

## *Historical Synopsis for the 2011 Academy Annual Meeting*

The American Academy met for the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in the clear desert air of Scottsdale, Arizona in mid October 2011. Southwestern flavors, Southwestern music, and Southwestern vistas set the tone. President Bob Solomon presided.

Mitch Berger, Secretary, tabulated 105 active members with openings for 6 new nominees. A proposal was brought forward to the Executive Committee to bring the total membership to 120 by increasing the available positions by 2 per year until 120 members is achieved.

Griff Harsh, Treasurer, reported total assets for the Academy of \$905,000 which is between 2 to 3 times annual revenue/expenses, meeting the tax exemption requirements for non-profit organizations.

The Academy continues to provide a research grant through the Neurosurgical Research and Education Foundation of \$20,000 yearly

Mark Hadley served as the Local Arrangements Chairman and Sander Connolly, Scientific Program Chairman for this Annual Meeting.

All archives of the Academy have been digitized and are available on the Academy website.

### **A snapshot of the variety of presentations in the superb scientific program**

President Bob Solomon gave his Presidential Address on the pursuit of excellence in neurosurgery, using illustrations from the world of sports, focusing on creativity, mental toughness, and technical ability.

A forum on brain/machine interface exploring brain signal detection, neural prostheses, muscle/machine interface, and exoskeleton advances.

A focus on brain tumors – stem cells, nano-technology, vaccination,

In vivo mapping of the basal ganglia and thalamus using high resolution MRI and the neurocircuitry of reward.

Academy Award presentation on optogenetic tools for dissecting the motor circuitry of the cortico-basal ganglia loop.

Management of giant cerebral aneurysms and analysis of aneurysmal growth to aneurysmal rupture.

Status of endovascular application of flow-diversion devices.

The perils of randomized clinical trials in spine surgery and the values of registries. Spinal cord injury guidelines, minimally invasive lumbar decompression, long term outcomes for lumbar fusion in Workmen's Compensation patients, results of adult scoliosis surgery, incidence of durotomy in spinal surgery, and the possibility of medical repair of disc degeneration.

A new platform for writing, review, publication, and use of the scientific literature.

Influence of dural opening on syringomyelia and scoliosis in children with Chiari malformation.

Nuances of acoustic tumor surgery, gamma knife therapy, and Bevacizumab use in NF2 patients.