LaMarca, M.D.
(734) 936-5024

John E. McGillicuddy, M.D.
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Karin M. Muraszko, M.D.
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Richard F. Keep, M.D., Ph.D., Director
Anuska Andejeikovic-Zochowska, M.D., Ph.D.
Steven R. Ennis, Ph.D.

Ya Hua, M.D.

Guo-Hua Xi, M.D.

Timothy Schallert, Ph.D. (Adjunct)

Gerald P. Schielke, Ph.D. (Adjunct)

July 2004

Fellow Academicians,

This has been another busy and exciting year for the Chandler family. Our youngest son Jesse was married to a wonderful young woman, Nicole Chengelis, on May 15th in a small town in Ohio. A week later they both graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Medical School and left for a honeymoon in Hawaii. They are headed to the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill for residencies in Orthopaedic Surgery (Jesse) and Pediatrics (Nicole).

Our older son Scott has completed two of three years in a combined JD/MBA program at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He is working as an intern this summer in a challenging business opportunity in the Cleveland area.

Susie continues to be very busy and satisfied working with a variety of community projects in the Ann Arbor area. Bill continues to enjoy his work at the University of Michigan and has been busy as a Director on the ABNS.

We have enjoyed trips this past year to Mt. Desert Island in Maine, Big Sky in Montana and Palm Desert in California. We are planning a trip to the Greek Islands and Istanbul in September just prior to the Academy Meeting.

Best to everyone

**University Hospitals
Health System**



Rainbow Babies
& Children's Hospital

Alan R. Cohen, MD, FACS, FAAP

Rainbow Professor of Neurological Surgery
and Pediatrics
Chief of Pediatric Neurological Surgery
Surgeon-in-Chief

June 28, 2004

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

Dear Fellow Academicians:

Time continues its inexorable march. It's hard to believe that Nate is already halfway through college at Brown and Jeremy, the baby of the family, is in his final year of high school, continuing to pepper his older brother with unsolicited advice about girls, cars and the finer things in life. My hair is grayer, but my kids keep me young.

Life at Rainbow is great. My partner, Dody Robinson, has built a thriving epilepsy surgery program with a talented team of pediatric neurologists. I have opened a new Minimally Invasive Neurosurgery Lab and am collaborating with a first rate group of researchers to develop new instruments and approaches for endoscopic neurosurgery and virtual reality techniques for surgical simulation training.

I wish everyone health and happiness for the coming year.

Sincerely,

Alan R. Cohen, M.D.

W.F.Collins, Jr. M.D.
131 Uncas Point Road
Guilford, CT. 06437

L. Nelson Hopkins.M.D.
University at Buffalo Neurosurgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209

Dear Nelson;

Sorry that I didn't write for the Round Robin this past year but things have been difficult not because I'm busy but because as fast as I recovered from being ill Gwen took over. She still isn't doing well. Because she wasn't well enough we didn't go to San Diego this past winter. The winter in Connecticut was almost like ones we had when I was young. Joshua's Cove off Long Island Sound where we live froze over, in places to fifteen inches. We had from a number of storms more than sixty inches of snow and had to redo part of our heating system. It was difficult at times but I have to admit I enjoyed it. After most of my life here I feel being warm and comfortable in San Diego during the winter is not being true to New England. You have to suffer.

I still get to many of the conferences here at Yale and at UC San Diego when I am in California. Both are fun although I must admit I am getting more critical as I grow older. Passed my eighth birthday last January.

My main efforts are writing fiction. I have completed one book and most of a second. The first a romance novel and the second a mystery with a neurologist acting as the wise investigator. I hadn't read many romance novels. I noticed as I bought romance paper backs that many of the buyers were older women. I thought I would write about older people's romances. I enjoyed thinking about them in my novel 'Beyond Retired' but the publishers don't seem to agree with my idea that the older women would buy it.

I also have some thirty short stories and have collected more than thirty rejection slips for the novels and short stories. I've been told that one is not an author until one gets fifty, probably because you have to be crazy to keep on trying that long and novelists have to be crazy. I have been taking courses in writing and it is fun so I continue anyway.

I'm sorry we can't make the Berlin meeting. Gwen lived at Zwei den Röntgenstrassa for a year in Berlin during the air lift and loved the city. We did return to Munich where we were married but weren't able to get across the Iron Curtain. Give our love to Berlin and have a good meeting.

Sincerely,





NEUROSURGERY

Rand M. Voorhies, M.D., *Chairman*
Edward S. Connolly, M.D.
Roger D. Smith, M.D.
Najeeb M. Thomas, M.D.
Anne Jarman Doskey, ANP-C

June 28, 2004

Round Robin
C/O L. Nelson Hopkins, III M.D.
Department of Neurological Surgery
State University of New York
3 Gate Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209-1192

Dear Round Robin:

Elise and I were looking forward with great anticipation to the formal meeting of the Academy in Berlin and Dresden, but unfortunately our plans have been derailed by discovery on a routine physical on me of a mantle cell lymphoma. This unfortunately has aborted our plans for the trip and also prevented me from participating as a past member of the Board during the May American Board of Neurosurgery Oral Exams.

At the present time, I have been tolerating chemotherapy well and, in about two weeks, I will be getting my stem cells harvested and then in late September, I should undergo a stem-cell transplant, which seems to be the best program to beat this particular problem. Although I might have recovered from the transplant by the time of the meeting, I thought it was a little chancy and I have already received refund of my airline fares. I know everybody will have a great time at the meeting and I am sorry that we will not be there. We will certainly miss you all.

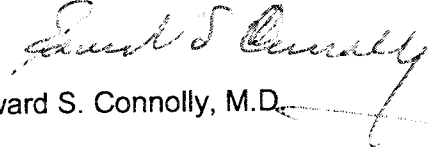
Our children are all doing well and have been a great support to me and to Elise during this little medical reversal. Sander continues to be working hard at Columbia and seems to be very energetic and happy. My second son has a year to go in his Gastroenterology Fellowship and was married at Christmas time to Crissy Williams, who graduated from medical school this year and is matched in Ophthalmology at Ochsner LSU Program, so we will have both of them at home. Paul, our third son, he and his wife Carol have a one-year-old girl (Anna) and are happy in Dallas. Paul is in a hedge fund called Southwell. Patty, our daughter and her husband David have moved to Madison Wisconsin. David has changed jobs and is with Honeywell, which has his office just across the border in Illinois requiring about a 50 minute commute each day. They are enjoying Madison very much, although it has been very rainy so far this summer. Christopher, our 4th son, got an MBA from Tulane this year and is working for Historic Restorations, Inc. in

June 30, 2004
Page 2

New Orleans as a finance officer. Their company renovates historical buildings turning them into condominiums and hotels and have been very successful both in New Orleans and other cities. Jimmy, our 5th boy and youngest child, has one more year of ENT residency at the University of Mississippi.

One thing about being bald, chemotherapy does not cause many outward signs of distress, but it sure has cured the fungus in my big toenails. May I wish you all a happy and healthy year.

Sincerely yours,



Edward S. Connolly, M.D.

ESC:jj

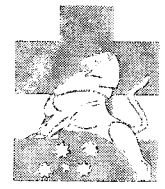
ROUND ROBIN

The Crockard family is happily diversifying. Michael, our elder, has completed his first year as a medical student in one of the new medical schools in the UK (Peninsular Medical School based at Plymouth and Exeter). Tom, our younger, has one more year at High School, no signs yet of his career aspirations. He is an accomplished sailor and hopefully by the end of this summer will have his Coastal Skipper Qualification. Caroline continues to support the three boys in her life, two young and one "old boy". Medically she concentrates almost exclusively on gynaecology clinics now, to this she has added sailing navigation classes.

Alan has been co-ordinating the development of a new surgical curriculum for all specialities throughout the United Kingdom in an era when the European Working Week is reduced to 56 hours by law and the emphasis is on teamwork rather than the individual "independent" practitioner. Recently he has been appointed the National Director of the Department of Health's Modernising Medical Careers project which tackles the same issues for all medical graduates of all specialities in and out of hospital.

The Crockard's have just taken delivery of a new yacht, equipped for long voyages. This year we plan to get to know "Sea Spine" (like the name?) in the English Channel; next year perhaps a little further, even to the New World again.

Alan Crockard DSc FRCS FRCS (Ed) FDS RCS (Eng) FRCP
Professor of Surgical Neurology
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Tel No: 00 44 207 829 8714
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CONCORD
REPATRIATION GENERAL
HOSPITAL

14 April 2004

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

Dear Fellow Academicians,

The easing of my work load which seemed likely a year ago has not eventuated. Our sister teaching hospital in Central Sydney had two Neurosurgeons resign as a consequence of the ongoing Medical Indemnity battle. Whilst both the State and Federal Governments have introduced reforms, this has not yet trickled through to the premium level. At least, the anxiety that it was a limitless field for plaintiffs has been reduced by new legislation and hopefully the insurance premiums will follow a downward trend.

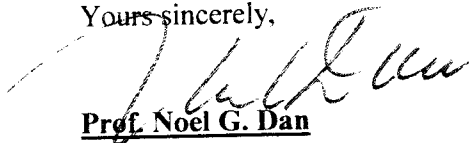
In addition to the medical insurance difficulties, we are suffering a local version of the world wide shortage of skilled nurses. It is unrealistic that this will be resolved in the foreseeable future and we are likely to continue to import nurses from Europe and Asia as well as using less skilled enrolled nurses.

Adrienne continues to do well after spinal surgery. She remains engrossed in her voluntary role at the Art Gallery of New South Wales as well as indulging in grandchildren. Our eldest daughter, Sally Dan-Cuthbert, remains extremely active in her art role as well as supporting her husband who is an international tax accountant. She has also put together an outstanding personal collection of contemporary art. Our second daughter, Lisa Zahra had a son in September 2003 called Maxim. Our youngest daughter, Kerrie remains preoccupied with her promotional personnel business. Her life has become tougher as companies reined in some of their costs in anticipation of a tougher year ahead. Noel was found to have early prostate cancer in 2003 and had a radical prostatectomy in early December with an apparently excellent result.

There are professional commitments in China in May, India in August and in Japan and Korea in September and October. Having accepted commitments to lecturer two years ago, it will not be possible to attend the Academy Meeting in Berlin because it clashes with those dates (unless the SARS epidemic re-emerges as a problem.)

Adrienne and I extend out best wishes to the members of the Academy and their families and hope to make the 2005 meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Noel G. Dan", written over a horizontal line.

Prof. Noel G. Dan



UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN-MADISON
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Robert J. Dempsey, M.D.
Professor and Chairman
Department of Neurological Surgery
Phone: 608/263-9585
FAX: 608/263-1728

June 22, 2004

L. Nelson Hopkins, M.D.
Secretary, American Academy of Neurological Surgery
c/o Debi Zimmer
Department of Neurosurgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209

Re: Academy Round Robin

Dear Nick:

Thank you once again for putting together the Round Robin. It remains an invaluable and honored method of communication for the Academy. I am happy to report that things remain hectic, but very pleasant at Wisconsin and in the Dempsey household. The department here at Madison continues to grow with the addition of our first endovascular neurosurgeon to compliment an already strong neuroradiology group. We have been able to build a very collaborative team that has managed to quadruple its activity with resulting benefits for the cerebrovascular division and the entire department. We continue to grow in many ways and, with the additional NIH funding, are moving toward construction of a neuroscience research addition planned after the start of the new Children's Hospital.

It, of course, continues to be a challenge to try to juggle the multiple forces that effect our departments, but thus far, it has been possible here to maintain the academic goal of research based on improved patient care. That certainly has been one of the more gratifying things about this institution.


We did get to visit with a number of the academicians over the past year at various meetings, but are looking forward to the upcoming meeting in Berlin and Dresden. The collaboration with the German society promises to be outstanding.

The Dempsey family continues to do well. Our oldest, Kara, just graduated from the University of Wisconsin and has spent the first part of the year doing a business internship in Madrid. The terrorist bombings there, which targeted her train, brought a

sudden reality to how precarious the situation of our world has become. Fortunately the train had not arrived at her station yet and she remains safe and well with plans for graduate school in the fall. Our son Connor is an undergraduate at DePaul in Chicago working on a combined English and Digital Communications major and keeping his father up to date on the exploits of his beloved Cubs. Diane continues to very much enjoy her work at the University of Wisconsin's arboretum and literally and figuratively keeps us well grounded. We hope to be able to do a little more traveling in the future, but at the present we are enjoying the lovely summer alongside the campus lakes here in Madison.

We hope all are well and wish the very best to our fellow academicians and hope to see you all later in the year.

Sincerely,



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

RJD/arc

Hofrat Universitaetsprofessor em.
Dr. med. Dr. med. h.c. Hans Erich Diemath
Gerichtssachverstaendiger
Maxglaner Hauptstr.6
A – 5020 Salzburg
AUSTRIA

Salzburg, 14.July 2004

Dear friends and academicians ,

Fourtyfive years ago I spent one year with Earl Walker at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. I was very young then and sad enough, most of my friends of that time – scattered all over the U.S.A. - are not with us anymore . Therefore it is a great pleasure that my contact with American Neurosurgery is still maintained by means of the Academy.

Let me give you a brief report on my family. My oldest daughter Karen studied medicine and education .She works as an assistant to the dean's office of medical education at the University of Basel. Here husband is head of the department of reconstructive and plastic surgery there. They have three children. Their oldest daughter studies medicine in Graz. My son Hans Peter studied law and works at the government of Salzburg. My youngest daughter Maren is as University assistant at the Institute for European Law in Graz. One month ago she gave birth to her second child (now I have eight grandchildren). In times like this, one must be very grateful when all is well in a large family with children and grandchildren.

My medical practice as a court-appointed medical expert is running well and keeps me busy. Per year I have more than one hundred cases . I not only work for insurance companies, but also as a medical expert for court and supreme court trials. That means I work full time . I am in the sixth year of my retirement, but nevertheless do I find it very important, that a lifelong experience should be used to the advantage of our neurosurgery . The questions arising in this function as an expert are a challenge to our intellectual activity – a fact I find essential, being retired now for some time . In addition some of the cases are even very interesting from a medical point of view. Not those where something went obviously wrong, but cases, where despite proper diagnosis and operation successful treatment could not be achieved, a matter of interest to all of us. It is also eminent that our courts should have good experts at their disposal. Especially in liability trials the judge himself is unable to assess the facts e.g. wether an operation was performed correctly or not, as he is not even acquainted with the name of the procedure. Therefore in our field a judge depends almost entirely on the expert's opinion for his ruling. That is the reason why it is often falsely called “ expert's justice “. Last not least we - as medical experts - render good services not only to our specialty, but also to the social system, since history teaches us, that wherever jurisdiction did not function anymore, a society was doomed.

As far as travels are concerned this year we attended the German-Syrian congress at Damascus, Beirut and Aleppo. As my wife loves to travel, we later took a delegation trip to Japan (visiting Tokio, Osaca and Kioto). Finally we went to Bucharest to the congress of the European Academy for Multidisciplinary Neurotraumatology (EMN).
Now I hope that, despite our now changed and difficult surroundings, all our colleagues are well and happy. For Berlin and Dresden I wish you all the very best, unfortunately I am unable to attend due to official duties.

As always Yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'G. P. J. J.', followed by a period.

Dr. Nelson Hopkins,
Neurosurgery,
University at Buffalo, 3 Gates Circle,
Buffalo, NY 14209-1194.

Dear Dr. Hopkins:

2004 was a wonderful year for the Drake family. It was the culmination of three years dedication and hard work of many enthusiasts and former Residents of Charlie's.

On October 27/04 a bust of Charlie was unveiled, situated in a new garden in front of the University Hospital in London, Ontario. A smaller replica was placed in the ante room of Victoria Hospital. On the pedestal was a model of the fenestrated clip that he invented. Behind the bust are the names of all the surgeons and residents that passed through the Drake School of Neurosurgery. One hundred and fifty two to be exact.

Dr. Roland Del Maestro, Clinical Director, Brain Tumour Research Centre at the Montreal Neurological Institute was the instigator of the project. He formed a committee with idea of honoring Charlie in some way for his life's work. He contacted each person from the Drake School of Neurosurgery which was no small feat, as they are now scattered around the world.


Dr. Ivory Mendez, a gifted sculptor, Chief of Neurosurgery, Queen Elizabeth II, Health Science Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and a former Resident was the artist of the bust. He thought it should depict the man when he was at the peak of his career, around fifty years of age.

We were delighted to have Della Reese for the unveiling, a former patient in 1979, who has kept in touch over the years. She also gave a benefit concert in London in 1980 as her way of saying thanks.

A photo of the bust and names of the Drake School of Neurosurgery is enclosed.

Please give my best regards to everyone.

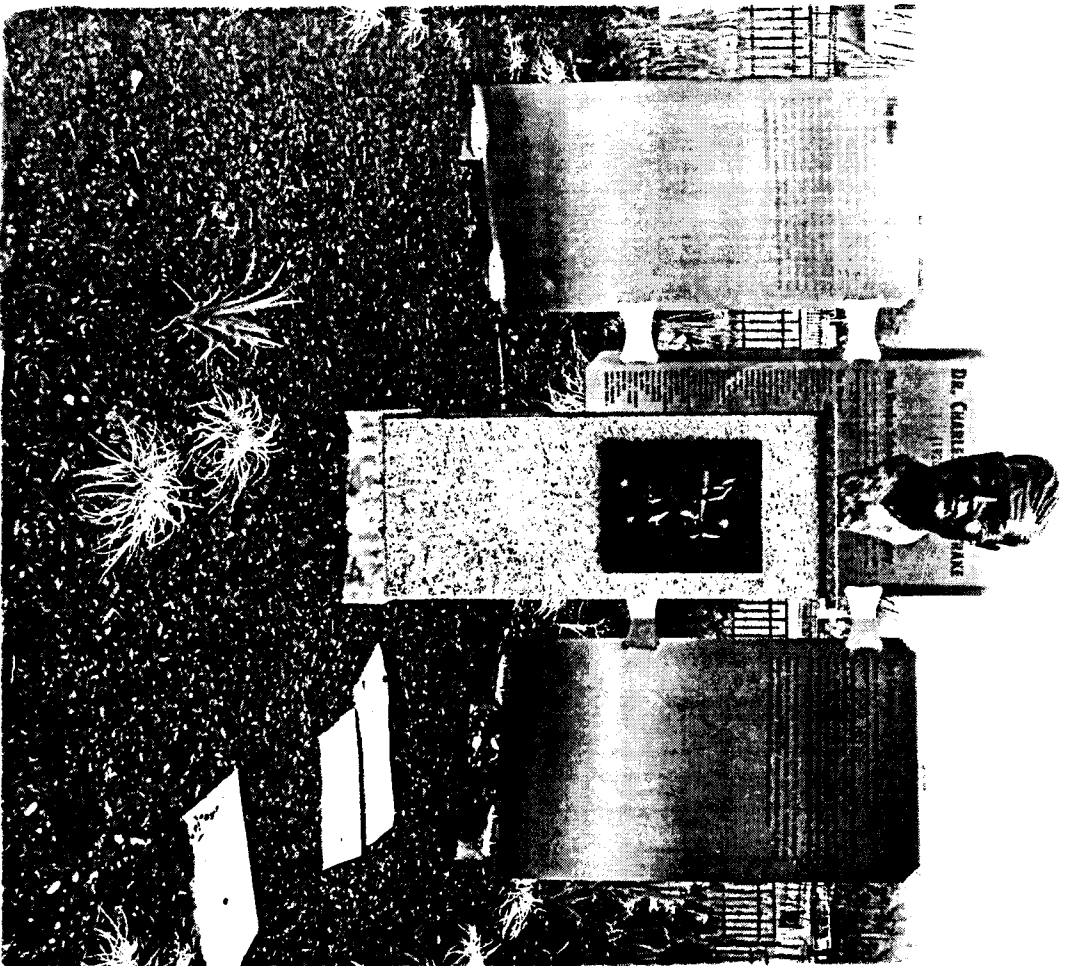
Sincerely,


Ruth Drake-Alloway
1545 Gloucester Road, London, Ont, Canada
N6G 2S5

London fax 1-519-858-1327
Florida E-Mail rsalloway@msn.com

Dr. Charles George Drake

(1920 - 1998)



Hatem S. Abdo	Neil Dugal
Toshik Akbe	Quentin J. Durward
Muhammad M. Abdulhak	Walter W. Eckman
Stephen Agata	Bruce Ehn
A. Loren Amacher	Kost Elisevich
David Barba	Gary G. Gerfuson
Hugh W.K. Barr	Wenfield Fisher II
Hunt Baljer	Eckhard Fliedner
Thomas Bertuccini	Danson Fong
Michael Besser	Larry J. Franks
Normando M. Blanga	John Frazee
Herman Bravo	Alan H. Friedman
Graeme A. Brazener	Tuskasa Fujimoto
Darrell C. Brett	Francis Gamache Jr
Neil Brown	Miguel S. Garrete
Scott Brown	Eugene D. George
James L. Buddy	John P. Garvin
Renkerko Burgos	Gary Goplen
Miguel Bustanite	John P. Gorecki
Enco R. Cardoso	Peter Gorman
Cardeace Carlton	Carl Hampf
Jean-Louis Caron	David Hernandez
L. Philip Carter	Toshikumi Hirata
John Ching Quong Kook	Jeffery S. Hirschauer
George Chovaness	Jonathan Hodas
John R. Clark	Ryoschi Ishikawa
Peter J. Coutinho	Balraj S. Jhavar
Rolando F. Del Maestro	Ian H. Johnston
Francis Demonte	Donal Judice
Michael Dittmore	Edward Kachur
Eugen Dulan	Ramola Kurumbaya

The Drake School of Neurosurgery

To commemorate the contributions that Dr. Charles Drake made to the teaching of residents, fellows and neurosurgeons the names of the members of his "school" are etched on this memorial

Ira Kasoff	David Roberts
Neal F. Kassell	Antonio Rodrigu
Gook K. Kim	Robert Roseme?
John D. Kim	David W. Rowe
Robert Klies	Edward S. Sarda
Alexander Kleider	Ramesh Sahjpa
Hidenori Kobayashi	Natale Sanbaci
Kiyohide Komatsu	Chris Schaberg
Hussam Kutub	Paul Scharf
Roderick Lambert	Toyo Shokunbi
Richard LeBlanc	Javed Siddiqi
Kheng-Hin Lee	Swaran Singh K
Dean Lohse	Howard Smith
Stephen Lowme	Frank K. Snycke
John T. Lucas	Antonio Spadar
Maro L. Malizia	Yves Starveid
Pietro Marcusso	Hans J. Steiger
J. Scott Martin	David A. Steven
Maro Mattosinho	Gary Steinberg
Kotto Meguro	Douglas L. Stin
Joseph Megyesi	W. Lynn Stringer
Ivar Mendez	Merle P. Stringer
J. Michael Mervat	Garnette R. Silt
Daniel Miller	Tolaro Takeuchi
Jun Miyagi	Javier Torres
Hugh Moncrief	Brian Toyola
Marco Mora	John Tropper
Ronald Mortara	Carmelo Turano
Nutt Muskatavom	Ian M. Turnbull
Ryouchi Nakamura	Edward Tercero
Shigeru Nemoto	Vallecillo
Chinyre N. Obasi	R. Graham Vanc
Paul O. O'Byrnick	James M. Vasri
Rick E. Olson	Enrique Vinuela
Peter Pahapill	Joseph L. Voelk
Andrew Parrent	M. Christopher W
John K. Pevlin	Thomas Wascher
Sydney Petless	John P. Weaver
Geraldo Piranetti	Michael West
David A. Postrakul	W. Barrie Woodh
Thor Ragnarsson	Man-Bin Yim
Adrianna Ranger	Yonas Zegeye
Gary J. Redekop	Evan H. Zeiger
Howard Reichman	A. Hamid Zidan
Peter Reilly	
Ruben Ramirez Del Toro	
Surachai Khantrophann	



Daniel W. Fults, M.D.

29 June 2004

Dear Academicians,

The Health Sciences Center here at the University of Utah is growing rapidly. To be sure, clinical activity in the Department of Neurosurgery is a good indicator of this robust sector of the Utah economy. A beautiful cancer research hospital (phase 2 of the Huntsman Cancer Institute) opened this week. Construction of a medical education building, biochemistry research facility, and a visually stunning ophthalmology institute (Moran Eye Center) are going on simultaneously. I have the distinct impression that biomedical architectural design is a hot career choice for young people pondering their futures.

Our faculty is making plans for a move to the new Clinical Neurosciences Institute in 2006. This is a joint academic venture with the neurology and neuroradiology. Wisely, our health sciences administration has recently identified clinical neuroscience as the central focus of future development. I suspect that this policy decision was influenced by the sage advice of our Department Chair, Bill Couldwell.

Through my continued service on NIH study section, I am amazed by the steady flow of terrific ideas for advancing clinical and basic neuroscience. I must confess to profound disappointment for inadequate federal funding to get these ideas tested.

My wife, Carol, and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary this summer. We also celebrated our oldest daughter's high school graduation. Erin will be a freshman at Washington University in St. Louis this fall. We are very proud to have raised such a fine person and hope we can do as well with our ten-year-old, Robin.

I hope this letter finds you all productive and prosperous.

Sincerely,

Dan Fults, M.D.

25

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June 29, 2004

To the Academy 'Round Robin'

Hi to all from our corner of the 'dinosaur' division of the Academy - we've been lying pretty low (mostly at Kiawah) of recent times, though Marianna and I have been shuttling back and fourth from Kiawah to Louisville in our single engine 'putt-putt' to deal with a series of needs both environmental (tree struck by lightning + strong winds leaning towards the house) and medical including a very limited (first and third Tuesdays of the month) activity re 'Independent Medical Evaluations' that the rest of the group really doesn't want to be bothered with. The freedom of movement that (what Marianna has christened the Cessna 210 as) our 'Little Lady' has given us continues to be a delight. Commercial flight has very little attraction for us these days.

Time has really flown since January of 2001 when the operating room stopped being a part of our daily life. We have cherished the occasions when members of the Academy family have been able to stop over/visit us at Kiawah and hope that all of you would take advantage of our empty guest rooms whenever your travels permit a South Carolina stop over.

We were both pleased and delighted that both Steven and Desiré, and John, Michèle and little Brian (now 13 months old) decided to take their family vacations this spring here with us at Kiawah ! Brought back many memories of when Marianna and I first started (1976-77) spending our own family summer vacations with 'little John and Steven' here at Kiawah.

Have been trying, at Rudi's request, to locate photos from the Academy meeting in Munich - everything went into boxes and storage when we had to move out of 517 Tiffany Lane for 12 months in 1994-95. We're still not completely unpacked re boxes of 'stuff' from that period. We have fond memories, but as yet no documentation, of both that meeting and the post meeting trip to Salzburg and Vienna with Thor and Lois.

We've made all our reservations and are really looking forward to seeing you all at the October meeting in Berlin/Dresden. An additional bonus will be pausing a few days in NYC both going and coming to check up on our first grand child - we know we're later than usual getting to this 'grandparent' thing, especially with some of our (? more junior) contemporaries becoming 'great grand parents' now !

E-mail is probably the easiest way to catch up with us, though our telephone answering machine is always (hopefully) turned on where we currently are and off at the site we are away from. Please do let us know if any of you are going to be in the area. Our days would be even more special if they could be shared with you.

Henry and Marianna Garretson

Greetings,

There is always lots of excitement in the Giannotta household. The biggest news in our family this year is that Steve became Chairman of Neurosurgery at the USC/LAC Medical Center on June 8, 2004. After 23 years under the nurturing guidance and leadership of Marty Weiss, he is thrilled to take on this new challenge. With the completion of a new clinic building and the near-completion of a new University Hospital tower and a new County Hospital, and top-quality residents, the medical center continues to expand and become even better.

Brent graduated from USC on May 14 with majors in International Relations and Spanish and a minor in Law and Public Policy. He received the Mike Fratto Trojan Award from the USC hockey team, and will miss playing competitive hockey after 13 years. After a brief respite at home, Brent left for the American University of Beirut where he took a six-week Arabic immersion course. He has applied for internships in the fall at various think tanks, most of which are located in Washington D.C.

Nicole is a studio arts major at Loyola Marymount University. She went to Florence, Italy for five weeks early in the summer with a group of art students to take classes, hear lectures, visit museums and explore Tuscany. Needless to say, she had a fabulous time.

Robyn spent her freshman year at UCLA, but never really got into the Bruin spirit. She will transfer to USC in the fall and is quite excited about the change. She continues to be a valet at the Ritz-Carlton in Pasadena.

I am enjoying my new life without school duties, but have not found any extra time. I am playing golf and tennis, editing the neighborhood newsletter, redecorating and traveling more with Steve. Once again, our year has been blessed.

We are sorry to miss the meeting in Germany, but hope to see all our friends at other meetings throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Steve and Sharon Giannotta

June 22, 2004

Dear Fellow Academy Members:

Having just been accepted into the Academy, this is the first year that I have participated in this correspondence. It was very interesting for me to review letters from other academicians and I feel privileged to be a member of the Academy. We have been in Philadelphia for five years now *and it has been an exciting time at the University of Pennsylvania. I am now working with the fourth Dean and third CEO and am happy to report that there has been a tremendous turnaround within the institution in the past several years. Despite the adverse malpractice climate and difficult reimbursement structure, we have been able to increase the size of the department with retention of five of the seven faculty who were here when I arrived. We have also been fortunate with the recruitment of three new faculty over the past three years. The clinical practice has only increased as the number of neurosurgeons in the Delaware Valley region has declined and we have an excellent partnership with the hospital system, which enables us to accomplish our academic mission. The residency, already strong when I arrived, has become even stronger with our residents now receiving multiple grants and awards for their research time and becoming highly competitive for academic positions throughout the United States.*

From a personal perspective, Debra and I have settled into "Main Line living" with a major focus placed on renovations of a 1919 home which seems to be capable of draining every dime from our bank account. It is a labor of love and one which Debra has always wanted to tackle. She has a natural gift for this sort of thing which I am happy to encourage. For those of you who don't know, we have six children, three boys and three girls. Two are graduates of the University of Notre Dame, one will be a Junior at Penn State and one will be enrolling at the University of Iowa in the fall. This leaves us with two teenage boys at home, a freshman and a sophomore at St. Joseph's Prep here in Philadelphia. These two young men should provide plenty of challenge for us in the upcoming years though experience has made us wily tacticians.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Berlin and Dresden this year. Dr. Eric Zager will be my guest and I know that he is looking forward to seeing many of his colleagues as well.

Sincerely,

Sean & Debra Grady



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June 24, 2004

Dear Colleagues:

2003-2004 has been a busy year professionally, concerned with old events and new initiatives. Bob revisited the scene of the tragic events in Dallas and in Trauma Room 1 in Parkland Hospital surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy forty years ago. He retraced his own path as well as that of the President's motorcade and the trajectories of the bullets. His personal observations and other supporting data appeared in two co-authored articles in Neurosurgery. During the course of this research, he came into contact with an entrenched sub-set of individuals who are intensely interested in the assassination and who have fierce loyalties to the conspiracy theory or to other explanations for these events. Bob's intent was to preserve his personal observations and to review relevant data from a neurosurgeon's perspective, as well as to close that chapter in his personal experience as best he could.

His major professional initiative this year has been to develop a network of clinical centers in the United States and Canada to develop and carry out clinical trials of promising therapies for spinal cord injured patients, under the auspices of the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation. This network will work with comparable European centers to develop guidelines and test therapies. Christopher Reeve himself has been instrumental in supporting translational research.

The Department of Neurosurgery has added new faculty this year, including Dr. Pamela New, who is developing neuro-oncology at Baylor and The Methodist Hospital. Three chief residents are finishing this month. They are all well situated to begin their careers; one is taking a fellowship in spine surgery at Johns Hopkins; the other two are joining very good practice groups in Dallas and in Boulder, Colorado, respectively. The three new residents are excellent; two are MD-PhD graduates.

On a personal note, Ellin has continued projects at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. She is active on three advisory committees that work with curators in their respective areas to acquire or upgrade art objects in the museum's collection; these are the Antiquities Committee, the Asian Arts Committee and the AOA Committee (Africa, Oceania and the Americas). In connection with a major antiquities exhibition at the museum., "The Centaur's

Page 2

Smile," she made 27 drawings of images on ancient Greek and Roman coins. These were used on the gallery labels to help viewers interpret the images, as the coins are very small and often indistinct.

As an honorary board member, Ellin has continued to support the work of the Epilepsy Foundation of Southeast Texas. She also serves as Vice-President of Chrysalis, a contemporary dance group. She is Corresponding Secretary for the Houston chapter of Ikebana International, an international group supporting friendship through flowers. Although she has studied ikebana or Japanese flower arranging for over 25 years, she considers herself very much a student in the school known as the Ohara School. She has been devoted to Pilates exercise for the past 10 years.

Our family is growing and reaching milestones. The eight grandchildren range from 8 to 13 years. Our oldest grandchild, Jeffrey Coburn, just celebrated his Bar Mitzvah this month. It was a wonderful weekend culminating years of studying Hebrew and interpreting portions of Hebrew texts. All the children are busily engaged in a number of activities this summer: camp, trips, summer school, swim team, guitar lessons and so on. Any of you with grandchildren --or children--of about the same ages will recognize this familiar and wonderful array of summer pursuits. As for entertainment, I have seen the following movies so far this summer: Shreck II, Around the World in 80 Days, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, and Troy, none of them with anyone over age 13.

Fortunately we are all in excellent health and Bob is as engaged as ever in the world of neurosurgery. We look forward to seeing you in Berlin and Dresden this October.

With our very best wishes to all,

Ellin and Bob

Ellin and Robert Grossman

July 1, 2004

Dear Nick,

Milestones around this year:

- 1) Our first grandchild – Louisa Ruth Grubb foretold unto us at the Williamsburg Meeting by our son, Robert (34) and his wife Jessica when they came to visit from Bethesda where they are both at NIH. She was born May 1st and is adorable and keeps me logging frequent flyer miles on Southwest.
- 2) Our 40th wedding anniversary in honor of which our children are giving us a party at Pawleys Island this summer trying to include as many old wedding party members as possible.
- 3) A big 65th birthday for me which I will mark by inviting three girl friends down to Pawleys to party and giggle and drink gin and eat shrimp and crab, but a depressing sign of the times – one's husband just had 2 hips replaced and 2 stents put in his heart, one just had her own hip replaced, one just had a hysterectomy and I had "old lady" repair work in March. Is this group ready to rumble or what?
- 4) One child finally ready to give up resumé enhancing, non-lucrative jobs to join the world of corporate law. Mary Connell (29) finishes her clerkship with a Federal appellate court judge in Los Angeles and moves to New York City to become an associate at Cleary Gottlieb hopefully concentrating on international law to use her Spanish skills. So many of her friends from Princeton live in the City that one said "It's just like freshman year." Hey guys, grow up. You're almost 30!



"I'm a stay-at-home mom without kids."



— From "Doonesbury," last week.

On the neurosurgery side - Bob continues to complain mightily about the negative effect of the whole professional liability problem on the practice of medicine. There is hardly a neurosurgeon left in southern Illinois where the plaintiff's attorneys have the judges bought off, so patients come to St. Louis - a little better climate, but the department has its own outrageous insurance costs – and the beat goes on.

We'll probably be MIA at the Berlin Meeting. Have fun.

Julia Grubb

June 22, 2004

The Academician
c/o L. N. Hopkins, MD, Secretary
American Academy of Neurological Surgery
University of Buffalo Neurosurgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209

Re: Round Robin Letter

The Hadley family offers their best regards to our friends and fellow Academicians. This last year has been an enjoyable year for our entire clan. Mark is much less busy as the Past-President of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. While a terrific honor, it required a fair bit of time and attention which he now is able to dedicate to family, health, work, and other professional projects in that order. Mark's practice at the University of Alabama at Birmingham remains busy, exciting and dynamic. The Division leadership provided by Richard Morawetz and friends and colleagues in the Division make that practice enjoyable.

Lori and children have been doing very well. Christopher is approaching his sixteenth birthday and has been driving with his learner's permit. Jack and Mollie each had a recent birthday, Jack is now eight years old and Mollie is five. They are rapidly becoming "big kids" and it pulls at our heartstrings to see them mature beyond being our sweet young babies. All three Hadley children are very involved in school and sports. Christopher is involved in cross-country, indoor track, and outdoor track and field during the course of the school year. He remains involved in band and is an outstanding student. He competes for the Vestavia Hills High School Math Team. Jack is an all sports, all energy young guy who enjoys football, soccer, basketball and baseball. He has excelled at each during this last year. He remains a very sweet child and is doing very well in school. Mollie, our darling and delightful daughter, is in charge of the entire household. She participates in gymnastics, soccer, and swimming. She is the primary arbiter for our Pembroke Corgi named "Bucky". As a team, Mollie and Bucky are rarely refused a request. Lori and I very much enjoy our time with our children and Lori's family, who live here in Birmingham and on the Gulf Coast of Florida. We also find time to get away to enjoy our company and stare into the sunset as it makes it's beautiful, colorful splash on the beach.

This last year has been a very good one for the Hadley family. We are indeed very fortunate and blessed with good health, our close family, and many dear friends.

Mark & Lori Hadley

June 15, 2004

Dear Fellow Academicians:

I am writing on old stationery from an old building from a new position in my old department. Jennifer and I are delighted to be back in Minnesota and I am deeply honored to have been appointed to the Lyle A. French Chair in Neurosurgery and Head of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Minnesota.

I left Charleston with very mixed professional feelings. The Department there was growing, financially sound, training excellent residents and beginning to make inroads on a research agenda. However, the lure of an institution as venerable as the University of Minnesota with broader and deeper scientific resources, the opportunity to influence a larger number of residents, a vibrant biotechnology and medical device community and the opportunity to help renew the Department that trained my father and nurtured my growth as a neurosurgeon was too strong to resist.

Jennifer's feelings, on the other hand, were much clearer and she is delighted to be back in the land where she grew up.

I am delighted to report that the Department at Minnesota is in very good shape. Bob Maxwell, Walter Hall, and Cornelius Lam have done a Yeoman's task of maintaining clinical volumes that as recent as a few years ago required twice as many faculty, and restructuring the residency curriculum that is becoming a model of modern residency organization. Gaylan Rockswold and his associates, Tom Bergman and Walt Galicich, have not only kept Hennepin County Medical Center among the top neurotrauma centers in the country, but maintain NIH funding for the study of hyperbaric oxygen treatment in severe head injury. Walter Low, the Director of Neurosurgery Laboratories, has significant NIH funding and participates in the development of the nervous system aspects of the stem cell program at the University of Minnesota. We have 10 excellent residents and our graduates are competing for the finest scholarships and practice positions in the country.

We are actively recruiting additional faculty. We will be joined in June by Andy Freese who has been with Fred Simeone in Philadelphia for a number of years. Andy will establish our spinal neurosurgery program and an investigative program in gene therapy. Plans are afoot for a cerebrovascular program and additional personnel in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery to augment Bob Maxwell's deep brain stimulation and epilepsy programs.

On an institutional scale, it has been a very pleasant surprise to find a Medical School that faced many serious challenges in the mid 1990's that has met those challenges with decisive action that seems to be working quite successfully. Although the University Hospital was sold to the Fairview Health System, there is a strong and functional working relationship between the Medical School and Fairview University Medical Center. Indeed, Fairview University Medical Center has truly become the flagship of the Fairview Health System and grows stronger each year. The University of Minnesota Physicians, the multi-specialty academic group practice that I helped to design, is working better than predicted and provides a strong base of operations for our clinical programs. Our new Dean, Deborah Powell, Vice President for Health Affairs, and even the President of the University, have both expressed and demonstrated strong support for the redevelopment of clinical and basic neurosciences at the University of Minnesota. All in all, it is a very positive time in the history of Minnesota neurosurgery and we look forward to continued growth scientifically, educationally, and clinically.

Stephen J. Haines, M.D. F.A.C.S.
Lyle A. French Chair
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 Director, Neuro-oncology Laboratory

Elizabeth H. Sinz, MD
 Associate Professor of Neurosurgery
 Neurocritical Care

Vijay K. Varadan, PhD
 Professor of Neurosurgery
 Bioengineering Research

June 23, 2004

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

Dear Nick,

This has been a terrific year. As I noted in my letter last year I inherited a great group of neurosurgeons at Penn State – Mark Dias, Kevin Cockcroft and Jonas Sheehan. Since my arrival we have recruited Kimberly Harbaugh, Tim Reiter, Jim McInerney, Paul Kalapos and James Fick in clinical neurosurgery and Jim Connor, Vijay Varadan, A.B. Madhankumar and Thor Hoegnason for the laboratory.

Our clinical efforts are going very well. We now offer truly comprehensive neurosurgical service with fellowship trained faculty in cerebrovascular surgery, endovascular neurosurgery, spine surgery, peripheral nerve surgery, stereotactic and functional neurosurgery, skull base surgery and surgical neuro-oncology. Our case volume has increased dramatically and we are now doing more than 1500 major cases per year. We are recruiting for an additional spine surgeon and an additional pediatric neurosurgeon at our Hershey Medical Center campus and establishing outreach practices at other centers in Central Pennsylvania. I am proud to say that despite the heavy clinical burden each of the clinical faculty have submitted at least one grant proposal this year.

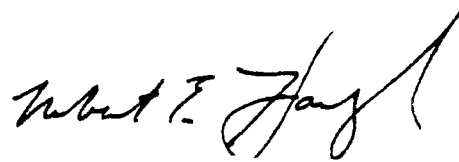
On the research front things are going even better. I was fortunate enough to recruit James R. Connor to the position of Vice Chair for Neurosurgical Research and Vijay Varadan to the position of Director of Bioengineering Research in the Department of Neurosurgery. Jim and Vijay bring their expertise, national reputations and extensive NIH and NSF funding to our department. The Penn State Department of Neurosurgery now has three full time PhD research faculty, nine post-doctoral fellows and two MD/PhD students. Our NIH funding this year should put us in the top-ten neurosurgery departments in the country. Not bad for a department that didn't exist a year ago.

We matched two superb residency candidates this year (one five and one six year resident) from Dartmouth and Wisconsin. Our 2003-2004 Chief Resident will be doing a spine fellowship with Ed Benzel at the Cleveland Clinic and our present Chief Resident is planning on an academic career in endovascular neurosurgery. Keep Penn State in mind if any of your medical students ask about neurosurgery residency opportunities.

This year the Pennsylvania Neurosurgical Society will be holding its annual meeting in Hershey on July 16 and 17. The keynote speaker will be a past President of the Academy, Roberto Heros. This will be a joint meeting with the eastern Pennsylvania chapter of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses.

Of course we face the same challenges of decreasing reimbursement and increasing expenses that afflict neurosurgeons everywhere. In view of this I feel fortunate to be working at a superbly managed institution that will end the year well in the black and that has assumed much of the burden of our exorbitant professional liability premiums.

Finally, I would like to extend an open invitation to any Academy members to stop and visit us in Hershey. It is a wonderful place and I would love to show you the Neurosurgery Department, the Medical Center and the town. Best of luck in all your endeavors.



Robert E. Harbaugh, MD, FACS, FAHA
Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery
Professor, Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics
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Dear fellow Academy members,

I am happy to report that all of the Harkeys are well and happy. Lorna, the youngest Harkey "graduated" from St. Andrew's lower school and will move up to the middle school. This means that all four of the Harkey children will be on the north campus which is very near our home. Unfortunately, it also means that I won't have my traveling companion that I enjoyed so much on my way to work last school year. Oh well, I will just have to be content with National Public Radio. Leah moves on to the 6th grade. Ian graduated from the middle school, moving up to the high school next year. Claire will be a senior and is looking forward to college. (I'm dreading the tuition bill!) Leah and Lorna are off to Camp Windhover, a Mississippi camp for kids interested in the Arts, while Claire and Ian are cycling Vermont in July. Alison and I plan to take advantage of the respite by celebrating our 20th anniversary in Hawaii. If we don't show in Berlin and Dresden, we may still be on the beach in Maui.

Alison has been a full time mom and major league volunteer for the past 13 years or so. Junior League, Montessori School Board, church and St. Andrews Episcopal School have been the primary benefactors of her efforts over the years. But, the kids don't require as much attention and she has just completed her tenure as president of the St. Andrews Parent's Association. I'm afraid she is going to be bored if she doesn't find something to fill the void. One bonus is that she will be traveling with me more often to various neurosurgical meetings including this year's Academy meeting.

Last year I experienced a role reversal from doctor to patient because of prostate cancer. Hopefully, radical prostatectomy has taken care of the matter once and for all but the experience certainly gave me a new professional perspective. I am currently well and looking forward to a challenging year. On top of the ever increasing clinical work load, I will become the Chief of Staff for the University Hospital and Clinics. I am proud to say that I will be the fourth neurosurgeon to hold this position in the 48 years of the institution. We are a small department but have always played an active role in medical staff leadership.

Looking forward to seeing y'all in Dresden.

Alison and Louis Harkey

STANFORD MEDICAL SCHOOL



STANFORD UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

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June 24, 2004

Dear Fellow Academicians:

Stanford Neurosurgery continues to expand in many ways. In the five years since my joining, the Department, under Gary Steinberg's direction, has tripled in terms of full time faculty, clinical cases, NIH funding of research, and scientific publications. Two new faculty members join us this summer: Jamie Henderson, the current chairman of the Joint Section on Pain, as Director of the Program of Functional Neurosurgery and Pain, and Mike Edwards, a fellow member of the Academy, as a second senior pediatric neurosurgeon. I have concentrated on expanding the Stanford Brain Tumor Program, particularly by recruiting former colleagues in allied fields: Rob Jackler and Mike Kaplan into Otolaryngology and the Stanford Cranial Base Surgery Program, Larry Recht as Director of Medical Neuro-oncology, and Larry Katznelson from MGH as our Neuro-endocrinologist in the Pituitary Tumor Program. Collaborations with Irv Weissman in both scientific and political initiatives regarding stem cells are proving interesting. My administrative responsibilities are a mixed blessing: directing the residency program entails more time-consuming paperwork than I had anticipated, but I greatly enjoyed being a guest examiner for the ABNS in New Orleans.

On the personal side, Meg's business activities continue to be both highly absorbing and entertaining. Between my trips to medical meetings and her travel to monitor divisions in 32 countries, we intersect at home about one week in three. Pleasantly, several of our friends chose this summer to celebrate their 50th birthdays with various parties in Colorado, thus providing us the opportunity to enjoy fishing, hiking and kayaking in our favorite mountains. Fortunately, both boys are now highly independent. After a year in Beijing, Griff (at age 19, convinced he wants to manage a car company someday) is hawking Fords this summer at a local car dealership before starting Princeton in the fall. Will (at age 16, having found our old Jeep provides transportation more socially useful than his crew shell) is refining his Spanish in Andalucia before joining an NGO in Sacramento to lobby the Governor to reform California's public education system. My parents, too, remain highly independent and active: farming in Sweetwater, skiing in Telluride, and traveling extensively with friends from Birmingham.

I look forward to our meeting this fall in Germany and hope that you will mark your calendars for a visit to Northern California and the Academy meeting at Half Moon Bay in September 2005.

Best regards,
Griff

Griffith R. Harsh IV, MD, MBA

*Robyn and Peter Heilbrun
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Dear Round Robin,

Robyn and I have a wonderful life commuting between our home located on the bypass road between Snowbird and Alta, (where we spend most of the winter) and our rental apartment in Tiburon located in a quiet part of Richardson Bay immediately next to the Marin Audubon Wildlife Center. Now that I'm no longer operating, my blood pressure, sailing, and skiing have all improved. Our California apartment is close to Sausalito where we dock our Catalina 36 which we share with Phil and Jill Weinstein, and four other great couples. The commute between Utah and California is about 11 hours by car or 2 hours by air with Southwest Airlines. In between our skiing and sailing, I have been busy as a consultant for Accuray, primarily as a proctor for new CyberKnife sites. Teaching new users as well as learning from them about health care systems in different parts of the world has been quite rewarding.

Our girls are grown and married. We have wonderful son's in-law. Marta and Ron live in North Carolina (with two daughters), and Sarah Kate and David live in California. This gives us another excuse to travel across the country.

The Heilbruns, Ratchesons, and Weinstains have just bottled their first barrel of 2002 Napa Valley Cab, with the vintage name of the HRW Limbic Cellars. We'll let you know our Robert Parker rating after the first tasting late this year.

In closing, life after operative neurosurgery is great and the future of neurosurgery continues to be exciting.

We'll see you sometime at future Academy meetings, but will miss again this year.

Robyn and Peter

June 22, 2004

Dear Fellow Academicians,

This year will be the first time since I can remember that I will miss a meeting of the Academy. I feel particularly bad about missing this meeting because it is the year that my good friend, Volker, is going to be President. Also, I would have loved to be able to come to Germany and enjoy the hospitality of our dear German friends. A number of other unavoidable commitments would make it very difficult for me to go to Germany. In addition, the idea of going alone and being away from the family for a week is less attractive and there is no way I could talk Debbie into leaving our son, Carlos, behind for a week or taking him out of school for that period of time. At any rate, Debbie and I will miss you all very much and we wish we could be sharing the good time and the good science in Germany with you.

Professionally, I have been busy clinically and with my responsibilities with the Department; however, I did miss significantly during the last year the national responsibilities which have come down to a very minimum since I finished with the Presidency of the Academy and the AANS. One terrific piece of good news for me this year was a very surprising call from Nelson Oyesiku, President-Elect of the CNS, to invite me to be the Honored Guest of the CNS Congress in Boston in 2005. This indeed is a great honor which I accept gleefully and which will keep me busy preparing the several lectures that come with that commitment. Beyond that, I am looking forward to beginning to organize the World Federation Congress in Boston in 2009 which I will have the pleasure and honor to preside.

Debbie continues to be extremely busy with her neuro-oncology practice and she has moved administratively from the Department of Neurology to our Sylvester Cancer Center where she will be directing on a full-time basis the neuro-oncologic practice which, in terms of number of brain tumors, is by far the largest in Florida. My son, Rob, just passed the specialty boards on physiatry and he seems happy in his Army assignment at Tripler Hospital in Honolulu. Debbie, Carlos and I had a wonderful time visiting him in Hawaii for a few days during Spring break. The highlight of the trip was to go on a shallow scuba dive with Carlos who enjoyed it thoroughly and seemed to be completely at ease at 30 feet under the water; his father certainly was not at ease, though enjoying it tremendously. Daughter Elsie is expecting her second baby and we are looking forward very much to visiting her in Maine in a couple of weeks.

In brief, all is well with the Heros and we wish we could be with you in Germany!

Sincerely,



Roberto C. Heros, M.D.

RCH:nvo



University of Michigan
Health System

The University of Michigan

Department of Neurosurgery

June 16, 2004

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

Dear Nick,

What fun to have the Academy meeting in Berlin and Dresden with our German colleagues! The program looks terrific and the October weather should be perfect.

Diane and I are planning to travel on to Prague, Budapest and Vienna, then home, making a real vacation/scientific meeting out of the trip.

We keep thinking our travel schedule will ease up a bit as time passes. To the contrary, this year we will be particularly busy. I had the pleasure of attending Graham Teasdale's retiral in Glasgow in March. As you probably know, he has become the President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, a full time job and an excellent position for him as he winds up his neurosurgical career at the Southern General Hospital. It was a gala occasion followed by a Ceilidh, a traditional Scottish dancing party with a whole host of friends from around the globe.

Diane and I also attended the Society of British Neurosurgery annual meeting in Oxford in late April. That too was a memorable event with plenty of camaraderie and good science. It was particularly exciting to have the banquet in the Cecil Rhodes House. We also spent some time in the Lake District which was absolutely spectacular since it was in April, lambing season, emerald green pastures, and gray stone fences. A spectacular part of the world.

I am off to China in August to the ICP meeting. You might wonder why we are still studying ICP! Probably because it is fun

L. Nelson Hopkins, M.D.
June 16, 2004
Page Two

to get together with friends in attractive parts of the world. ICP science continues despite 30+ years of studying the subject. Mario Brock was the original host of this group in Hannover in the early 1970's. We hosted it in Ann Arbor in 1989.

To attend another international meeting the same year seems like overkill, but what a great place to go. A chance to see old friends and make new ones!

Diane's health remains excellent and mine does, too. The search for my successor is underway and hopefully it will be concluded soon. Perhaps by the time of the meeting I will know who can take my baton.

Diane and I look forward to seeing you again in a few months.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Julian Hoff', written in black ink.

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



University at Buffalo
State University of New York

L. N. Hopkins, M.D.
Professor and Chairman of Neurosurgery
Professor of Radiology

June 21, 2004

Dear Fellow Academy Members,

Bonnie and I have had another great year. We now have six grandchildren. We are finding Rosehill, Canada, and Jackson Hole, Wyoming, a magnet for our children and their children and are still remodeling our home in Jackson Hole to make room for everyone. We are now running three meetings a year in Jackson, including a winter ski meeting and two summer endovascular morbidity and mortality conferences. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

Our youngest daughter, Betsy, was married this spring to a delightful individual who is completing his pediatric psychiatry residency at Brown University. Betsy is a social worker; and Neb is a sometime author, when he is not practicing medicine.

Our endovascular practice in Buffalo continues to expand; and we have recruited an exciting endovascular-trained neurosurgeon, Elad Levy, to join us. The endovascular fellowship continues to thrive. We have now been fortunate enough to train more than 20 neurosurgeons in neuroendovascular techniques. Several 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 meeting in Germany.

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

*Houseman,
Edgar*

10 March 2004

Dr. Nelson L. Hopkins
Secretary
American Academy of Neurological Surgeons
University of Buffalo
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, New York 14209-1194

Dear Nick,

With the world producing significant events daily I see that my activities since the last Round Robin are hardly newsworthy with one possible exception. This year Columbia University is celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the founding of King's College. There have been many outstanding symposia and other events many of which have highlighted the importance health in improving the economic situation for the poorest nations on earth. This fits in very well with our own Health Sciences initiatives in promoting global health by enabling faculty and students to become more involved.

My own principal activity continues to be the negotiations for developing collaborative relations with medical institutions overseas; this year primarily in East Asia. Our New York Presbyterian Hospital collaboration with Hallym University in Seoul will require a brief site visit in April.

In May I will accompany Marion when she returns to Cleveland for the 50th Reunion of her graduation from the Francis Payne Bolten School of Nursing of Case Western Reserve University and if our family logistical experts can perform the difficult feat of finding an agreeable date Marion and I would like to have our whole clan meet this summer to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary.

I hope October will bring us to Berlin/Dresden for the Academy meeting and we look forward to seeing you there.

Warm regards,

Ed 



June 2, 2004

Dear Academicians,

Our four children, their spouses and our 12 grandchildren are all happy, successful and living in Toronto! Susan spends a good deal of time with the younger grandchildren. Her second significant occupation is that of volunteer director of the board of our condominium. That situation is characterized by governors and managers who don't understand the difference between the two roles, a covey of malcontents who object to everything and foment insurrections, and a vast majority of condominium owners who are only interested in maintaining the capital value of their holdings. They pay no attention to what the Board is trying to do. Susan is very diligent and all are now trying to persuade her to become the chair of the condominium board, but she is adamantly opposed to this, and will quit when she has concluded her tour of duty. By this time, she will be an expert on condominium law and the perturbed psychology of trying to govern a disparate group linked only by the ownership of their condominiums. Medical school politics seem quite simple by comparison.

On the professional side, I continue to greatly enjoy my position as CEO of Cancer Care Ontario and advising the Minister of Health on the \$2 Billion cancer program. In addition, I am now advising the Premier (Governor) on the \$28 Billion health program for Ontario. Susan and I quite frequently talk about re-retirement. I am having fun doing a very worthwhile job without too much pressure, so we will take this on a year-by-year basis. Cancer trips have taken us recently to Victoria, Houston and Johannesburg, and we will attend the European meeting later this year in Dublin.

We dropped SATARA into the water in early April and took five hours to cross the lake in dense fog, a lightening and hail storm and 30-knot contrary winds, to bring her safely home to the Royal Canadian Yacht Club on the Toronto Island. Susan and I intend an extensive cruise during August down the St. Lawrence River.

Susan and I returned to a neurosurgical meeting after a considerable absence when we went to New Orleans to support Dave Kline who was hosting The Senior Society. We were thrilled to be present on the occasion of Jim Rutka winning the Grass Foundation prize. Dave Piepgras (president of the society) had recently visited Toronto to conduct the five-year review of Jim's chairmanship. Jim received a positive first term appraisal and will now move on to his final five years of the chairmanship. At the conclusion of the ten years, the chairman is taken outside and shot, and a new individual takes up the responsibility. Susan and I are extraordinarily proud of Jim and Mari's simply remarkable success, and they continue to lead Toronto with great style and accomplishment.

Raj Midha, also a graduate of the Toronto program, has just been appointed to the chairmanship of neurosurgery in Calgary. Raj did a fellowship with Dave Kline. Jim Rutka and I are sorry to see Raj leave Toronto and take a significant peripheral nerve practice and laboratory with him but we are, of course, delighted that Raj will pick up the responsibility of running his own program.

Susan and I look forward to seeing old friends in Berlin and Dresden.

All the best.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alan R. Hudson, MD



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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May 28, 2004

L. Nick Hopkins MD
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, New York 14209
c/o Debbie Zimmer

Re: Round Robin

Dear Nick;

Darwinian evolution has created a species so bizarre that its survival defies the laws of nature, economics and common sense. I'm talking about the New York City Hospital. How do they continue to function? With inadequate income from billing departments staffed by minimum wage, high school graduates from the third world, they pay bills with rubber checks and nobody goes to jail. They support an over-supply of over-paid ineffectual administrators and vice-deans whose numbers steadily increase as they sink further into the red. Yet they depend on the most demanding customer base in the universe who somehow put up with crowded two bed rooms at a cost of a suite at the Plaza, inedible food and elevators that don't work, etc, etc. But constant bitching gets tiresome. Let's just say that everything here is...normal.

But existentialism is the Chairman's friend. In stand-offs with medical school and hospital, the winner is usually the one with the least to lose because of an existential grasp on the fact of absurdity and willing to walk away. Being a Chair is somewhat like being a French Foreign Legionnaire in Algeria; one had to be ready to commit suicide at a moment's notice (it beat the hell out of being captured by the Arabs).

Administrators, on the other hand, fear object loss almost as much as they fear losing their jobs. For academic medical centers in financial difficulty (aren't most of them?), the object that they fear losing is money – profit - generated by paying customers. Worse still is the loss of patients to a competing institution across town. So if a Chair has a sizeable practice and is willing to commit academic suicide, he or she can control his or her destiny; with one important proviso: The dean cannot be psychotic. Then the above gambit probably won't work.

So, in spite of myself, I'm still employed. But there is now another issue that preys on my mind over and above the vicissitudes of academic medical power politics.



Cats don't like me.

Ordinarily I would not lose much sleep over this. I've had little to do with cats since my resident research project in which we put them in a Skinner box, conditioned them by means of an electrified grid, stuck electrodes in their brains and ultimately terminated them for histological control.

But at home we have two cats. Up until recently I've had very little to do with them. They were the property and responsibility of the women in my family; my wife, Carol and my 15-year-old daughter, Caitlin. But things are now different.

About two years ago my daughter got a bee in her bonnet that an international experience would round out her education. Caitlin Mary Kelly had this thing about Ireland. But we compromised on an English girls boarding school in the Cotswolds, 18 miles north of Bath, where we've owned a place for some time. Caitlin was shipped off to the UK in September 2002. Well, it turns out that she loves it. She's now in her second year at Westonbirt. Carol goes over there at least once a month whenever Caitlin has an "exeat" weekend at school. And I am alone, toughing it out in "the city that never sleeps" with - the cats - who don't like me. And I don't like them much either.

They are cats only in the phylogenetic sense. In fact, they appear extraterrestrial: many things with little hair, huge ears, tiny heads, skinny bodies and fat bellies. I was told that this is the way they are supposed to look; they are Cornish Rexes - a mutation in catdom from Cornwall, England. If there exists a fine line in cat breeder science that determines which mutations one drowns and which mutations one foists on the rest of the world at 400 bucks a pop, these critters must have just made the cut.

The hairless feature of these beasts attracted Carol to them in the first place; they wouldn't be shedding hair all over the place; homely as hell but low maintenance. However, one gets little satisfaction from petting them. It feels - I would imagine - like patting the head of some bald old geezer at the Veteran's Hospital (I mean, why would you want to do that?). So I'm really not sure what purpose in God's divine plan these creatures serve - except for the efficient transformation of cat food into cat litter.

When Carol and/or Caitlin are around so are the two cats. Always around, under foot, on the bed when I'm trying to sleep, jumping onto the dinner table when I'm trying to eat. And sitting backwards on top of the television with their butts hanging down covering the upper part of the screen and tails swinging to and fro in front of the picture. This is like trying to watch, say, the History Channel through a car window with wipers going in the middle of a rainstorm.

"But they're sweet!" Carol tells me whenever I suggest that life could go on if these cat-like things had some other address on the planet. My daughter is even more incensed by the fact that, for me, these cats don't make my sun rise every day.

"Daddy, don't be mean to the cats!"

“Mean?” I say. “I’m trying to ignore them!”

“That’s being mean!” says Caitlin in self-righteous indignation. She still remembers overhearing me tell someone about my cat experiments at Northwestern and considers me equal to some middle European war criminal living, not in Paraguay, but right here in New York City. But now Caitlin is in England, Carol is frequently over in Bath and I’m stuck here -with the cats.

At first, when Carol left for the UK, the cats would disappear. Good, I thought, Peace at last. But when I didn’t see them for a couple of days, I started to get worried; not so much about their welfare, but at the thought of having Caitlin or Carol return and finding their pathetic shriveled carcasses moldering under a bed somewhere. I could just imagine the conversation that would start up. Or worse: the silent treatment where the question of cat murder would never be discussed openly but would hang in the air like a poisonous mist for years and years.

So after a few days I went on a search and rescue mission trying to find them in our co-op apartment. That may seem a straightforward task. It was not. I’ve really only been in about four rooms in our apartment. We own rooms that I, truthfully, up to that time, had never bothered to enter. My lifestyle requires only three rooms: bedroom, bathroom and breakfast room – as long as one of the three contains a television and a computer. However, my wife is a collector of antiques, shoes, purses and clothes dating back to 1972, her teddy bunny and miscellaneous artifacts from girlhood, all sorts of boxes, copper luster mugs, millions of books, back issues of *Country Life* and *Martha Stewart Living*, a few hundred pudding molds etcetera. We quickly ran out of space in the small duplex we’d purchased after moving here from Rochester, Minnesota.

Apartments adjoining ours came available. We bought them and connected them to ours. There are now plenty of rooms *chez nous*: bathrooms, closets, nooks and crannies, all filled to the brim with stuff – and provide an infinite number of places for cats to hide: Under beds, behind Georgian Highboys and Davenport writing desks, on top of bookshelves, in between stacks of books, room after room. I can search for hours finding neither cat nor corpse. While searching I mentally concoct stories for my daughter to explain whatever tragic fate had befallen the cats; truly creative fictional efforts with two important criteria: Believable beyond a reasonable doubt and the demise/disappearance must have absolutely nothing to do with me.

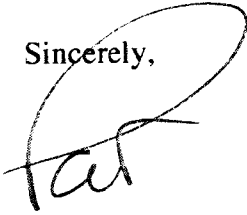
Then one day I noted that the cats’ food dishes magically emptied every day. And the litter box was not filling up by itself. This proved that the cats may be unseen, yet they lived. People have believed in the existence of God with less evidence than this!

So that’s how it has been going for the last year and a half. When Carol’s here and/or Caitlin returns for spring break or Midterm, cats abound. When Carol and Caitlin are away, cats disappear. I don’t have to deal with them except for feeding, watering and ... emptying.

So I'm back to worrying and bitching about work. And living a New York existence: dinners with wacky but loveable friends, jazz nights at the Vanguard, an occasional lunch at the New York Yacht Club, walks in Central Park and down 5th Avenue, etc. while contemplating the meaning of life and the angst of absurdity.

But in the summer we're all together up in Maine: Carol, Caitlin, me and...the cats. Thank God I have my boat CYGNUS and that cats dislike water even more than they dislike me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick J Kelly', with a large, looping flourish above the name.

Patrick J Kelly, MD



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

Neurosurgery Center for Research, Training and Education

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June 21, 2004

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 Colleagues:


Sorry we can't make it to the Berlin meeting. Berlin is one of our favorite cities. Our first visit was during our stay in Germany while in the Army in the '50's when the town was still divided East and West and going through a serious urban renewal project. Subsequent visits included a stay as a Visiting Professor of Neurosurgery at the Freie University in Berlin in the lovely villas that the university owns in the suburb of Dahlem. Now working in my laboratory is a bright, young biochemist from Berlin's Freie University who has permission to pursue his Ph.D. in biochemistry while working in our Alzheimer's project. We were funded to the tune of 6.88 million dollars by the National Institutes of Health and have a very exciting collaboration going on with biochemists and molecular biologists at the NIH, physicists at the Detroit MRI Institute for Biomedical Research, and the Translational Genomics Group in Tempe Arizona. This important and new endeavor now competes with tennis, family, and the citrus grove. We are focusing on the transition of Mild Cognitive Impairment to Alzheimer's disease in consultation with Dr. Ronald Petersen, a neurologist at the Mayo Clinic, the recognized authority on this subject. Our biochemical studies relate to brain iron metabolism perturbations occurring at the transition point of forgetfulness to dementia. We have an ongoing research project on a new hemostatic agent as well. More about it later. Hopefully we will get funded. We find out our fate in August. At any rate we have developed the system in order to expedite femoral artery closure after catheterization but the procoagulant - a combination of two common polysaccharides has wider applications. This has been a long-standing interest of our surgical laboratory and hopefully we might have some solutions for this vexing clinical problem.

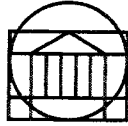
Our Neurosurgery Center for Research, Training, and Education at Loma Linda University continues to thrive. We have graduate students, M.D./Ph.D. candidates, as well as medical students rotating through our unit. One of my colleagues asked me to go back to the Operating Room last week to help out with a fairly straightforward case. I don't think I want to make this visit again. I didn't mind helping but it was an imposition on my time and a new career that is also centered on the microdissection of the mouse brain. We have some interesting new

technologies for imaging the mouse brain as well as microdissection to isolate some rather discreet anatomical sites. The mouse forebrain is now the target of neurobiologists and neurogeneticists. It is an excellent experimental model for our gene knockouts for the control of brain iron metabolism. These mice develop a neuro-degenerative disorder which is more like Parkinson's plus than Alzheimer's disease. After much effort, we have given up trying to have a mouse spell "world" backwards.

There must be time for the family. Claudia, Taub and their child Brianna have fallen in love with London. Claudia is the head neuroradiologist now at the St. Bartholemew's hospital, has a Harley street office in addition to her NHS position. Taub is doing very well in his financial world with Morgan Stanley. In fact he is doing so well that they had dinner with Margaret Thatcher the other night. They enjoy London and use it as a jumping off place to travel around Europe. We hope that they will relocate to the United States. Claudia, after taking a vacation in Morocco, has decided that life in Southern California might not be too bad. David, our grandson, has graduated high school and has done very well in his hockey career. In fact, so well that he was invited to Harvard and to other top schools but has elected not to go to college this year. He is 17 years old, 6'1", 194 pounds, a very good student but a sensational hockey player. He has elected to play junior level hockey up in Fairbanks Alaska for the Fairbanks Icedogs this year. So this means we will be going up to Fairbanks and include Denali with it. He will play junior level hockey, play about 80 games, and hopes to get a full ride scholarship to some division 1 school the year after. Since he is 17, and a young 17, we all feel it is probably best for him to follow his dreams. Our sons Jonathan and Daniel remain bachelors but there are some girlfriends on the horizon and hopefully they will legalize some companionship in the near future. With regard to Marie-Claire, her avocation is the garden and the orchard. Only one academy individual (Fern Clark) shared in the orange, grapefruit, tangerine, and lemon crop that have been bountiful. Nothing can match what we have created around our pool, hot tub, and garden. The lavender smacks of Provence. We are just now getting ready to leave on our trip to the NIH which will be two days, and then from there to London to visit the kids, and then off to visit Marie-Claire's mother who is in her 90's. She is exceptionally bright and doing very well as the guest of the Baron de Rothschild in the assisted living facility that bears his name in Paris. From Paris we will then head down to a 60th birthday party for the wife a colleague of mine, a Harvard vascular surgeon by the name of Dr. Arnold Miller, who is a proponent of the VCS clip. The LeMaitre Vascular Corporation is now marketing the clip. We are planning a 60th birthday party for Arnold's wife that will last for 10 days in the village of Gordes, a lovely country town in Provence. Marie-Claire's cousin owns a vineyard there so it will be an opportunity to visit with her family in Southern France. We have another trip to the NIH in July in which I have to give an explanation of what I have done with all of your tax money that the NIH gave us. In light of President Reagan's death and the interest in Alzheimer's disease there will be a visit to our facility by Senator Barbara Boxer. In the fall we have another trip to Debrecen Hungary (International Society of Experimental Microsurgery). All in all trips have to be scheduled between obligations to family, our Neurosurgery Center, tennis, and the garden. The consequence is to forego the meeting to Berlin. We want to stay in touch with all of you. Hopefully we can meet up in the near future. If you are ever in Southern California in our neighborhood, please give us a call.

With warmest regards,


Wolff and Marie-Claire Kirsch



June 21, 2004

Re: American Academy of Neurological Surgery Round Robin Letter

Dear Friends:

Peggy and I are sorry that we cannot join you in Germany for the exciting meeting that will take place in Berlin and Dresden. Unfortunately, it comes at exactly the same time as the meeting of the American College of Surgeons, and I am going to be installed as President of that organization. I have always enjoyed the College and never really expected that I would ever be President, but it certainly is a challenge and something that I hope will be good for all of neurosurgery.

We have had a busy and enjoyable year highlighted by the arrival of our fifth grandchild, Peter Gentry (Eleanor & Brian's son).

The Pituitary Group at UVA is still thriving and we did more than 260 transsphenoidal operations during the past year. We are eagerly awaiting the return of John Jane, Jr. from his fellowship in Toronto, and he will help out with the neuroendocrine work as well as taking responsibility for pediatric neurosurgery.

We had an outstanding meeting of the International Society of Pituitary Surgeons on the isle of Capri in Italy, and we have done a lot of traveling related to the activities of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies, most recently with a teaching mission to Shanghai and Tibet. I hope that everyone will plan to attend the International Congress of the WFNS that will take place in June of 2005 in Marrakech, Morocco. It is a marvelous place, perfectly safe, and delightfully exotic and the meeting will be outstanding in every way.

Despite the many challenges that are facing the specialty as a whole, it remains a real delight to be a neurosurgeon.

With fond regards.

Sincerely,


Ed and Peggy Laws

ERL/bb

R.C. Llewellyn, MD, PMC, FACS
#3 Poydras Street Unit 6D
New Orleans, LA 70130

6-29-04

Mrs. Debee Zimmerman
Department of Neurological Surgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 11204

Mrs Zimmerman:

My Submission to the 2004 Annual
Robin....." I have been retired since 3-31-01.
My first retirement action was to attend the
AAUS Orlando meeting this Spring. Two people
I recognize: Dr James Robuston of Memphis
and Dr Patterson and his wonderful wife
Julie of New York. I was so enthused I
promised myself I would not miss another
society meeting again. Will join you in
Germany --"

Dr R Llewellyn - MD FACS Retired

Department of Neurosurgery

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Don M. Long, M.D., Ph.D.
Distinguished Service Professor of Neurosurgery

February 12, 2004

Debi Zimmer
Department of Neurosurgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209

RE: The American Academy of Neurological Surgery Annual Meeting-Round Robin

Dear Academicians,

Harriet and I had a relatively uneventful year. Our major project was outside not inside our old house. We built two ponds connected by a small stream enhanced by four waterfalls on the site of an enormous beech tree that fell during a Baltimore wind storm. We have planted a collection of unusual dwarf conifers, long a hobby of mine. The fish go in next spring and I have kept busy continuing the plantings done by our landscape architects. I never quite bond with a garden until I put things in it myself.

9-11 really curtailed our travel plans. We were going to go sailing on the north coast of Turkey in the Black sea right at the time when the Iraqi war was in full swing. We decided to go to Alaska instead thinking that that was probably the least likely place for a terrorist attack. We went to the Backcountry Lodge in Denali and then spent a week touring the Glacier Bay area. We had a delightful meal with George and Linda Ojemann in Seattle on the way home.

I was the William Sweet lecturer at the MGH in the fall. We had a great time being back in Boston and it was a great honor to deliver the lecture of one of our most famous academicians.

Kimberley, our oldest daughter, continues on the undergraduate faculty at Johns Hopkins. Her husband was made director of the Division of Orthopedic Spinal Surgery and our grandchildren are now 8 and 10. Elizabeth (second daughter) continues to direct the Digital Library Research Center at the University of Chicago and has embarked upon a secondary career in book and paper arts. During the last year she won two prizes and had some of her work in a national exhibition. Our son David is the director of marketing for new products for the Sylvan

Learning Centers. His wife (Liz Selvin-Long) of one year is a graduate student in epidemiology at Johns Hopkins. We are fortunate in having both David and Kimberley only a few blocks away so we see them regularly.

In July we're headed for two weeks in Italy and, of course, we will see you all in Berlin/Dresden in the fall.

Our new years resolution last year was no new incisions in 2003 and I'm happy to say that at least there were no major new ones. Good health is increasingly a measure of a successful year.

Yours Sincerely,



Don M. Long, M.D.

DML/jl



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June 29, 2004

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

Dear Dr. Hopkins:

Our section continues to grow under the new leadership of Rick Fessler. We have 9 active faculty and the section did about 2600 cases last year and has seen a steady increase of 5 or 10% cases per year. The residents were stretched to the limit (with only 1 per year) but now the duty hour limitations are protecting them and some of the work has been shifted to nurse clinicians. We are being treated relatively well by the Department of Surgery and the Biological Sciences Division with lots of new equipment and resources being provided for us. We are suffering the usual problems of growth with our neurointensive care unit always overflowing and availability of beds sometimes a limiting factor. We are partly protected from the malpractice problems in Illinois, at least from the point of view of personal assets and such. It has resulted, in any case, in a consistent increase in patients with tons of aneurysms, vascular cases and tumors to take care of.

My laboratory continues to focus on cerebral vasospasm and mechanisms of vascular dysfunction after subarachnoid hemorrhage. I graduated my first Ph.D. student in Neurobiology, Pharmacology and Physiology, no small feat in the tight academic atmosphere of the U. of C. I hosted the 8th International Conference on Cerebral Vasospasm in Chicago in July, 2003. I

finished editing a book for the meeting that will be published in August. Please buy it so I can stay ahead of my Dad's book on Amazon.com.

My family is well. Sheilah works in the financial planning office at the University of Chicago. Our oldest child, Iain, is 14 and continues to be focused on hockey although track has attracted his interest as well. He spent a week in Sweden this year playing hockey. They also won the Bantam silver Northern Illinois Hockey League championships this year. Robyn, our 12-year old, is active in ballet. Erin (9-years old) also has become interested in ballet and modern dance. Both girls got into the children's cast of the Joffrey ballet Nutcracker and did about 10 shows at the Auditorium theater over Christmas in downtown Chicago.

Sincerely,

R. Loch Macdonald, M.D., Ph.D.



SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

Department of Surgery
Division of Neurosurgery
James Markert, M.D.
June 29, 2004

Dear Colleagues,

We are grateful to again have the opportunity to contribute to the Round Robin. The year has been a happy and busy one. Our children continue to grow and flourish. Tara is entering the third grade, wears orange and yellow braces, and is enjoying the pleasures of “The Phantom Tollbooth” and “The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat”—best perused while walking around the house with her nose in said book. Jack is now three and is under study by NASA as a forty-four pound source of unlimited kinetic energy. He remains a happy and exuberant soul. Hooper, now 15 months old, is fully ambulatory, which means the each piece of our silverware has been carefully placed in the kitchen garbage can exactly one hundred and forty-three times (as of this writing). When not purchasing new place settings, Laili and I remain very active in our local Bahá’í community.

It remains a pleasure to work with my talented colleagues and the enthusiastic residents at UAB. I remain fortunate to have a busy and rewarding practice, and our research group continues to pursue new therapies for malignant brain tumors. The NIH has recently supported the development of one of our new vectors for clinical use, and we look forward to examining it in clinical trials in the future.

We are sorry to be missing this year’s meeting, but hope to see everyone in 2005.

Wishing you a wonderful year ahead---

Yours truly,

James M. Markert, M.D.

Department of Neurosurgery
Mayo Clinic
200 First ST SW
Rochester, Mn 55902

Dear Colleagues,

Another year has past, and with it my wife Ini and I have had the great pleasure to eagerly participate in our children's growth. Without question, they are the focus of our energy. We are very proud of their accomplishments, some of which include consistently qualifying for Minnesota State Swimming Championships. About the only downside of this is that I have become a swimming dad, which means that I am now intimate with just about every small, remote, claustrophobic pool across the Midwest. I have developed a swim meet survival kit, which includes an abundant supply of advil, bleacher seat cushions and backup, extra pair of reading glasses, ipod with charger, ear plugs, and lots of dollar bills. One of the nice things about being a swim dad, is that one is afforded an opportunity to meet with many people from different fabrics of life. I have learned a lot about car mechanics, grade school teaching, gardening, insurance, and running fast food restaurants. Someday, these pearls may be valuable. Amazingly enough, one can even get the rare referral. The one thing I do not like about being a swim dad, is consoling an adolescent or teenager when they do not meet up to their own expectations about some lap time, a time that in the spectrum means little. They worry about seconds, and hundredths of seconds, and I worry about the passing years. Time is truly relative.

I am very proud of my wife, whom at this moment is off at a NIH study section meeting, and therefore can not read this letter before it is mailed. Sorry, if I embarrass you hon! She is quite busy at work as a neurologist, but is still able to be a devoted mother of 6. She has huge patience, especially with me. She even lets me go up to flyfish with my brother once a year.

Our Department is now undergoing a leadership transition. Dave Piepgras has stepped down as Chair after years of remarkable dedication and hard work both for our department and our specialty of neurosurgery. He had done it with great humility. Fortunately, he will continue to be very active both clinically and academically. The rest of our Department is doing well with broad reaching expertise, including Rick Marsh (epilepsy, tumor, spine), Dudley Davis (functional, spine), Bill Krauss (complex spine, tumor), Corey Raffel (pediatrics), Bruce Pollock (tic, gamma knife, tumor), John Atkinson (tumor, pituitary, spine), Mike Link (skull base and vascular), and Robert Spinner (peripheral nerve). I believe that our Department has the strength and energy to meet the challenges that we will face.

With warmest wishes,

Fredric B. Meyer, M.D.
Professor and Chair

Carole A. Miller-Hunt, M.D.
5745 New Bank Circle, #405
Dublin, Ohio 43017
(614) 798-0191
CaAMiller@aol.com

June 9, 2004

Dear Academicians:

This last year has been quite eventful for the Hunt family. As some of you may be aware, I returned to The Ohio State University in May 2003 to become the interim chairman of the Division of Neurosurgery. I served in that capacity until January 2004 and then was interim chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery for two months prior to a new chairman, Dr. E. Antonio (Nino) Chiocca, arrived from Harvard to take over the reins. I am sure that many of you know Dr. Chiocca; he is a stellar individual in brain tumor research and has incredible support from the medical school and the Department of Surgery. The dean of the medical school, Dr. SanFilippo, and the Chief of Surgery, Dr. Chris Ellison, were highly instrumental in neurosurgery becoming a department. I also thank all of you within the Academy who wrote letters at my request on behalf of our departmental status. There is no question in my mind that this will take Ohio State Neurosurgery to new heights.

For the present, Dr. Chiocca has asked me to stay on as the Residency Program Chairman and I am very happy to do so. I enjoy working with the residents. It is an opportunity for some payback for everything that I have received from Neurosurgery and from The Ohio State University.

I must say that the Neurosurgery service has been extremely busy and we are currently in the throws of a RRC review.

Dr. David Hunt has left the Medical Center of New Jersey to become the chief of service at Maimonides in Brooklyn, New York. This is a new service

Page 2
June 9, 2004

and they have no residents, but plan on developing a fellowship. David left regretfully from Newark and it was a very difficult decision, but I think he is enjoying the prospect of having his own service and developing vascular surgery at Maimonides. His family continues to grow. Elizabeth is a sophomore at Amherst and interested in political science. His younger daughter Sarah attends Spence Schools where she is a sophomore in high school. Adam has reached the grand age of 10. He looks as though he will be a defensive back for Ohio State one of these days. Carol continues to work in legal aid and doing defense work.

Will Hunt and his wife Jan have moved back to Central Ohio after a long stint in Austin, Texas. It is good to have them back in Ohio closer to home. Jan's daughter recently adopted a little girl so there is a new grandchild, and I am now a great grandmother (gasp).

If any of you are ever in Maine, please stop by. I am not getting there quite as much as I would like but it is still a delightful place.

I also moved from my long-time home in the high rise in Grandview, Ohio to a mid-rise along the Scioto River in Dublin, the home of the Memorial Tournament and Jack Nicklaus. I am thoroughly enjoying it, and it is fun to live in a place where everything is new. That has not been the case before.

My mother is living with me; she will be 93 in December. This past summer we celebrated my aunt's 100th birthday. She enjoyed the day by making a point of dancing with all of the men there.

I certainly wish you all well and hope that our paths cross soon.

Sincerely,



Carole A. Miller-Hunt, M.D.
CAM/rs

Dear Academician:

This has been a year of growth for the Division of Neurosurgery at UAB. We have taken on three additional faculty members, bringing us to a total of fourteen. We move in to a new hospital on September 1, 2004, and Neurosurgery will have five operating rooms for use each day for adult cases. Our pediatric neurosurgical unit, run by Jerry Oakes, continues to be busy, and we continue to run our VA service as well.

Richard continues to spend time overseeing the activities of the UAB Professional Liability Trust Fund, our self-insurance vehicle. It seems likely that several major institutions will become insolvent due to increasing insurance costs, and there appears to be no real chance of legislative relief in the near term. Stewart Dunsker is doing an outstanding job in his leadership role in this area.

Mary Jean has enrolled herself and our dog Charlie as a team in the "Hand in Paw" enterprise. She visits our cancer center here at UAB on a regular basis to work with children who are receiving radiation therapy and chemotherapy. I must confess that I have had very little contact with this part of the treatment of my patients over the years, and to learn from Mary Jean the need for support that these patients have and the gratitude they express for such support has been an eye-opener.

We continue to work on our home in Nova Scotia in anticipation of retirement, though the more work we do on that home the more remote retirement becomes. If you are in Nova Scotia come and see us.

Richard and Mary Jean Morawetz

July 14, 2004

Round Robin Letter

Dear Colleagues:

It is with immense pleasure and a sense of privilege that I put pen to paper to write my first Round Robin letter. I thank everyone for their vote of confidence. I guess being a new member of this august group, I should start by introducing my family. I had the immensely good fortune to have met my wife Fiona during my Registrar training years at the National Hospital in Queen Square in London, England. I was obviously persuasive enough in convincing her to relocate with me to the United States back in 1990 and our gang is now comprised of Isabella, 9, John, 7, and Christina, 5. Fiona has quit nursing after the birth of Isabella and she has poured herself body and soul into orchestrating the often thankless job of raising three demanding children! We have been in Miami since 1995 and enjoy an extremely rewarding family and social life. Obviously, Florida is not quite the place for high rising mountains, and the only thing we do miss is snow skiing, so we do try to ski as a family at least two or three times a year. This year, we have visited the summits of Park City in Utah, Jackson Hole in Wyoming, and Vail in Colorado. Incredible how tiny kids take up fearlessly to the snow! Within a few days, they make as much progress as their parents achieve in years of adult life!

Our family hobbies are swimming, cycling, baseball, basketball, and chess, among others. Daddy certainly avoids talking neurosurgery in the evenings and on the weekends, and the setup of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Miami is such that there is a very healthy dose of protected family time, given our individual subspecializations. Mine happens to be cerebrovascular and skullbase surgery.

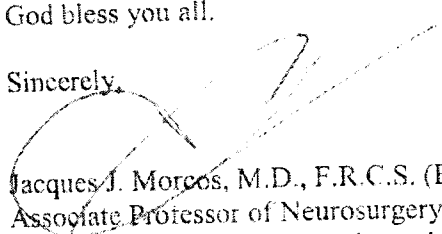
For my part, job satisfaction is excellent. How can it not be when, among other perks, I enjoy the partnership of a unique individual called Roberto Heros, who has managed to play in my life the respective roles of recruiter, Program Chairman, teacher, mentor, partner, and friend! Outside the operating room and my anatomy lab, I enjoy participating in organized neurosurgery. I am currently the Treasurer of the Joint Section of Cerebrovascular Diseases.

Fiona and I look forward to many more years of membership in the Academy and the opportunity of getting to know socially our colleagues and their families. We regret not participating in the meeting in Berlin this year, which I am sure is going to be outstanding

with Volker's leadership. I had previously committed to a trip to Nagoya, Japan for the Japanese Neurosurgical Society meeting.

God bless you all.

Sincerely,



Jacques J. Morcos, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Eng), F.R.C.S. (Ed)
Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Otolaryngology
Specializing in Cerebrovascular and Skull Base Tumor Surgery
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June 25, 2004
Beaufort by the Sea

Dear Friends:

Irene and I have just passed the Big 80. We are not going as strong but we are going. Our time is spent between the seaside at Beaufort, North Carolina, the farm in Kentucky and Durham.

Most of our children and grandchildren live near by which is very nice. Ann is currently the director of the children's program at the Duke gardens, Susan is busy in her personal chef business, Sara is now a senior executive in her Kentucky company and Jim is on his fifth novel.

Irene is busy with so many activities much to long to list. I have taken up watercolor and pastel painting. Almost as exacting and technical as neurosurgery.

This last year has been busy at Duke. I have lessened my role in the Free Electron laser program, but it may be closer to practical use in neurosurgery. Over the years at Duke, I did most of the stereotactic neurosurgery and acquired most of the instruments use in the operating room. Last year the Duke Medical Center Library established a permanent collection and exhibiting of stereotactic instruments. The collection is on display at the Duke library and we continue to add instruments. We recently received an instrument made and used in China by Dr. Wu. Bob Rand has sent us five of his original sterotactic instruments. If any of the Academy members have old instruments sitting in their garage please send them to me at Duke.[see enclosed photos of instruments]

Although we have not been able to attend recent meetings we enjoy hearing from the Academy and have fond memories of past associations.

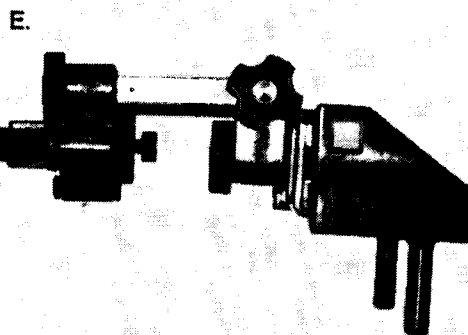
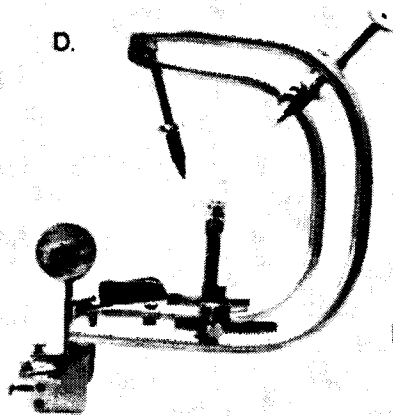
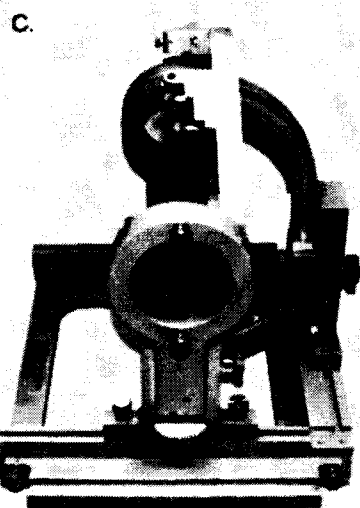
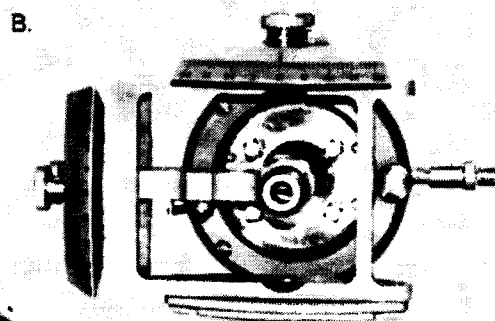
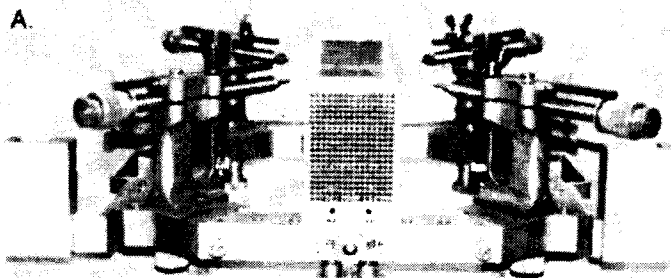
Irene and Blaine Nashold

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Blaine", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Instruments in Duke Medical Center Library

Stereotactic Collection

- Blaine Nashold



June 29, 2004

Dear Fellow Academicians,

I hope that you have had a good year since our meeting in Williamsburg. Tere and I are looking forward to the meeting in Berlin and Dresden.

Dr. Robert Campbell will step down from the active practice of Neurosurgery on 7/1/04. He started his neurosurgical career 50 years ago when he started his residency program. His entire career was at Indiana University. He was the Chairman for 39 years. He is a remarkable individual and has certainly been a great support to me for the last 12 years.

Indiana University's new Chairman of the Department of Surgery is Dr. Keith Lillemoe from Johns Hopkins. I am pleased to announce that he has agreed to make IU Neurosurgery an independent Department effective 7/1/04.

Our children's lives are progressing faster than their parents. Jon and Ben are living and working in New York City. Jon is planning a NYC wedding in April of 2005. Our daughter, Jennifer, has completed her education and for the time being is willing to live with her parents.

The Professional Liability Crisis continues to concern me. It does not seem right that Republican and Democratic politics should interfere with patient care. I have faith, however, that our political system will respond with meaningful reform at both a state and federal level.

Sincerely,

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

Dear Friends,

Life continues to be good.

Jean has returned to work and is on the University Orthopedic Faculty as a hand surgeon. She enjoys the patients and, as always, provides sympathetic care to many people. Her ability to listen to patients discuss issues that may not be entirely relevant to their current medical condition and smile helps distinguish her style of practice from others. The internist in her is hard to suppress. Despite working full time and taking her share of the emergency call she still is able to be "soccer mom (with its car-pooling responsibilities)", my vegetable gardener, and the early morning dog walker. She is actively investigating acquiring a vacation home in VT across the river from Dartmouth. Next year looks to be more of the same.

Matthew is now 14 and is currently in Outward Bound in the NC mountains. He finished 8th grade in the local middle school, just a block from our home. History seems to interest him more than any other subject. He managed to be selected (at the last moment) the "heavy weight" wrestler from his school for the regional competition. In his first match his opponent was at least 75 pounds his better and in this case speed did not triumph over weight.

Peter is 11 and moving into the 6th grade, again at the public grade school just down the street. He is tall and not very coordinated at this stage. Academically he is succeeding and will be on the Math team next year. He too is away at camp now. In his letters he indicates that he is recognized as having real talent in aiming water balloons with other campers in awe. All in all Peter is happy, content and doing well.

Last year I wrote that my term of office with the ASPN would finish with the January meeting at the Playa Conchal Resort in Costa Rica. We did manage to put on the meeting and had a great week. If you have never been to Costa Rica I would encourage everyone to visit. It was a truly remarkable experience. Also of note, we managed to pass a by-laws revision in the ASPN which allowed *Pediatric Neurosurgery* to close as our "official publication". It has been replaced by *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*. This was a big step for me and many of my fellow pediatric neurosurgeons. In the past we had treasured our independence and to fold our journal into JNS was a leap of faith. I am obviously bias in the assessment BUT the outcome looks to be successful. We still have significant editorial in-put and an increase in readership by a factor of 20. I hope that time continues to prove this was a wise decision.

So the Oakes' clan continues in good health and is anxious for the challenges of the coming year.

Jean & Jerry Oakes.

Department of
Neurological Surgery

51 NE Pacific Street
Campus Box 356470
Seattle, WA 98195-6470

Academic: 206-543-3570
Academic Fax: 206-543-8315

Clinical Appointments:
206-598-5637
Clinical Fax: 206-598-6494

June 28, 2004

Dear Academicians,

This has been an interesting year for us from both professional and family perspectives. We have greatly enjoyed having our son Jeff, his wife and son here in Seattle; after a year they seem well settled and Jeff well integrated into our faculty as a pediatric neurosurgeon. And we are well into the grandparent babysitting routine.

Our son Steve and his wife Liz presented us with another grandson June 1 (number 3 in the grandson category), necessitating even more trips to Denver, where Steve remains on the neurosurgical faculty at U Colorado. All are doing well. Charlie, the new grandson, is the second son of a second son of a second son of a second son. Years ago, the New York Times Magazine had an article on the relation between birth order and personality, claiming that second children are "warm, wonderful people" (George heartily agrees). Will be interesting to see what happens when this effect is raised to the fourth generation!

Our daughter Ann-Elizabeth and her husband are settled in Leavenworth WA, a small pseudoBavarian town in the Cascade mountains. From there, our daughter provides Emergency Medicine coverage to a number of surrounding towns, and occasionally they make the two and a half hour trip across the mountains to Seattle for such things as Mariner baseball games.

We traveled some this past year, to Hawaii for the Western Neurosurgical (who awarded George the Cloward medal), and Nurnberg Germany for retirement festivities for an old neurology friend (a commitment that prevented us from attending last year's Academy meeting), as well as the usual voyages to the East Coast to see all the relatives. George also received this year's Exceptional Service Award from the Epilepsy Foundation of Washington, an occasion celebrated with former colleagues (including Janet Ward, Arthur's widow) and former patients. Professionally Linda is officially retired, though writing papers and having weekly clinics, while George hasn't even thought about retiring. With the appointment of Rich Ellenbogen as permanent chairman, our Department is on a more even keel, recruiting strong residents and new faculty.

We plan on attending the Berlin-Dresden meeting and look forward to seeing you there.

Linda and George Ojemann

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

July 1, 2004

Dear Friends,

Julie and I are in fine shape, still flying back and forth between NYC and Vermont. Skiing seems to be on the backburner now, but there is snow to shovel in the winter and golf just across the road in summer. For me, that makes the country more aerobic than the city, and aerobic is good. Julie still has lots to keep her busy in the city, so we don't go away for very long in the winter though we talk about it. But where to go? Hawaii seems to have the best weather, but it is such a long hike!

Son Xander and his buddy, Dennise had a baby this spring, which makes the fourth female grandchild. Our daughter, Ritchie, is with her second child (at age 46), and that is predicted to be granddaughter number five. So, unless Dennise and Xander spring into action again, it could be the end of this line of Pattersons. Oh well!

Getting back to flying, when I was young, I had the idea that I would stop flying when I stopped operating. It's been 10 years from my last operation, and I'm still flying. It seems to be perfectly safe, but it leaves me with the dilemma of deciding when to quit and sell the airplane. Which brings up the question of how to know when to stop doing something that carries risk to others. If anyone has an idea, let me know. As for flying, I seem to have no problem passing the tests that are thrown at pilots; is that test enough? There's a question that has implications for the members of the ABNS and state medical licensing boards.

Best to you all,

Russel

13623 N.E. 32nd Place
Bellevue, WA 98005-1400
June 15, 2004

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

RE: Round Robin Letter

Dear Fellow Academicians:

Another summer rolls around for some of us. The number "50" has been reappearing recently for me, first, the 50th class reunion of my medical school class; then a letter and certificate from the American Medical Association announcing that I have been a member for 50 years; in June my eldest daughter, DeAnn, celebrated her 50th birthday. The Western Neurosurgical Society is having a 50th Anniversary meeting in September.

Milestones along the pathway of life. Concurrently, I receive a letter from the American Board of N.S., which "certified" me as a neurosurgeon 42 years ago, notifying me that if I ever wish to "resume practice" I must enroll in the recertification process. The California Board of Medical Examiners advises that since I no longer pay a annual fee to the state, I can not engage in the "practice of medicine". Can't even write a prescription for Metrogel ointment to treat my facial rosacea. On a brighter note, the Wash. DMV renewed my driving license to 2008 so I am determined to live until then and justify their confidence in this pleasant aspect of my daily activities.

It is so sad to witness the misplaced emphasis by doctors and medical organizations on a "cap" of medical malpractice awards for non-economic "damages" as the solution to the excessive cost of liability insurance. For example, West Virginia doctors, in 2003, engaged in a massive PR campaign, including a "march" to the state capitol to achieve simply a \$250,000 cap on a malpractice award or settlement. Now their state-subsidized medical liability insurance program announces an 8.4% increase in premiums for the first six months of 2004. WVa plaintiffs' attorneys have contributed over \$100,000 to the campaign for November election of one state supreme court judge in hopes of eventually overturning even that cap. We must realize that doctors and hospitals are pawns in a giant money-making machine for the lawyers, both defense and plaintiff counsel. The deserving patient, injured by medical negligence, receives only 6 cents of each insurance premium dollar. In fact, the defense bar gets a higher percentage than the plaintiff bar in total legal costs of medical malpractice cases! Without reform of the entire litigation system for personal injury claims, any of the currently proposed measures are only small bandaids on selected bleeding points, although some are more effective than others. The lawyers' dilemma is how to keep the golden eggs coming but not to kill the goose in the process.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, President Reagan lies in quiet repose while Bill Clinton proclaims that his impeachment was a “badge of honor” and that the worst day of his life was when he had to admit to Hiliary that he had lied to everyone. Of course, we all know that his DNA stain on the blue dress was the only reason he eventually confessed. Bad memories that we do best to promptly forgive and forget!

Now on to Berlin and Dresden for the joint Academies’ meeting in October. Lucy and I are looking forward to a wonderful trip and seeing all of you there.

With best wishes to all for good health & happiness,


Byron C. Pevehouse



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

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

July 7, 2004

Dear Fellow Academicians:

Once again it seems the calls for the Round Robin have come earlier than ever and I fear my belated communication will be in danger of missing the book or at best, making the loose leaf addenda.

For Jane and me this has been a memorable year starting with recognizing (but not celebrating enough) our 40th year of marriage in July 2003. We were delighted to share the occasion with some of our children and grandchildren in the Colorado Rockies. Four months later we were honored and privileged to share with most of you my Presidential meeting in Williamsburg. Jane and I had a delightful time and were so pleased and proud that our 3 sons and 2 daughters-in-law could be present. We all thought it was a wonderful venue. I'm ever indebted to Mary Jean and Richard Morawetz who tended to the arrangements so very well and to Jon Robertson's scientific program committee, all combining to make this for us a most special and memorable event.

This past May it was again a high honor for me to preside over the annual meeting of The Society of Neurological Surgeons in New Orleans. I can only express heartfelt thanks to my SNS colleagues, to Dave and Nell Kline for their fine job with arrangements, and to Warren Selman for pulling together the scientific program.

Being elected to leadership of neurosurgery's two most prestigious organizations has constituted for me reward and recognition beyond which I could have ever expected and I am most grateful to my fellow members. The confidence that you, the Academy, has further shown in naming me as Academy Historian to follow Cone Pevehouse is humbling inasmuch as I know this position carries an obligation to maintain not only our historical documents but also the meaningful traditions and high standards of the organization constituted by America's neurosurgical leaders.

A stimulating cerebrovascular symposium organized by Michael Morgan in Sydney provided Jane and me the opportunity to once again spend time in that beautiful city and also to vacation a bit with Michael and Elizabeth Morgan and Chris and Katie Wallace in the Queensland rain forest as well as visits to the Great Barrier Reef and the environs of Port Douglas. We had such a splendid time and thoroughly enjoyed the magnificent natural beauty of each place as well as the company of the Wallaces and Morgans. The casual atmosphere was accentuated by fine dining and we enjoyed the ritual of Michael and Chris testing their palates as well as each other on the never-ending array of Australian fine wines.

July 7, 2004
Page 2

I have become acutely aware, and I'm reminded frequently by Jane, that attendance at all these meetings has taken a toll on unencumbered vacation time as well as being at home to share with all my colleagues here at Mayo in the real work of the institution. Hopefully during the remainder of this summer there will be some opportunities for some time with our grandchildren and personal rather than professional priorities. I have made one big step towards this goal in moving out of the Department Chair position after 12 years. In keeping with Mayo Neurosurgery traditions, our Personnel Committee stayed within the department in choosing my successor and named Dr. Fred Meyer to the position. I was pleased to turn over the reins this past week. I believe the department is in good shape with excellent staff, residents, secretaries and paramedical personnel and will undoubtedly thrive under Fred's leadership.

Jane and I are looking forward to more time together with our family, with special friends, and perhaps even a building project in the Minnesota north woods and lake country if I can stay true to my promise of fewer commitments.

We are looking forward very much to seeing you and hopefully many of our German colleagues as well as some of our "German family" in Berlin this October.

Sincerely,



David G. Piepgras, M.D.

DGP:cbh



Albany Medical College

Department of Surgery

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A. John Popp, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor
Henry and Sally Schaffer Chair of Surgery
Director, Neurosciences Institute

July 7, 2004

L .N. Hopkins, MD
3 Gates Circle, 3rd Floor
Buffalo, NY 14209 -1194

Dear Nick,

With the conclusion of my presidency of the AANS in May at the annual meeting in Orlando, I find that I actually have some time to devote to other things. The past year has been both exhilarating and rewarding. I have made many new friends and strengthened existing friendships. The AANS staff consistently raised the bar for responsive service and the quality of educational programs. They really are a positive reflection on all of us in the AANS. It was a year I will long remember and together, with the help of many in neurosurgery, I believe we were able to strengthen this fine organization.

It was another year of firsts. My son Richard graduated from law school and my grandson Andrew (age 1) learned to toss a ball overhand. Granddaughter Catherine (age 4) swims like a fish and loves to read "...by herself"; her parents, Matt and daughter Christine, are enjoying their new home in Scottsdale, Arizona. The Neuroscience Institute at Albany Medical Center continues to grow and has become the dominant force in the Capital Region. In spite of the national shortage of neurosurgeons we continue to successfully recruit adding a second fellowship-trained spine surgeon and a second fellowship trained endovascular neurosurgeon. All of this youth and talent has energized me and despite of my outside responsibilities I find that my surgical schedule increased by 25% last year. Our clinical research program in the NSI has grown to the point that Earl Zimmerman decided to devote himself exclusively to research relinquishing his position as Chair of Neurology. This change along with the unprecedented growth in the Neuroscience Institute has led me to give up the Chair of the Department of Surgery after 18 years. I am proud of the caliber of surgeons we have attracted to the Albany Medical Center and feel the department will continue to grow under the leadership of David Conti as interim chair. With my smaller span of responsibilities, I will be able to focus my energies on the Neuroscience Institute and perhaps some piano works by Chopin and Nikolai Medtner. Peggy continues her role as VP Center Operations and is currently

Wellness Center. She continues to figure skate and seems to thrive on the combination of work and athletics.

Peggy and I send our best wishes to the members of the Academy and if their travels bring them close to Albany this summer, please join us for a concert at Saratoga or Tanglewood.

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

A. John Popp, M.D.



Department of Neurosurgery
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Dr. Post
Dr. Post
Dr. Post

Kalmon D. Post, M.D.
Chairman

Leonard I. Malis M.D./
Sprinne and Joseph Graber Professor
Department of Neurosurgery

March 1, 2004

Nick Hopkins, MD
University at Buffalo Neurosurgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209

Dear Nick:

It's hard to believe that another year has passed and it is again time for contribution to the Round Robin.

Life is always interesting in New York. This past year has been particularly interesting at Mount Sinai because of the financial issues that the institution faced over the past two years. However, the last 12 months have been very positive, with an excellent turn-around at the institution. Great attention was paid to increasing volume and decreasing expenses. It has taken great effort from everyone in the institution, but it has been very successful. We are now again in the building phase and doing well. I have had the pleasure, or headache (as however you see) of chairing the entire Practice Plan for the Medical Center this past year, focused particularly at protecting the surgical subspecialty areas to keep the finances in our hands. We will all continue as independent departments, doing our own billing and collecting, but moving towards a common system so that best practices can be achieved uniformly.

In the department, the greatest achievement clearly was recruiting Dick Winn to join us. He is now Director of Neurosurgical Research and has his laboratory in full activity. Having him as a close colleague and friend as well as mentor to all members of the Department has just been outstanding. It is a sheer pleasure to have Dick pop into the office daily and bounce ideas back and forth on almost any topic. The only thing we really haven't done together is improve our golf game, although we have tried.

We have added a fourth operating room to our Neurosurgical Program this year and are just completing building out an entire new academic office suite for our cerebrovascular program. We have also recruited Prithvi Narayan to join us this coming July as our Pediatric Neurosurgeon. We are delighted with that.

Letter to: Nick Hopkins, MD

As a combination of Department and home front, it has been a pleasure having Alex as a Resident in the Department. He has been working hard, as I expected, and doing very, very well. The assimilation by all other members of the Department, particularly the Resident team, has been a pleasure to watch. He however, knows that the tough years are still ahead.

The remainder of the family is doing quite well. Alex's wife, Lauren, graduated Mount Sinai School of Medicine last May and is now two-thirds of the way through her internship in Medicine. This coming July she will begin the program of Emergency Medicine at Mount Sinai. She and Alex will finish training just about the same time. What their future plans will be are not even known to them.

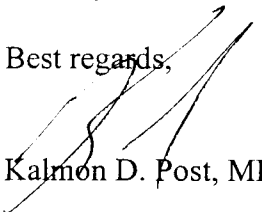
Illana and Lawrence are also doing extremely well. Illana has two children now, Sophia, who is six, and Lawrence, who is four. Both are attending school full days, which now has allowed Illana to go back to work. She has rejoined Skadden Arps as an Attorney in New York after a six year leave. I think that is unprecedented by the firm. However, she is overjoyed and will easily balance that work with home life. It is our delight that they live just a mile down the road, so we get to see them quite often.

Linda is completely enmeshed in her Program at Montefiore Hospital. She is one of three members of the Division of Bioethics and has always three or four balls in the air, juggling grants, consults, ethics, teaching, and publications. She still thinks she has the best job in the world and doesn't envision slowing down.

We still enjoy skiing in Colorado, but may be slowing down with that a little bit, only as far as speed. Each year we think we get a little better, but that is probably because we ski a little bit easier. My goal this year, as always, is to improve my golf game. I know I can always have that as a goal because it will never be achieved.

My best regards to all members of the academy. Linda and I look forward to seeing you all in the very near future.

Best regards,



Kalmon D. Post, MD

KDP:mn/TSPS
#3768938

Dear Friends,

July 6, 2004

It's hard to believe another year has flown by – however when I look in the mirror I certainly can believe it! The Quests have had another wonderful year. We were able to take the whole group to Hawaii this Spring for some fun, relaxation and bonding.

Wendy, Pete, Blake, and Luke continue to enjoy life in Santa Fe. I figure when we are able to spend more time there – they'll move!!

Amy, Ted, Halle and I'll Jack, born October 8th, 2003, are all thriving. Ted is still on the hunt for a head golf pro job so if anyone knows of a place, I can give him a very strong recommendation.

Susan and Jared love being New Yorkers and are very excited about becoming parents on or about December 1st. Don and I are simply ecstatic to welcome our 5th grandchild and having them close by is a amazing bonus.

Don continues his many Boards and loves his neurosurgical responsibilities. What a wonderful group of people he has had the opportunity to work with and play with! All is well if you're living with a happy man – being a grandfather has put so many smiles on his face.

Now enough about them – let's talk about me. I continue my volunteer activities plus my household duties – the greatest of which is being with the grandchildren. I want them to really know the FUN grandmother – “anything you want” always works!

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Germany.

Love


Ilona Quest

June 25, 2004

Dear Fellow Academicians,

Kathy's and my oldest son, Forrest, has graduated from Mayo High School. He will be attending Occidental College in the Los Angeles area in the fall. This college is located within miles of our old house in La Canada, where we lived when I was on the USC faculty. Forrest was determined to go to college someplace warm; he certainly accomplished that. Besides the weather, he wanted to leave the Midwest because "the Midwest is boring". He hopes to follow up on his interest in biology in college. I am very proud of him. He is spending the summer working in my lab, so I should get to see him quite a bit before he leaves.

My younger son, Colin, will be senior in high school next year. He hopes to graduate a semester early, so he can go to England in the spring and take a class in guitar-making. He is only 16 years old, but has his own online business, which you can check out at www.experimentalistsanonymous.com! He has taught himself to design and manufacture guitar pedals, devices used to alter the sound of electric guitars. He sells these online or on eBay. Speaking of eBay, Colin is spending 8 weeks in California this summer working as an intern at eBay. He is staying with my parents, and, as my 3 siblings all live in the Bay Area, he will spend lots of time with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. When he returns, we have the joy of going through the college application process again.

Kathy continues to work half time in the Department of Patient Education at the Clinic. She has been accumulating quite a collection of Mata Ortiz pottery over the last few years. A portion of her collection is now on display at the Clinic. The show has been quite a hit! Kathy has been enjoying reading the comments left behind by visitors to the exhibit. Indeed, the Clinic has just asked if the show can be extended! Kathy is also trying to get in some "quality time" with our sons. It is hard to come to grips with the idea that they will both have "left the nest" in 6 months. Kathy is a great mother and gets most of the credit for raising our two fine children. We will see what the future holds for her when she has more time for herself when they have both gone off to school.

I continue in my role as pediatric neurosurgeon at the Mayo Clinic. Given the Clinic's lack of enthusiasm for the pediatric practice in general, this can be trying at times. My lab investigations into medulloblastoma are ongoing. I am in the last year of my current R01 grant and have just submitted a proposal for a new grant. Please keep your fingers crossed for me.

Kathy and I enjoy getting away to Telluride. We were there in the winter for skiing. I hurt my back and was laid up for days! We are on our way there again next week. I went myself last fall and did some great fishing and hiking, accompanied for part of the time by Nick Barbaro. Also had a great time there last summer with the Mapstones and Boops. Fly fishing remains a passion, and I appreciate the time I spent with Tim Mapstone and Tom Luerssen trying to master surf fly fishing as Tim's guest at Little Cumberland Island.

Remarkably, Kathy and I just celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary. My parents came out to Rochester to help celebrate. Based on the overwhelming number of comments, I guess congratulations are to be given to Kathy for putting up with me for so long! In all seriousness, I am truly blessed to have Kathy as my friend, partner, and lover.

At this time, we are hoping to attend the meeting in Germany. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Corey Raffel

Peggy S. Ratcheson
2871 Attleboro Road
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

June 23, 2004

Dear Academicians,

This has been a hectic year with lots of travel: neurosurgery meetings, Bob's responsibilities as AANS president, several college-visiting trips with Abby, a couple of important family occasions and, of course the beloved fishing trips to Montana. I thought things were supposed to slow down as we got older!

We celebrated Bob's mother's 90th birthday in February and my dad's 93rd in March. They are both in excellent health. We are so lucky and we just hope those longevity genes have been passed down to us.

At the other end of the age spectrum, our "baby" (Abby) is a rising senior in high school this fall, so college is a frequent topic in the household. Abby has a definite set of criteria by which she judges all colleges visited, although she hasn't shared that with us. Her summer is divided among working on a science research project in the pharmacology department at Case, attending a Youth Leadership Forum in Medicine in Boston, and attending field-hockey-related activities away and here in Cleveland. Our wonderful grandchildren, already 5 and 6, will be visiting us in Montana this summer and we are looking forward to that. Rachael will be joining me first for a "Bitterroot Babes" trip to Holland Lake with some of our Montana womenfolk friends. Alexey continues to do well. He is currently taking preliminary courses that hopefully will lead to his entrance into a radiographic technology program, and he is continuing his DJ gigs whenever possible.

Bob will be welcoming David Hart into the Neurosurgery Department in September. David trained with Marty Weiss and he and his wife, Joan, are expecting their second child soon, so have put off their arrival until fall. The Neurosurgery Department is aging. Russ Hardy is retiring this fall and, by hospital rules, Bob will have to step down as Chairman at the end of next year. With Abby going off to college in fall 2005, we have begun talking about options for "what to do" next. Fortunately, many of our friends are at this same stage, so we get lots of opinions and advice.

I will be starting a new job in September with the Cleveland Artists Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve, promote, and expand the concept of the "Cleveland School" of artists. This will be a new challenge for me in subject matter, in scope, and in location (on the west side of the Cuyahoga River).

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Berlin.

With best regards,

Peggy and Bob

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

Saturday, June 26th, 2004

Round Robin, American Academy of Neurological Surgery
c/o Nick Hopkins, MD
Department of Neurological Surgery, 3 Gates Circle, Buffalo, NY 14209

Academicians,

These days we are in and out of Rancho Mirage, California (The Springs) a good bit. Our children and grandchildren, however, are now in Salt Lake City and have grown to constitute a compelling group.

As of this fall, for the first time in decades, all are back in SLC. Joe and Stacey (commercial real estate), Chuck and Tiffany (neurosurgeon), Steve (Utah Sports Commission), Chris and Mindi (psychiatry residency UCSD-now fellowship year, childhood-adolescent psychiatry UUtah) and Michael and Megan (starts UUtah School of Medicine this fall) are here and this happy circumstance will, no doubt, limit our time in California.

Hope things go smoothly in Athens. They will have an excellent medical team whose leadership I have met and admire. After having spent a full month both in Nagano and Sydney during their Games plus five years of planning for everything to do with our Games here, TV will be a perfectly acceptable viewing perspective this time around. Several of us from the Salt Lake Organizing Committee were in Athens in the fall of 2001 and really enjoyed the whole experience.

This afternoon, Chuck and I played a farewell, celebratory round of golf with Jack Walker (Head, Neurosurgery, Primary Children's Hospital) and Richard Anderson, his Fellow who'll soon return to the NYNI as a staff pediatric neurosurgeon. To say Richard has been impressive while here is an understatement. He'd be welcome to stay here permanently – for absolute sure. Bill Couldwell continues to build the department that Peter Heilbrun expertly put together at the UUHSC. I hear compliments about Bill all the time and am pleased that an excellent town-gown relationship has been maintained over these many years.

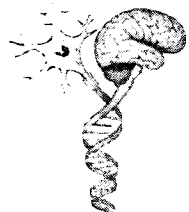
Just so it's understood what's ahead for some of you, tonight we have tended successive sets of grandchildren well into the evening. Jasmine, quintessential grandmother, is far more adept in that role than am I. It's a good thing they're adorable.

We look forward to Berlin and Dresden.

Highest regards,

Chuck

Charles and Jasmine Rich



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

Neurosurgeons

- Dr. A. Bernstein
- Dr. D. Cusimano
- Dr. B. Dirks
- Dr. M. Drake
- Dr. M. Fazl
- Dr. G. Fehlings
- Dr. Gentili
- Dr. Gupta
- Dr. A. Kulkarni
- Dr. M. Lozano
- Dr. Massicotte
- Dr. Midha
- Dr. J. Moulton
- Dr. J. Muller
- Dr. G. Perrin
- Dr. P. Pirouzmand
- Dr. W. Rowed
- Dr. L. Schwartz
- Dr. S. Smyth
- Dr. H. Tator
- Dr. S. Tucker
- Dr. M. Tymianski
- Dr. K. Valiante
- Dr. Christopher Wallace

Debie Zimmer

Assistant to L. Nelson Hopkins, M.D

University of Buffalo Neurosurgery

3 Gates Circle

Buffalo, NY 14209

June 29th, 2004

Re: **Round Robin Entry 2004**

Dear Fellow Academicians,

The year began with the arrival of our 3 top-ranked PGY1 residents in neurosurgery. This year we lobbied for and received an extra residency position from the University of Toronto, so as of July 1, 2004, we will offer 4 PGY-1 positions annually. We continue to run our didactic curriculum for the residents on Friday mornings, and post their lectures on our website for study purposes. Chris Wallace ran two Lougheed Microvascular Courses in the fall and spring, and we offered a hands-on course in Cervical Spine Fixation course in the spring for the residents.

Our faculty continued to garner major grant awards from the US and Canada, this year in excess of \$6 million, and residents and faculty contributed to 129 publications in peer reviewed journals.

Our academic calendar was enriched with the visits and lectures of several neurosurgeons including: Vinko Dolenc, Chandranath Sen, Sam Al-Mefty, Gary Steinberg, Nino Chiocca, Eric Holland, David Roberts, Jerry Oakes, Jean Regis, Leland Albright, Nick Hopkins, and Jan Goffin. I would like to thank all of them for their contributions to our residents' education.

On the home front, the year began with our oldest, Daniel, heading off to McGill University to study music. I believe his leaving home was much harder on me than it was on Mari. Our daughter Hana, age 16, continues to dance at the National Ballet School of Canada. And Marissa, age 14, continues to study her arts-based curriculum at the Claude Watson School of Fine Arts.

Neuroscientists

- Dr. D. Davis
- Dr. M. Dennis
- Dr. H. Eubanks
- Dr. A. Houlden
- Dr. D. Hutchinson
- Dr. E. McGlade
- Dr. M. Saint-Cyr

Emeritus

- Dr. A. Elgie
- Dr. R. Fleming
- Dr. J. Hoffman
- Dr. R. Hudson
- Dr. B. Humphreys
- Dr. M. Lougheed
- Dr. P. Morley
- Dr. B. Schacter
- Dr. D. R. Tasker



3
4

Mari ran for office this year as a School Board Trustee in our district, and won! She now looks after the educational welfare of over 12,000 students in 29 public schools. This is an enormous task. And I thought my job was difficult! Fortunately, Mari is thoroughly enjoying her new job. Like ships passing through the night, we try to get caught up on what is going on in each other's life whenever we can grab the chance.

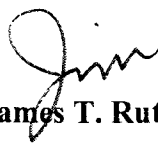
Last summer we spent 5 glorious days along the Barron Canyon in Algonquin Provincial Park on a canoe trip with the entire family. This summer, we plan to paddle along the historic French River which empties into Georgian Bay. We will have to handle a bit of "white water" this year, so let's hope we stay dry.

In June 2004, I completed 5 years as Chair of Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto. David Piepgras from Mayo Clinic reviewed my past 5 years as Chair. I am truly thankful to David for his kind and helpful comments which will enable our program to become even better over the next 5 years. This year also marked my final year as a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Neurosurgery*. So that I would not be resting on idle hands, I just purchased an RX-6 Kawai Grand Piano, and am very much looking forward to practicing on it over the next year.

I am honored to be this year's Scientific Program Chair for the Academy, and I do look forward to working with Gabriele Schackert in making this one of the strongest programs ever for the Academy under these special circumstances of our joint meeting with our German colleagues in both Berlin and Dresden.

My best wishes to all of you and I look forward to seeing you in Germany.

Sincerely,



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

JTR/mp

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD ANDERSON
CANCER CENTER

Raymond Sawaya, MD
Professor & Chairman
Department of Neurosurgery – 442
The Anne C. Brooks & Anthony D. Bullock, III
Distinguished Chair in Neurosurgery
713-792-2400 Phone
713-794-4950 Fax

June 22, 2004

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

It is a privilege to have been accepted as a full member of The American Academy of Neurological Surgery and I would like to thank the many who have expressed warm and supportive comments pertaining to this occurrence. It has even been pointed out to me by a former mentor, that of all the neurosurgical societies he has been involved with, this one has been the most enjoyable. Certainly, having this opportunity to share one's life events in the form of this letter; and to know that many care to read it, is in itself unique and special.

I regret to miss this year's Academy meeting in Germany, undoubtedly a great program and a marvelous setting. I had committed to participating in the World Federation Course on Neuro-Oncology in Jaipur, India, a meeting that will be followed immediately by the Congress of Neurological Surgeons in San Francisco. This year's meeting carries a great significance as it coincides with the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors, which I happen to Chair. The section was established in 1984, at the urging of Ed Laws, by Mark Rosenblum, who was then residing in San Francisco. Through hard work and the participation of many, the section has grown to become one of the most active and successful among all the Joint Sections.

A satellite tumor symposium will follow the CNS meeting during which we will celebrate the many accomplishments of the past twenty years. It is therefore, to prepare for all these events that I will be unable to participate in the Academy meeting.

From a practice standpoint, I continue to enjoy a unique setup and the full support of my associates. However, as a neurosurgeon and an academic practitioner, one cannot ignore the significant difficulties that our specialty is facing. I am referring to the malpractice crisis and the state of the residency training programs. I was greatly disturbed when a personal friend of mine; a solid neurosurgeon, superbly trained at one of our premier medical schools, who has no malpractice history, told me that he had to find a different employment because he literally could not afford the malpractice insurance fees for next year that were due in only a month. This is truly an untenable situation for our specialty.

The model that I have been fortunate to function under is one of a State-owned insurance that covers all the faculty within the University of Texas. The premium is extremely low, certainly in today's national standards. Why couldn't this model be adopted by other institutions across the country by joining together and forming consortia? Maybe this is a naïve question?

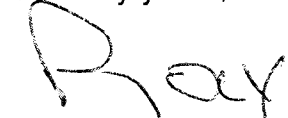
From the practice of neurosurgery standpoint, we also have the advantage of being full-time salaried. Such a system encourages cooperation and sub specialization in neurosurgery and prevents strong disparities in income among the faculty. Moreover, it permits the investment of the added earned income into programmatic and academic developments.

On a personal level, this year has seen our last daughter graduate from high school. Kristin and I were married nine years ago, and her two daughters, Brittany (20) and Jessica (18), and my son Marc (23) and my daughter Corinne (19) were at the time pre to early teenagers and as many of you can imagine, this represented significant challenges. As they have entered adulthood, the challenges have not diminished, but they have instead been morphed into issues of relationships, independence, antagonism and professional identity and direction.

As our kids search for their own place in society, Kristin and I look forward to a deepening bond between us and offering whatever guidance is listened to and accepted.

Have a wonderful meeting and I look forward to reading your thoughts and learning about your life events.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Raymond Sawaya, MD



Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität

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

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

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Bonn, 28.6.2004/heu/heu

Dear Academicians,

We are looking forward to this year's Annual Meeting in Berlin and Dresden. Both cities have enjoyable sights and interesting attractions.

Our eldest daughter has finished her biology studies and is currently reviewing topics and labs for her PhD she hopes to do. The middle daughter is approaching her final year at law school. Moritz is not going to return from Ampleforth College in the UK, instead he opted to finish school in England, which enables him to finish school one year earlier than in Germany. It was a surprise that he took schooling in England so well and got really enthusiastic, but, despite being all-alone now at home, we are quite happy with his decision.

At work despite the ever tighter getting grip of bureaucracy we again managed to increase the clinical workload. Our neuroscience group was weakened by the departure of my trusted friend Otmar D. Wiestler, our former chair of neuropathology, who was promoted to the scientific director of the German Cancer Research Centre in Heidelberg. We are currently looking for a new neuropathologist and hopefully the good collaboration on the topics of chronic epilepsy lesions and brain tumors will continue. The neuroscience group is happy to have successfully obtained two large grants, going for 3 and 4 years respectively, supporting a clinical centre for gliomas and research in mesial temporal lobe epilepsy. The implementation of the new European law on working hours for doctors has been suspended for two years, because the government obviously didn't know how to pay for it. Most senior doctors are worried how to keep up good training and continuity in patient care. Life has not changed much otherwise.

Dorothea and I look forward to meeting our friends in Dresden.

Best wishes

Johannes Schramm, M.D.



Children's Hospital Boston

Department of Neurosurgery
The Christopher K. Fellows Family Chair in Pediatric Neurosurgery



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Department of Surgery
Professor of Surgery

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

June 21, 2004

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

Dear Nick:

This letter is the Scott Family contribution to the Round Robin for the Academy this year. This fall will be very busy for us. My daughter, Elizabeth, is expecting her first child in September and we will be sorry to miss what sounds like a wonderful meeting in Dresden and Berlin. Susan's daughter, Heather, is moving in July to a new home in Hingham, MA. And Susan has been spending a great deal of time helping with the transition for Heather and her two children. My boys are still living and working in music. Robert will have a steady job all summer long on Cape Cod playing his jazz piano in a variety of venues, and David will be continuing to work in Brooklyn, NY throughout the summer playing various instruments at various jobs. Over the past several years, David has taught himself to play the sitar and has been playing regularly in an Indian restaurant. He plays the instrument beautifully and to my ear he sounds quite authentic. I have purchased a new stand-up traveling bass violin to accompany Robert when he plays out in Provincetown, and I hope to get out there several times during the next few months. We are having our 100 year-old Steinway rebuilt during the summer and having it out of the house is causing a great deal of separation anxiety. Susan continues to work at New England Medical Center in the operating rooms and in the clinics on an as-needed basis, and I enjoy hearing about the accomplishments of Bill Shucart and his department when she is over there.

We have had some exciting changes in our own department In Children's Hospital over the past six months. A wonderful and generous family has funded a Chair for me in pediatric neurosurgery at the Children's Hospital, and I was also named Neurosurgeon-in-Chief at the hospital earlier in the year. We have a wonderful group of pediatric neurosurgeons now at the hospital, and will add our fifth full-time pediatric neurosurgeon this July when Ed Smith, who was a medical student at Columbia and trained at the Mass General, joins us.

We will miss seeing everyone in Berlin and Dresden and hope that the meeting is successful.

Regards,

R. Michael Scott, M.D.

PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL

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301 SOUTH 8TH STREET
SUITE 4B
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

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

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

June 21, 2004

Fellow Academicians

This year marked a sad event in Philadelphia medicine, the essential closure of the Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital as a working clinical and academic center. As mentioned in my 2003 Academy presentation, Philadelphia's malpractice crisis along with unreimbursed indigent care is resulting in access problems and will likely continue to worsen. The Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital was founded about 150 years ago as Women's Medical College and had a strong tradition of clinical care. Dr. W. W. Keen was on the faculty when he performed America's first successful brain tumor removal.

On a happier note, the Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital closure for me is an opportunity to move back to Pennsylvania Hospital where I spent over 25 years as chief, my happiest time in neurosurgery.

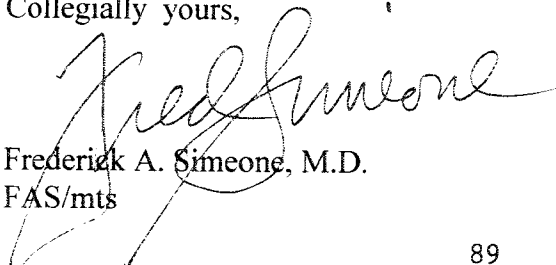
Christina is in graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania and Katie is a star at Germantown Friend's School.

I am co-editing three books, *Molecular Neurosurgery*, *Interventional Spine* and the fifth edition of *The Spine*.

The Sports Car Museum has grown and, as a charitable foundation, we have some interesting offers for its final venue. There will be a core collection, rotating exhibits, and a library for the study of automotive history and for safety instruction.

Hopefully, the next Round Robin letter will give you a hint as to where you can come to visit.

Collegially yours,



Frederick A. Simeone, M.D.
FAS/mts

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VOLKER K.H. SONNTAG, M.D.

ROBERT F. SPETZLER, M.D.
VOLKER K. H. SONNTAG, M.D.
TIMOTHY HARRINGTON, M.D.
ANDREW G. SHETTER, M.D.
WILLIAM L. WHITE, M.D.
HAROLD L. REKATE, M.D.

JOSEPH M. ZABRAMSKI, M.D.
CURTIS A. DICKMAN, M.D.
BRIAN C. FITZPATRICK, M.D.
CAMERON G. McDOUGALL, M.D.

KRIS A. SMITH, M.D.
FREDERICK F. MARCIANO, M.D., Ph.D.
F. DAVID BARRANCO, M.D.
STEPHEN M. PAPAPOPOULOS, M.D.
RANDALL W. PORTER, M.D.
FELIPE C. ALBUQUERQUE, M.D.

June 27, 2004

Dear Fellow Academicians:

Lynne and I hope your past year was successful and enjoyable. We certainly had a busy one. It has been fun and exciting getting ready for this year's meeting in Berlin and Dresden. The whole family and Alissa's boyfriend, Tyler, went on a preview, visiting Berlin and Dresden in the summer of 2003. This also gave us the opportunity to visit family and friends in Germany. Berlin is an exciting and vital city. There are many historic sites and great restaurants. The rebuilding of the former East Berlin is still continuing, although almost done. Dresden is certainly a beautiful city. The host hotel for the meeting is in the middle of the historic section and within walking distance of the castle, parks, and other great sites. We really had a very enjoyable time visiting these two cities. Our travels continued when Lynne, Stephen, and I had the opportunity to visit Paris in December for a weekend. The city was fully decorated in beautiful Christmas lights. We were very impressed with this beautiful city of lights. The food, museums and monuments were truly superb. Christmas we celebrated in Cabo, Mexico with Lynne's mother and her sister's family. The trip involved surfing, deep sea fishing, and celebrating the holiday in the warm and friendly Mexico.

Lynne and I have kept active by both walking /running the first Phoenix Rock-n-Roll marathon that following January. In the spring both of us trained and participated in dragon boat races in the nearby Tempe Town Lake. It was great fun. We kept up our activities by doing the annual neurosurgical department rim-to-rim Grand Canyon hike, followed a week later by rafting down the Colorado River through the canyon. Both were great experiences. The Grand Canyon truly deserves the designation as one of the seven natural world wonders.

Our children are doing well in their own particular pursuits. Stephen finished seventh grade, played La Cross and is looking forward to eighth grade. Christopher is in his final year at Arizona State University and looking forward to life after college. Alissa is continuing to enjoy life in Southern California. She is working for Neil Martin, for the Department of Neurosurgery at UCLA. She also continues to teach yoga and is enjoying both activities. Lynne, of course, continues her volunteer work for

multiple organizations. She continues to play tennis, jog, and take care of all of us, as well as our newest addition to the family, a one-year-old springer spaniel named Tara.

I finished my years on the American Board of Neurological Surgery recently during the Spring session in New Orleans. The time on the Board was truly rewarding. The Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process is off and running.

Our neurosurgical department here at the Barrow Neurological Institute continues to be very active. Patient care, resident and fellow education, research, writing, and reviewing papers fills each day. We are also embattled with the malpractice issue. Fortunately, we have great colleagues, fellows, and residents who make work still enjoyable. The BNI tower is taking shape and is ahead of the scheduled completion date of January 2006.

Lynne and I are looking forward to the meeting in Germany and hope to see you all there. Berlin should be a good educational and cultural experience. In Dresden we will be joined by German neurosurgical colleagues for what should be an exciting educational meeting, as well as a superb social and cultural experience. Until then,

Auf Wiedersehen,

Volker K.H. Sonntag, M.D.

VKHS/dn

DR: 6/28/04

DT: 6/28/04



Barrow Neurological Institute®
St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center



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 85013-1400
(602) 926-3489

June 4, 2004

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

Dear Nick:

One of the lessons of the aging process is that time moves at an increasingly rapid pace. I could have sworn that I dictated the last *Round Robin* letter just a few months ago.

From a professional perspective, the BNI continues to do remarkably well and my productive colleagues provide ample reason for pride.

On a more personal note, Nancy and I continue to derive a great deal of pleasure from our long-standing friendship with our current president, Volker, and his lovely wife, Lynne. Indeed, we just spent five beautiful days together in the Bahamas celebrating our mutual 30-year wedding anniversaries. Nancy and I also became grandparents last year and we enjoy this status tremendously and with great pleasure and enthusiasm.

We continue to be physically active with mountain and road biking and volleyball on the weekends with residents, fellows and attendings. Indulging in our first road biking event, the *Tour de Tucson*, and our first marathon, the *Rock 'n Roll* marathon in Phoenix, has whetted our appetites for further participation in these organized races.

These excessive physical pursuits, intended to counter my grandpa status, remain a great source of personal satisfaction. Next week, several of our fellows and I are scheduled to climb Mt. Rainier.

I trust this letter finds all fellow academicians well, and I wish them and theirs the very best for the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Spetzler, M.D.

Lois Sundt Mueller

Dear Friends:

First, we have a new Scottsdale address: 11949 N. 80th Place, Scottsdale, Az. 85260

I found a new home just around the corner from the Patio Home. This is larger, and with high ceilings, feels like a Home, not a Condo. It, too, backs onto a golf course, and has been a great joy for me. Having given up a Home in Tucson, it was wonderful to once again feel that I have a real home as I know Thor would want me to have. Our Napa valley home is fabulous, but is not mine, nor ever would be! We spend almost 7 months in Napa, but with almost monthly trips to Arizona. I have found myself happiest in Arizona and with a close association with the Scottsdale Mayo Clinic. We are finally back to traveling again and this July have a Prague, Budapest (where we will stay with a friend who is now the U.S. Ambassador to Hungary) and then catch a cruise with Mayo Clinic-Louis Rukeyser seminars. In September we will enjoy another Lindblad cruise to Scottish Isles.

Last June my children gave me (and John) a 70th Birthday Family Cruise to Alaska and it was a glorious time. Thor would have been proud of them!!! Such fun to have all my "kids" captive with me for a whole week!

"Young" Thor is happy as a clam in Rochester and I'll be seeing them in June when I accompany a good friend and her daughter to Mayo so Fred Meyer can see their child who appears to have Moya Moya. Her mother is deaf, but had cochlear implant by George Facer, of Mayo, and we thought it would be helpful if I went along. Thor's son, Hal, 14, is now 6'1" and a great Basketball player and Honor Roll Student. Won the Physics prize at the Science Fair. Being my only Grandchild, he is, of course, almost perfect. This June he is going to Lute Olson's Basketball Camp in Tucson. Laura and her husband are busy, healthy and happy in Tucson and celebrating their 10th Anniversary in September. She has just received the Junior League Award for Sustainers contributions to the community. She is extremely active in all facets of the community. She has rejoined Merrill Lynch after serving as a V.Pres. of Northern Trust Bank in Tucson. Son John is changing jobs September 1, also, leaving Sundt Construction and joining a friend who owns and runs 15 trailer courts across the West and also has something to do with financing sales of the trailers??? Anyway, he is moving forward, single again as of Dec. 24, (Merry Christmas!) and handling all the changes in his life very well. Laura has, as usual, held the family closely together, having brother John move in with her and her Jon while his house sold and he looked for an apartment. Now he is settled and all is "back to normal", whatever that is!

John and I are no longer doing our own "wine thing". His Cabernet grapes are now sold to Conn Creek and the Syrah to Freemark Abbey under Highlands label. His youngest daughter has a 2 and a 5 year old who are with us frequently in Napa and are a delight.

We'll be in St. Helena until mid-November as is our custom. We do most of the traveling in the summer, but have had several wonderful trips to Mexico in January and February. I hate to give up much of my "Arizona Time". We are well, busy and happy and hope all of you are the same. Fondest wishes, Lois

Love To All, Lois

Kintomo Takakura, M.D., Ph.D.
President
Tokyo Women's Medical University
8-1 Kawada-cho, Shinjuku-ku,
Tokyo, 162-8666, Japan

Dear Fellow Academicians:

It is now the mid of the hottest summer in Tokyo in the history. The past year has relatively been a peaceful one. Here is what is happening with our family.

My daughters are both living near by our home. The younger daughter, Lily, has now two girls, Nana (4 years old) and Ruru (5 months old), our grand daughters. Our elder daughter, Momo has started her small dental clinic last year near by my home. Her husband is also a dentist working in the Tokyo Medical and Dental University Hospital.

As far as my University concerned, a new out-patient clinic building was built last year and I think it is a finest out-patient clinic in Japan today. Here we are managing about 4,500 patients a day. Seven and half a year has already passed since I became the President of the Tokyo Women's Medical University, and I will serve two and half a year more at the same position.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Tomo & Tsuneko Takakura

M. Bernstein, MD, MSc, FRCS 416-603-6499
M.G. Fehlings, MD, PhD, FRCS 416-603-5627
F. Gentili, MD, MSc, FRCS 416-603-5250
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M. Tymianski, MD, PhD, FRCS 416-603-5896
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April 20, 2004

Dr. L Nelson (Nick) Hopkins
Secretary
The American Academy of Neurological Surgery
c.o. Debi Zimmer
Department of Neurosurgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209 (USA)

Dear Nick:

Re: Round Robin

I am now a three-year survivor from colon cancer, and I am doing very well. I have reduced my clinical activities to about 50% of "normal", and now only operate one day per week and see patients less than one day per week in my office.

My "other" life has increased significantly and this includes my continuing addiction to spinal cord injury research and to prevention of neurotrauma. I maintain a basic science laboratory and the last year has been particularly exciting. I am quite enthusiastic about the potential for stem cells for repair of the spinal cord. We have been pursuing two strategies, the first involving enhancement of the endogenous stem cell population in the spinal cord, and the second is transplantation of stem cells. The first strategy depends mainly on the use of neurotrophic factors to increase the proliferation, migration and differentiation of stem cells already present in the ependymal region of the spinal cord. The second strategy involves transplantation of stem cells generated from the adult rat spinal cord. We are able to generate neurospheres from the adult rat spinal cord in our laboratory, and then to transplant these stem/progenitors into other rats with spinal cord injury. At the present time we are pursuing various strategies to increase the yield of surviving cells, and to track the migration and differentiation of these transplanted cells. All of this is a prelude to attempting to do the same thing in humans with spinal cord injury. In this regard we have received permission from the Research Ethics Boards at our hospital to harvest adult human spinal cords for generation of neurospheres and stem/progenitor cells. We have already harvested the spinal cord from three adult human transplant donors and have generated some neurospheres. I am pleased to have received continuing support for my research from external peer-review agencies including the a recent grant from the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation.

With respect to prevention of neurotrauma, I am in my twelfth year as President of Think First Canada. We now have about 20 chapters across the country, and we are looking for someone to

Charles H. Tator, CM, MD, PHD, FRCS, FACS
Professor of Neurosurgery and Robert Campeau Family Foundation Chair
University of Toronto, Division of Neurosurgery
President, Think First Canada

Continued ...

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Dr. L Nelson (Nick) Hopkins - RE:

April 20, 2004

succeed me as President. I am spending a great deal of time with Think First activities, and this includes visits to elementary and high schools, organization of exhibits at our Science Centre and medical school, and, of course, fundraising. Think First Canada now has a budget of about \$600,000. annually, with which we produce and disseminate a variety of injury prevention programs. One of these programs was *Smart Hockey More Safety More Fun* and approximately 35000 copies of this video have been distributed in Canada and several other countries. It advocates measures to prevent of spinal cord injuries and concussions. In the fall, we will be launching a our new project entitled *Smart Equestrian*, which promotes safety among horseback riders.

Carol is still extremely busy as a Course Director at York University in the Department of Anthropology, and our dual responsibilities have limited somewhat our travel, and so we will not be able to attend the joint meeting in Germany.

Best regards to all of our friends and colleagues in the Academy.

Yours sincerely,



CHARLES H. TATOR, CM, MD, PhD, FRCSC
Professor and Robert Campeau Family Foundation Chair
Division of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto,
President, Think First Canada, and Toronto Western Hospital

CHT/mv

June 18, 2004

L. Nelson Hopkins, MD
University at Buffalo Neurosurgery
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209

Re: Round Robin

Dear Dr. Hopkins:

It's been a roller coaster year and a very eventful one for me. My husband's book, *The Genesis of Neurosurgery*, is in the final stages of Japanese translation with a revised, projected publication date of October. This has been an arduous task, however, the Japanese version finally will be made available this year. In the meantime, I have continued my professional activities: lecturing, publishing, attending medical and nursing conferences and meetings. As the new President of La Tierra Sagrada Society, the monies raised this year will be awarded to UNM medical students and faculty for various research projects. In spite of all the work involved, this is proving to be a very gratifying experience for all of us. To add to my responsibilities, I have been asked to serve on UNM's 40th Medical School Reunion committee. A gala evening, preceded by a week of educational and interactive happenings for the graduates and their guests, will round out this anniversary celebration in October.

Late last year the Chairman of Neurosurgery, along with his Residents, took leave from UNMH. A Search Committee was formed and interviews commenced. As the token female on this committee, I have found it a positive and enlightening experience in academia. At the moment, we are awaiting the acceptance of one of our favored candidates for chairman of a new and independent neurosurgical department.

Travel plans to foreign ports of call were not possible for me this past year although I did get to Hawaii and Colorado for some relaxation. Last summer while preparing to give a lecture in Virginia Beach, I began to feel exhausted – something so unusual for me. In the ensuing months, extensive laboratory testing and medical consultations followed. It was eventually decided that both breast implants had ruptured and a small lesion was embedded in tissue. Surgery eventuated and the nodule found proved benign – a segment of wayward silicone developed into a tumor-like growth. Fortunately, there was no recurrence of my cancer. A three stage bilateral TRAM flap procedure is now underway for me. And, while under the knife, a few other tucks and tissues will be repositioned for “body beautiful”.

My brother-in-law who had ALS, passed away last March. This was a blessing in disguise as he had suffered a long time. Happily, the rest of the family is doing well. My grandson, Cody, graduated from high school and plans to attend Texas A&M in September. Hopefully, he will follow his grandfather's footsteps in medicine.

Yes, this has been an eventful yet engaging year. I feel so fortunate and grateful to be professionally active and able to contribute my expertise in a meaningful way.

I look forward to reading all member happenings in the Round Robin. Thank you for making his publication available.

Best wishes,



Agnés M. Walker
(Mrs. A. Earl Walker)
1445 Wagontrain Dr., SE
Albuquerque, NM 87123

Dear Fellow Academicians:

I have had an exciting professional life in the two years following my retirement from UCSF. Most of my time has been devoted to long-range forecasting, primarily of new medical technologies including information technology and its permutations. In addition, I've made frequent trips to New Orleans for activities related to Tulane University, where currently I serve on two boards. The AIDS organization that I co-founded 3 years ago is working exclusively in Malawi, and our credibility became evident last year when we were awarded our first large grant from the Gates Foundation for a program in Southern Malawi that focuses on the status of women in this impoverished country. I'll be going to Malawi again later this summer.

Francie is engaged in many activities, including trips to familiar as well as new countries and places with her group of friends. Most recently she was in Peru, and this after spending two weeks in London and Paris a matter of weeks earlier. She belongs to two incredibly active book clubs and continues involving herself in Asian Art Museum and courses at U.C. Berkeley among other interests. I'm on the road more often but for short, less interesting reasons, and restricted to the U.S.

Francie and I are continuing to enjoy robust good health. We spend frequent weekends in Sonoma, where we have a small place nestled in the Sonoma Mountains 5 miles outside of the town of Sonoma. Before you ask, I am not growing grapes and making wine, yet.

My children and grandchildren are fine, and Francie's daughter, recently married, now lives nearby in Fairfax, a small town in Southern Marin County. She and Stefan are learning the bookstore business owned by her father, a famous and quite remarkable bookstore with two stores, a large and devoted clientele, and a growing business that attracts many authors and their publishers to conduct presentations and signings.

I'm sorry to miss the upcoming meeting. It would be good to see old and dear friends and to remind myself of the community that I left in January, 2002. I did not try to live in two worlds as I sought a new professional identity, and it was not easy, however necessary, to voluntarily leave a neurosurgical career that brought more pleasure and satisfaction than I had ever imagined. Mitch has taken the Department to a new level, and I derive enormous satisfaction from that, as well. Our lives are very different now, but endlessly interesting and engaging. To remind you, Francie was an Assistant Chancellor at UCSF, and both of us thought that we would miss this institution that had been the center of our lives for many years. The recovery period was stunningly brief for both of us: we don't miss the institution, but we do miss the people who were integral parts of our lives.

Enjoy the summer and Berlin.

Charlie Wilson and Francie Petrocelli.
cwilson@healthtechcenter.org

Dear Fellow Academicians,

Lynn and I have had a very exciting and rewarding year. We are in our new house and it is great to be settled in the same city. Our grandson is now eleven months old and a delight. My son Philip was married this May in Houston to Carol Thobae and they are settled in Washington, D.C., near son Andrew's house, which he is in the process of restoring. My daughter Carolyn received her 2nd Masters Degree from the University of Virginia the week after Philip's wedding and has begun work as a Mental Health Counselor in Arlington VA. It is terrific to have all of my crowd in such close proximity.

We are looking forward to another wedding this fall when Lynn's son Tripp will marry in Atlanta. The practice of neurosurgery in Savannah is challenging as I am sure it is in other areas, but we are fortunate to be busy if not as well paid as in the past. Jay Howington, who trained with Dave Kline and is finishing a fellowship with Nick Hopkins, will join us this summer. Shortly after he starts, Will Thompson, who trained with Mike Minor and is completing his pediatric fellowship with Ken Shapiro, will join us as well.

Lynn and I are looking forward to Berlin/Dresden this fall. Hope we will see all of you there.

Lynn and Phil Wirth

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Neurosurgery
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Nicholas T. Zervas, MD

Nicholas T. Zervas, M.D.
*Distinguished Higgins Professor of Neurosurgery
Harvard Medical School*

*Visiting Neurosurgeon
Massachusetts General Hospital*

Since retiring from neurosurgical operating adventures I have settled back into the peaceful life of Consultation. I also serve on the Insurance Board that covers malpractice for Harvard University, and the Center for Innovative Technologies. I recently also stepped down as President of the Boston Symphony Orchestra once we had appointed Mr. James Levine to succeed Mr Seiji Ozawa.

When the temperature is not below zero we venture to Cape Cod, but have not ventured to Europe since 9/11.

Bob Martuza is doing a wonderful job as the new Chief of Neurosurgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital. The staff keeps on growing, a new operating room is on its way so now there will be five at the hospital. As usual the new residents out flank any of the staff.

My vocation is trying to compose music on my new computerized Sweetwater System. It may be a little bit to late.
Sincerely,

Nicholas T. Zervas. MD