



HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS OF THE 78TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ACADEMY

The 78th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery was held at the Four Seasons Resort in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, September 14 – 17, 2016.

The setting is one of the most picturesque in the United States, if not the World. The Four Seasons Resort Jackson Hole is a luxurious property that did not disappoint. Close to Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, the Snake River, the “cowboy” town of Jackson and a marvelous array of outdoor activities, including golf, tennis, hiking, fishing, rafting, and horseback riding, this is America’s wilderness playground.

Mark Hadley served as President this year. The Scientific Program Committee was chaired by Rob Spinner and Doug Kondziolka handled the Local Arrangements.

This year saw the advent of the Academy Scholars Program – an initiative to provide young academic neurosurgeons a forum for presentation of their work, and mentorship and guidance from senior neurosurgeons for success in their academic endeavors.

The Scientific Program covered virtually all aspects of neurosurgery with superb presentations typical of meetings of the Academy. Basic work in the biology of brain tumors and vascular disease along with clinical applications and studies were addressed. Neuro-regeneration, spinal disorder classifications, stimulation enhancements, etc., all were discussed.

A point-counterpoint debate was held on the topical and vexing issue of concurrent surgeries. A retired Boston police official gave an in-depth discussion of the Boston Marathon bombing episode. A second point-counterpoint discussion involved coiling versus clipping of cerebral aneurysms, and the third such debate considered surgery versus radiotherapy for spinal metastases.

Mark Hadley's Presidential Address dealt with medical evidence-based guidelines and neurosurgery – an area on which he has focused throughout his career and made significant contributions.

The Opening Reception took place on the evening on Wednesday, September 14, at the Handle Bar and Terrace restaurant of the Four Seasons with the Neurosurgical Jazz Quintet providing music throughout the evening.

On Thursday evening, a special event was held - a gondola ride up the mountain to Rendezvous Lodge, to the west of the Resort, which provided spectacular views of the Jackson Hole valley and distant mountains to the East and the sun setting behind the Tetons to the West. The dress code was jeans and cowboy boots!

On Friday evening, the black-tie reception and dinner was held at the Cottonwood Ballroom of the Four Seasons.

The business meetings were informative and productive, the scientific program was enlightening and the social events were delightful.