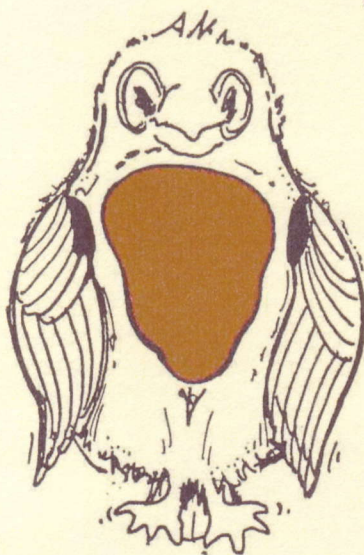
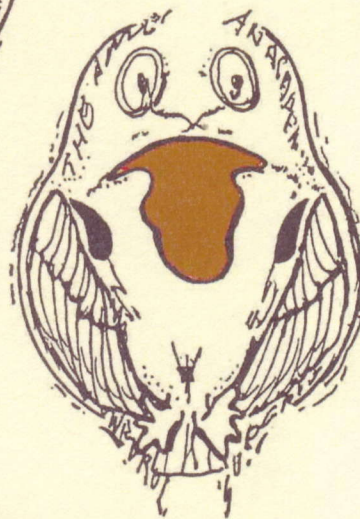
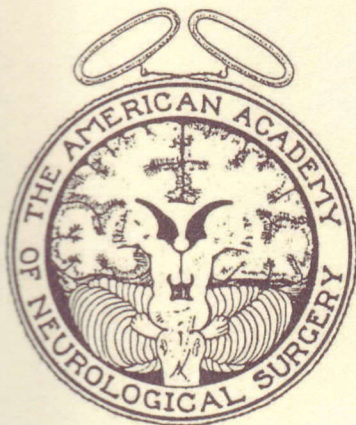


THE NEUROSURGEON



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

October 2006

Round Robin of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery

2006 Edition - Contributors

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

Central Virginia Neurosurgery

2138 Langhorne Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24501-1424
Email ealexanderiii@earthlink.net

Telephone 434-947-3920
Mobile 508-736-3792
Facsimile 434-947-3924

June 21, 2006

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., MD
Washington University Dept. of Neurosurgery
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

schillizzij@nsurg.wustl.edu

Re: Round Robin Letter

My Fellow Academicians,

Greetings from Lynchburg, VA! I started working here in neurosurgery several months ago and have really enjoyed it. I am in the group Central Virginia Neurosurgery with Drs. George Hurt, Morris "Mac" McCrary and Shawn Clark, and couldn't ask for better. They have welcomed me into the medical community here with open arms. The other physicians and staff have made me feel very much at home. This is all a very welcome change from the situation at UMass in Worcester.

Holley and the boys have not yet moved down here from Massachusetts. We wanted Bond to finish his second grade year at the Charles River School in Dover, and Eben IV to finish his senior year in secondary school at the Proctor Academy in New Hampshire. They should be joining me here in the mountains of central Virginia in the next week or so. Holley will be moving her art work directly into a studio building with other artists with a beautiful view of the James River just below.

Eben IV's senior year at Proctor included a trimester of "Mountain Classroom", in which he traveled with 3 teachers and 6 other students along the US-Mexican border, visiting both sides and studying many "border issues". In typical Proctor style, this also included kayaking, canoeing, rock-climbing and lots of hiking and camping in the beautiful wilds, including a 3 day solo hike in the Gila Wilderness. He is currently on a surfing safari on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, before starting construction work for the summer. He will be attending the University of Delaware this fall, and has declared Chemistry as his major. Bond has been a busy second grader, playing baseball and basketball, studying martial arts and tending to his fish and Indonesian tree frogs. He will attend the James River School here.

There are certainly differences between my current neurosurgical work environment and the academic neurosurgical world in which I spent my first 17 years in practice. I miss teaching the residents the most – that was always a very satisfying (albeit occasionally frustrating) experience. I also miss the ambience of cutting edge technology

and the opportunity to develop and guide that change, which was so available at the Brigham & Women's Hospital. And of course I miss the colleagues with whom I shared that exciting creative phase. However, I do appreciate the very collegial atmosphere of my current medical environment. The level of autonomy is also a very welcome change. The institution as a whole makes it very clear that they need and want a healthy, viable neurosurgical service, and that is worth a lot.

I am sorry Holley and I will be unable to get to the Reynolds Plantation for the meeting this year. However, we send our best wishes for a great meeting, and look forward to seeing you all in 2007!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eben Alexander" followed by a circular monogram containing the initials "EA".

Eben Alexander III MD, FACS
calexanderiii@earthlink.net



July 1, 2006

For: The Neurosurgeon,
From The Ausman's

Our best to everyone. We hope to see you at the Academy meeting in 2007.

The Ausman's are both doing well and involved in developing new careers and expanding our life.

Carolyn is involved in a business project developing a pilot for a TV series. She is producing, directing, and writing the production.

Jim is working at UCLA one week a month with Neil Martin and the excellent staff there. He is editing SURGICAL NEUROLOGY which this year has seen a growth in its subscriber base plus the development of Supplements for several countries. He is still in the healthcare consulting business and is now doing work for several companies in this area and is still on the Board of Directors of a corporation that has had a very nice growth in its business. He is enjoying his weekly television segment on health issues for a local TV station, and is doing defense work for neurosurgeons in malpractice.

We are still traveling to various places in the world where Jim is invited to lecture.

Cheers,

The Ausmans



June 5, 2006

The Round Robin
American Academy of Neurological Surgery

Fellow Academicians:

The yearly ritual of the Academy Round Robin evokes springtime fantasies. The freshness and harmony of spring, long ago inspired a Byzantine born Arab poet to sing the following verses:

*“Genial now, the season’s trim’ aquiver; moist morning earth is fragile in its gems;
Our spring, our own, no spring but thou, outblossoming spring in glory!
My two companions, look about fully and see how earth’s face has been painted:
And see broad sunny daylight which is blanched by flowers of the upland as if moonlit;
A world of human sustenance, which sudden unveiling of spring makes pure prospect.
Its core now fashions for its outer side blossoms enough to bring bloom to our hearts...
Peace reigns; the hand of fate is powerless to hurt us now; his flock may graze in peace.
After all he has been, now hard for fate to find a way to make men suffer hardship.”*

-- Abu Tammam (c.e. 805-845)

J. Ashtiani (trans.) J. Arabic Literature 25: 217-219, 1994

How wonderful this imagery of springtime, bringing harmony to mankind, and how sad Abu Tammam would be to see this harmony betrayed, most spring seasons, for 1,200 years in that part of the world! Yet we can dream, and each new spring should give us hope for peace, understanding, protection for our children fighting there, and less suffering for those people far away. Maybe next year will seal the hand of fate into springtime bloom...

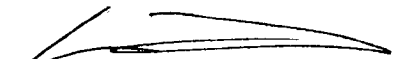
The Awad clan is doing well. We’re focused at home on upcoming high school senioritis and Armand’s college plans. He is aiming for a chemistry major, and assures me that he is not turned on by biochemistry or organic chemistry, but by the marvels of possibilities and applications in the inorganic world. He has educated me that “Carbon is so boring, dad, you should see the splendid colors of metals”! He’s happy, excited and motivated, and he is *really good* academically. He is looking forward to putting his French to good practice on summer vacation this year, and he was recently selected to the prestigious New Trier Symphony Orchestra, as cellist in his upcoming senior year. It seems only yesterday that Armand joined Cathy and I as a toddler, upon invitation by Bill Collins and Dennis Spencer to our first Academy meeting at Sea Island, Georgia!

Cathy is enjoying our Northshore home, part-time operating room nursing, and many activities with our church. She has been busy chairing the liturgy committee welcoming the Maronite Catholic Patriarch on his visit for the National Apostolate Conference in Chicago this summer. It is not easy, not least for an All-American girl, to prepare an Eastern rites Cardinal's ceremonial mass, believe me.

Northwestern neurosurgery is a "Dream team". Our Department is thriving under Hunt Batjer's leadership, and in seemingly continuous growth and recruitment mode at our three clinical sites, downtown, at Evanston and at Children's. It is a complex environment with constant challenges of multiple hospital paymasters, steep malpractice premiums, and the all too common paradigm of working more for lower collections, on increasingly complex cases. It calls for unity and wisdom, and unshaken core values, as inspired by Hunt and our wonderful senior faculty. We've seen record growth at Evanston this past year in radiosurgery and in our neurovascular program. We thankfully enjoy the privileged access to a marvelous tapestry of collaborative opportunities at a great university, such as a 14.1 Tesla research MRI instrument and splendid bioengineering, molecular biology, immunobiology and neuroscience cores. As vice-chair for research and program development, I thrive with a labor of love to help unlock possibilities of scholarly productivity for our 22 full time clinical faculty, several PhDs, and a wonderful and expanding caste of residents and fellows. The Resident Research Curriculum and the Neurosurgery-Bioengineering Initiative are blossoming, as well as efforts in hemorrhagic stroke trials, molecular imaging, and the immunobiology of cerebrovascular malformations.

We enjoyed immensely last year's outstanding meeting at Half Moon Bay. Cathy and I are looking forward to a good time of Academy fellowship and Neurosurgery's best science, next October in Georgia.

All best,



Issam A. Awad, M.D.
Professor and Vice Chairman
Department of Neurological Surgery

PETER M. BLACK, M.D., Ph.D.



FRANC D. INGRAHAM
PROFESSOR OF NEUROSURGERY
Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSURGERY
Children's Hospital & Brigham & Women's Hospital
NEUROSURGEON-IN-CHIEF
Brigham & Women's Hospital
CHIEF OF NEUROSURGICAL ONCOLOGY
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Fellow Academicians:

We are all well, a fact that seems less and less trivial as I get older! Dia, our oldest daughter, continues to work in Washington. She is director of education for Advamed, a company that interprets regulatory issues for medical device manufacturers including neurosurgical instrument companies. Katy, one of our twins, has finished her medical residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital and is now a pulmonary fellow at Johns Hopkins. She is looking forward to living away from Boston for the first time. Her sister Libby is a junior associate at the Boston law firm of Wilmer Hale and finds corporate law continuously interesting, although she works longer hours than her medical twin.

Peter Thomas, our oldest son, has become a much sought after consultant for companies marketing to young affluent Chinese professionals—he calls himself a “cool hunter”—a seeker after what is cool. He continues to live in Shanghai, has a regular column in a Chinese journal and was recently featured in Newsweek magazine for this work. Christopher has just finished a stint in Korea teaching English as a second language and is now working on the next phase of his career.

Katharine continues to do regular supply work as a priest. She is delighted to see that the Episcopal Church recently named a woman to be presiding bishop, showing that even traditional organizations can change.

Over the last two years I have found fulfilling clinical, laboratory, teaching and administrative responsibilities increasingly difficult. It was actually a paper I presented at the Academy meeting in Germany that made me realize that it is essentially impossible to do all of these things well. My passions are patient care, international neurosurgery, teaching, and research.

Adult Patient Care
Brain Tumor Clinic
Brigham & Women's Hospital
75 Francis Street, Boston, MA 02115
(617) 732-6810 Fax: (617) 734-8342
pblack@partners.org

Pediatric Patient Care
Academic Office
Brigham & Women's Hospital
75 Francis Street., Boston, MA 02115
(617) 525-7796 Fax: (617) 734-8342

For that reason I have decided that I will stop doing the administrative work involved in being the Chairman next summer and try to focus on the things I enjoy. As they say, "Been there, done that; maybe I will get a T-shirt!" The hospital has been extremely supportive in this decision and will begin a search for the next Chair by the time of our meeting. This will be a real search and I hope you will think about who would be a good successor if the chair of the search committee gets in touch with you.

I hope that all of you are well. Unfortunately I will miss the October meeting do to a previous commitment to speak at the meeting of Japanese Neurosurgical Society. I look forward to seeing you next year.

Sincerely,

Peter Black

Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h.c. mult. Mario Brock

*Pücklerstraße 10
D-14195 Berlin*

L. Nelson Hopkins, M.D.
President
The American Academy of Neurological Surgeons
Neurosurgery
University at Buffalo
3 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209-1194
USA

Dear Nick,
dear friends,

very much to our regret Christina and I will be unable to attend the Annual Meeting this year. This is due to the fact that we are moving. The home we live in in (and which is known to many of you) has been sold. We bought a new (smaller) apartment (in a building built 1906) and we will be moving in October.

The venue of the coming Annual Meeting is simply superb! What a pity we cannot come.

Christina and I wish all fellow academicians a successful and fraternal meeting.

With kindest personal regards,

*Yours
Mario Brock*

Round Robin Letter

Dear Fellow Academicians,

In 2005, I have been very busy with my three professional hats: neurosurgical work, WFNS presidency and Belgian Senate. My weekly agenda has not always been easy to hold but thanks to a very professional team all around me I have been able to fulfill all my duties.

In my department, I am proud of a permanent increase of activity, with a still growing young and dynamic staff.

In the Senate, I am deeply involved in health and bioethics. I have been quite busy with the recent law concerning medical studies and specialist diploma that has been changed in a bad way two years ago, before I entered politics.

So, I decided to battle against that bad decision, with the support of students and residents. I discovered that politicians don't realize what means to become a doctor, don't understand our life and almost the need and requirements to keep high level of medicine and high quality of neurosurgery. It was a big challenge but I have been very surprised to see that my messages were heard very often.

But the main important event, for me and my family in 2005, was the world congress in June in Marrakech where I received from Ed Laws' hands the WFNS presidency which, in my life, represents the most important achievement.

I have been very pleased to work with him during many years and somewhere I had the impression that our collaboration was too short. Happily, even now, we are in touch together and I have, always, a lot of pleasure to discuss with him. During the Marrakech congress, I have tried to give a message of worldwide friendship and collaboration during the party we have organized with Rachel at Dar Rhizlane and where we have invited delegates from the different societies making the WFNS so well alive. It was a great moment where we had more the impression having a party with friends than an official reception. And for once, we had rain just before. Nobody could imagine rain in June in Marrakech almost during a particular hot week. Our daughter Nathalie and her husband Alain came with our 2 grand children, Nina (9y) and Dylan (6y) to attend the presidential ceremony which was also the opportunity to celebrate the 50th birthday of the WFNS which was born in 1955 in Brussels. Can you imagine what was running in my brain when becoming as Belgian neurosurgeon the first president of the WFNS in such a wonderful coincidence!

During the dinner and the numerous speeches, Dylan slept but Nina tried to participate as much as she can. It was a deep feeling to see all the people you love, sharing with you such an important moment.

So, in June, my new position has started with immediately the support of a very good staff and many travels all around the world. Of course, it is not easy everyday to manage my time as a neurosurgeon, chief of the department, President of the WFNS, Senator but I try to do my best. I thank from the bottom of my heart, my family which has accepted this heavy challenge and I regret that I have no more time to play golf. But I try do it, very relaxed, when I am in vacation. We love, Rachel and me, playing golf together.

I also have a lot of ideas and it is only the future which will tell us if I have succeeded to apply them or not. But, I am very enthusiastic.

Jacques Brotchi

WILLIS E. BROWN, JR., M.D.
7523 SHADYLANE DRIVE
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78209

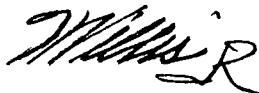
July,5, 2006

Dear Members of the Academy

I know that you haven't heard much from me lately, and, to use a pun, I haven't heard much either. The fact is my hearing loss is so substantial that I simply can no longer participate in group meetings. I certainly miss the comradery of the Academy, but have many fine times to remember.

I am beginning to learn to relax in retirement, and, with the company of Ann, the Children and grandchildren, there is never a dull moment.

Best Regards ,



Willis E. Brown, Jr.



NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

Peter W. Carmel, M.D., D. Med Sci
Professor and Chairman
Co-Director
Neurological Institute of New Jersey
Office: 973-972-2326
carmel@umdnj.edu

Michael Schulder, M.D.
Associate Professor and Vice Chairman
Director, Center for Image-Guided
Neurosurgery and Stereotactic Radiosurgery
Office: 973-972-2907
schulder@umdnj.edu

Jeffrey E. Catrambone, M.D.
Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery
Off. ce: 973-972-2906
j.kidsneurosurg@aol.com

Robert F. Heary, M.D.
Director, Spine Center of New Jersey
Office: 973-972-2334

Allen H. Maniker, M.D.
Director, Center for Peripheral Nerve Surgery
and Neuro Trauma
Office: 973-972-2908
maniker@umdnj.edu

Charles J. Prestigiacomo, M.D.
Cerebrovascular/Endovascular Surgery
Office: 973-972-1163
cprestigiacomo@umdnj.edu

Freday N. Sapru, Ph.D.
Director, Neurosurgical Laboratories
Office: 973-972-5876
fsapru@umdnj.edu

Joseph Danto, Ph.D. FASNMB
Director, Electrophysiology
Office: 201-862-9900
jdanto@monitoring.net

Robert A. Adler, RN, MSN
Educational Specialist
Office: 973-972-2327

Peg Black, RN, MSN, APN-C
Nurse Manager
Office: 973-972-1829

Bernadette Caputo, RN, MSN, APN
Pediatric Nurse Manager
Office: 973-972-2897

Andrew Prol, PA-C
Neurosurgery Physician Assistant
Office: 973-972-2326

Rosa Williams, PA-C
Neurosurgery Physician Assistant
Office: 973-972-2326

90 Bergen Street, Suite 8100, Newark, NJ

July 31, 2006

Dear Round –Robiners,

A year of weddings, fun, and festivities for the Carmel/Bello group! The glow of the weddings of Jason and Amanda, and of Jonathan and Dorothy is still warm and bright. Now David and Kristen are to be married on Sept. 16, 2006! Kirsten was sent to Ethiopia in the start of 2006 by Pfizer, to evaluate their International Program to eradicate Trachoma. We knew that David would fly out in February for a visit. We didn't know that he took a ring with him. On Valentines Day, in a romantic little Italian restaurant in Addis Abbaba, David popped the question, and Kirsten said "yes"!

David is the Vice President for Development at StemCyte, a leading umbilical cord blood bank and stem cell company. In December he flew to the Far East, and got their major donor to double his investment. Then on to Beijing, where he won a contract to set-up, and run, six cord-blood bank facilities across China. Dave and Kristen have so many friends that we are planning a "two-tent" wedding.

Jonathan and Dorothy are expecting a baby at the beginning of December! (At last, a grandpa). This has not slowed down their energy work-levels (He at Angelo – Gordon, she at Cadogan Capital). They need a "work-hours" rule!

Jason is now in the Pediatric Neurology fellowship portion of his training (for 2 years), and is steadily working in his lab. Amanda is in her last year of Internal Medicine residency and is contemplating an endocrinology fellowship (3 yrs.)

Jacqueline continues as teacher, mentor, and mother-hen, to her bizzy and growing Neuroradiology Division. She is the President of the Columbia-P&S Alumni Assoc., and Secy-Treasurer of the NY State Radiology Society. She continues to raise funds for the Carmel Chair and is running another big golf-outing in September. You're all invited!

The Neurosurgery Department continues to prosper with Mike Schulder as Vice-Chair and Bob Heary as Program Director. Both of them (and Allen Maniker) have assumed leadership roles in the Joint Sections. The Medical School continues to be harassed by the newspapers (largely unfairly), and Governor Corzine's attempt to close a \$4 billion budget gap has severely

shorted the University. Despite this, our operative case-load continues double digit growth, with Interventional Neurosurgery leading the way. Here's to our workaholic faculty!

Thanks to the hard work and support Neurosurgical Organizations, Peter was re-elected to the AMA Board (finishing second in a field of six, behind only the current Chairman of the Board).

Katie Orrico was terrific, running the entire campaign, while the Neurosurgical delegation of Mark Kubala, Phil Tally, Monica Wehby, Jim Bean, and Alan Scarrow were simply magnificent!

Peter is now head of the AMA Task Force on Quality and Patient Safety, and on the Board of Directors of the National Patient Safety Foundation. He continues to work inside the Physicians Consortium for Performance Improvement.

We look forward to seeing you all in Georgia.

Peter Carmel and Jacqueline Bello



University of Michigan
Health System

The University of Michigan

Department of Neurosurgery

June 2006

University of Michigan Health System

Karin M. Muraszko, M.D., Chair
(734) 936-5015

William F. Chandler, M.D.
(734) 936-5020

S. M. Farhat, M.D.
(734) 936-9579

Hugh J. L. Garton, M.D., M.HSc.
(734) 615-0536

Jason Heth, M.D.
(734) 615-4486

Julian T. Hoff, M.D.
(734) 936-5015

Frank La Marca, M.D.
(734) 936-5024

John E. McGillicuddy, M.D.
(734) 936-5017

Oren Sagher, M.D.
(734) 936-9593

Paul Park, M.D.
(734) 936-9579

Parag Patil, M.D., Ph.D.
(734) 936-9593

Teresa Smith, M.D.
(734) 615-4486

B. Gregory Thompson, M.D.
(734) 936-7493

Lynda Yang, M.D., Ph.D.
(734) 936-5017

Veterans Administration Medical Center

Suresh Ramnath, M.D.
(734) 769-7100 Ext. 5938

Crosby Neurosurgical Laboratories
(734) 764-1207

Richard F. Keep, Ph.D., Director

Anuska Andejejkovic-Zochowska, M.D., Ph.D.

Steven R. Ennis, Ph.D.

Ya Hua, M.D.

Guohua Xi, M.D.

Chia-Ying Lin, Ph.D.

Jianming Xiang, M.D.

Timothy Schallert, Ph.D. (Adjunct)

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

Fellow Academicians,

This has been another enjoyable and exciting year for the Chandler family. The only sad note is that Susie's father passed away peacefully in January.

Our older son Scott is in the middle of a two year management and leadership training program with General Electric (ECLP). This program has taken him to Arkansas, Connecticut and St. Louis. It has been a demanding, but educational experience.

Our younger son Jesse and his wife Nicole have just completed their second year as residents at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Jesse is in Orthopaedic Surgery and Nicole continues her training in Pediatrics. They enjoy their busy life in North Carolina.

Susie continues to be very busy and happy working with a variety of projects in the Ann Arbor area. Her golf and tennis are improving steadily. Bill continues to enjoy his work at the University of Michigan and has been busy over the past year as Chairman of the ABNS. His golf and tennis are improving slightly.

We enjoyed a vacation with Susie's sister and her husband to Italy last July. We skied in Colorado with both sons and our daughter-in-law in February and sailed a catamaran in the the British Virgin Islands with friends in March. We look forward to a hiking trip to southern Spain this September with friends.

Best to everyone,

Dear Fellow Academicians

Well, what's new? - Another niece (god-child #4), a first nephew (god-child #5), a dean (he will almost certainly need god), two more fabulous junior partners, my parents renewed health (whew!) and lastly, and most unexpectedly, a new hometown.

There's been a lot written about the latter, but if you've ever lived in New Orleans for any amount of time, you'd probably find it forever stuck under every neglected nail and behind each crooked molar. You might even find yourself one of those kooks, always turning on the ceiling fan, or on hot Monday mornings, windows purposefully ajar, trying to pass the time between cases sucking down an OZ (oh-zee) web-cast of Jazz from the Market with Charles Burchell or the Morning Set with the Problem Child.

Of course, as anyone from any true home town knows, this kind of withdrawal almost always seems immediately satiated by the time you've de-boarded, and taken in your first gambling billboard, haunted oak canopy or humid orangey night sky [insert your town's equivalent].

But this year, as I sat in the F&M Patio Bar on Christmas Eve with my youngest brother hoping to rundown Santa for a nightcap, I was overcome with the eerie feeling that many New Yorkers felt in the aftermath of our recent awakening, that everything was the same and yet everything was different, that New Orleans was and it wasn't. There were still high school couples staggering in drunken puppy love, pulling fuzzy toys from the spastic claw machine, and skinny old ladies draining their bourbons from seven ounce corrugated clear plastic Solo cups through even skinnier little double lumen straws, but no one danced on the pool table and no one swung from the pipes and the place was so empty and quiet; or was it? We couldn't be sure.

We planned a sibling-only trip to Waveland and "the Pass" (the Mississippi gulf coast) the following morning, perhaps in an effort to assure ourselves that everything was in fact different, but as we stood on the deserted beaches wiped clean of every last dwelling it was both totally different and totally the same. The oaks stripped of their leaves had mostly endured and the smell, the lighting, the lost laziness were all exactly the same as I remembered them from the days of playing hooky from med school pharmacology or from the days before that of surf fishing the sandbars on summer vacation. Perhaps some of you are shocked and appalled to find out that we actually took family vacations. But actually after years of eschewing this bourgeois summer right, my parents wisely decided that if they had a few pictures of the family rollicking together at the beach, the child welfare service would quit asking questions about work hours and wages [program directors may want to take note].

On driving back across the twin-span – rendered a one-span by the storm surge – no one could really quite come up with anything to say. No one had any answers (rare in a family of know-it-alls) and no one could determine whether what had happened was, in part, a cruel blessing, a desperate warning, a meaningless curse, some combination

thereof or none of the above. There was some talk of challenge and opportunity, but while all felt both existed in plenty, most thoughts went with a characteristic drawl to the personal rather than the socio-political. Should we stop in and see if so-and-so is O.K., you know they lost...? Do you need to go by the hospital to check on anyone before...? Has anyone heard if the roofer...?

The drive back was like the year itself, for the most part devoid of direct pain but at times disorienting, and often numbing. Lot's of things got solved and some things didn't and in the aggregate everything seemed the "same as it ever was", but not quite, because it wasn't and wouldn't be.

Back on the home front in Washington Heights, the team keeps energetically probing our own levees for signs of disaster, but thankfully for the moment the worst that can be found is an overly confident and under-spandexed softball squad. This good news fortunately gives me ample time to concentrate on being the best godfather I can be, which, as you might already guess, can seem like a curiously tall order at times.

Sincerely,

E. Sander Connolly, Jr., MD

Professor Alan Crockard

Victor Horsley Department of Neurosurgery (Box 3)
The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery
Queen Square
London WC1N 3BG
Tel No: 020 7829 8714
Fax No: 020 7676 2044
Email: alan.crockard@uclh.nhs.uk
Website: www.uclh.nhs.uk

The Crockard's continue to flourish in their individual and collective ways.

Alan has now stood down from all clinical duties and has taken up full time a position for the Department of Health as National Director of Modernising Medical Careers. Basically this change programme alters completely the training programme of all doctors in every specialty after medical school. There will be a two year internship instead of one: thereafter they are selected directly into the specialty of their choice. All speciality curricula will be competency based and explicit, completely different from the implicit standards used hitherto. He continues his interest in research and is collaborating with Professor Geoff Raisman in the Victor Horsley Department on a spinal regeneration programme using olfactory ensheathing cells. Laboratory studies are most encouraging and the team are hopefully transplanting the patient's own cells into the area of damage within this calendar year.

Caroline has retired from her duties as a family practitioner to look after her three boys (one very old and two with great promise),

Michael is completing his third year of medical school with two more to go. He is currently majoring in surfing and a classic cars he has a 1963 Volkswagen Beetle.

Tom is a sail boat instructor and currently teaching in Turkey for the summer. He comes back to the UK in October to enter University reading psychology.

Back to Alan who is concentrating his sailing in Sea Spine around North West Spain this year, the area where Christopher Columbus returned to. He is preparing himself and a colleague surgeon to take part in a two handed race from England to Azores and back next June.



Washington

WASHINGTON · UNIVERSITY · IN · ST · LOUIS

School of Medicine

Department of Neurology
and Neurological Surgery

Neurological Surgery

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Henry G. and Edith R. Schwartz Professor
and Chairman of Neurosurgery

Neurosurgeon-in-Chief
Barnes-Jewish Hospital

June 15, 2006

Dear Fellow Academicians:

Corinne, Ralph, Elizabeth, and I continue to do well here in St. Louis.

Elizabeth is just now finishing her first year in the Graduate School of Business at Stanford. She likes Palo Alto and has a stimulating group of friends there. She will be back here working at Emerson this summer and we are really looking forward to having her be with us.

Ralph, our son, graduated from Washington University this year and is in the process of trying to secure a job in the commercial real-estate field. It looks like both of our children are going to be home this summer and that should really be fun.

Corinne and I have really enjoyed getting to know some new friends, and reacquainting with some old friends in Gulf Stream, Florida. We joined a nice golf club there and renovated a small place for us to stay. This has been really fun and I know we will get a lot of enjoyment out of it in the coming years.

The department continues to grow here in St. Louis. We are developing a new intraoperative MRI program and a rejuvenated neuro-oncology program. Despite the challenges that academic neurosurgery faces at this time, things are going reasonably well.

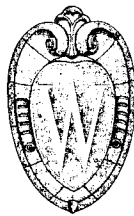
Corinne and I look forward to seeing all of the members of the Academy at the meeting in Georgia.

Sincerely,

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Schwartz Professor and Chairman

RGD/js

Mailing Address:
Neurological Surgery
Washington University School of Medicine
at Washington University Medical Center
Campus Box 8057, 660 South Euclid Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63110-1093
(314) 362-3571 FAX: (314) 362-2107



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

May 25, 2006

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Neurosurgery, Box 8057
Washington University
660 South Euclid Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63118

Dear Ralph:

Thank you once again for compiling the round robin letters of the American Academy of Neurological Surgeons. I know that this is a lot of work for you and your office, but it is much appreciated and is a means of communication for all of us.

I am happy to report that this was a very busy, but successful year for the Dempsey family and for our neurosurgery family here at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Department at the medical center continues to grow very nicely. We are breaking ground on two new research towers. The new Medical School has been completed and we hope to complete the new freestanding American Family Children's Hospital by July of next year. We continue to expand the academic program as well. In the past year, we have been fortunate enough to recruit four new faculty members. Dr. Julie Olson has joined us in our laboratory from Northwestern. An expert on neuroimmunology, we hope that she will greatly expand our tumor, CNS injury and CNS regeneration research groups by adding an important cerebral neuroimmunology component to the established laboratories. On the clinical side, John Kuo has joined us after residency at USC and a fellowship in Jim Rutka's lab in Toronto. He will be working with our brain tumor group. Mustafa Baskaya has joined us in skull-base and cerebrovascular work, having worked previously in our laboratories, as well as, with Anil Nanda and Robert Heros. In addition, with the expansion of the pediatric neurosurgery program, we are extremely happy to have Leland Albright join Benny Iskandar to work with our pediatric neurosurgery program. This should provide extensive experience and breadth to our pediatric neurosurgery and educational programs and we are very happy to have his experience in the program. The program certainly has grown over the years, but remains an exciting group of people, who are a delight to work with everyday.

I am happy to say that the Dempsey family is doing very well. Diane continues her teaching with the University of Wisconsin's arboretum. It is very enjoyable work, which has her outdoors for much of the year and certainly adds spice and variety to our evening discussions. The Dempsey family is having two graduations this year. Our daughter Kara is receiving her master's from the University of Wisconsin and

will continue on for her Ph.D. with hopes of teaching in the anthropology and human geography field. Her work and been fascinating with her research being primarily in the far northwestern regions of rural Spain. Her parents are more than happy to visit when she is there and discover an exciting part of the world. Our son Conor is receiving his bachelor's degree in digital communications and English from DePaul University this year and is hoping to start an internship in that field.

In the meantime, the department keeps me quite busy. I continue with my clinical and laboratory work, but have also taken time during the past winter to continue our teaching with Medical Mission Ecuador. It has been a long-term project that we hope to fold into the Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery as the infrastructure is improved at that site.

Overall, the Dempsey's are happy to report a year of some challenges and some setbacks, but certainly a year with satisfaction and some accomplishments. We hope the coming year finds only the best for our fellow academicians.

Sincerely,



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

RJD/arc

Dear Colleagues,

Another year has flown by and the "round robin" is calling.

In my family, everybody is, thankfully, well and healthy. The number of my grandchildren has increased again: Now there are eight grandchildren from my half of the family and three from Karoline's. We are very lucky to have smart children, all holding advanced degrees, and combining successful careers with happy families.

In spite of my age, I am still receiving a great number of invitations to lecture and preside meetings, where we strive to combine work and pleasure: Last year, we cruised from St. Petersburg to Moscow where we met our friend Prof. Alexander Potapov and spent a delightful evening together. Later that year, we visited Venice with our Rotary friends and saw a performance in the newly renovated opera house La Fenice. At Christmas time, Karoline volunteered as "charity lady" with our Rotary club, skillfully wrapping presents. I also celebrated my 75th birthday this past year and my whole family had a big celebration for my at the famous Hotel Wilder, which included a big slide show.

On the professional side, I am more than busy in my practice as medical expert. Recently, I was even flown to Beijing to testify in a liability case.

My administrative commitments involve being one of three members of a commission, established by the EU that examines physicians applying to become certified medical experts. I also participate in the continuing medical education accreditation council of the Austrian Physicians' Chamber.

I have been invited to give several educational lectures, which I greatly enjoyed. My medical expertise is now being sought throughout the country, mainly in Salzburg, Vienna, Klagenfurt, and Innsbruck.

I enjoyed the hospitality of my Polish colleagues during the annual meeting of the European Academy of Multidisciplinary Neurotraumatology (EMN) as honorary president. I traveled to London with a delegation journey of the Austrian and European Medical-legal societies, to study the British health system, which is, luckily, very different from the Austrian one. Karoline and I particularly enjoyed the cultural program, reminiscing about several previous visits to London. Recently, Karoline helped me host the first European medical legal day in Salzburg.

The Austrian health system, such as any other is suffering from economic restraints: Fortunately, a new law, which was passed recently, allows to take legal action against for-profit companies if a patient was harmed by any of their actions, such as personnel cutbacks. The Austrian insurance commission is also attempting to act against similar infractions, if possible, and finally the Austrian Physicians' Chamber founded the commission for quality assurance of legal expertise, which I preside. All in all, patient complaints, even in Austria, are increasing by about 15% every year, but only 1% to 3% end up in court. Thus, we are fortunately far removed from American conditions.

Finally, I hope that all of you have a successful and enjoyable meeting in Reynolds Plantation, Georgia. Unfortunately, my schedule will not allow me to join you there. Karoline and I are wishing you a wonderful summer.

With warmest personal regards to all.

Hans Erich and Karoline Diemath
Maxglaner Hauptstrasse 6
A-5020 Salzburg
Austria

Dear Fellow Academicians,

Since the last communiqué, all manner of inspections have taken place within the Department here at Penn. The formal review process (which takes place for all departments every 6 years at Penn) was completed without major disruption and Drs. Hoff and Allan Friedman were very helpful as the external reviewers. By the time of the Academy meeting, our 5 year RRC site visit will have been completed and I will be waiting to hear from the RRC meeting in January 2007 about continued accreditation. By this point, I am pretty tired of putting together massive documents about each and every one of our activities, as well as future plans, so I am looking for a respite in the upcoming year from those sorts of activities. I would bet that the faculty are tired of me sending them massive tomes and urging them to read the material in advance of all the site visits and interviews. In any case, it seems that these activities should shortly abate and we will all go back to the daily chores of academic neurosurgery.

I would be remiss if I didn't note, as part of departmental activities, that Penn participated in the New York City softball tournament this June, along with 7 other neurosurgery departments along the East Coast. The tournament has been organized by Columbia for the last several years and this was the first year we were able to participate. It was a beautiful day in Central Park and unlike the hapless Phillies, we were able to come back to town victorious after a hard fought battle with the faculty and residents of Columbia, who have been used to beating up on all opponents. The J. Lawrence Pool trophy resides in my office with a Penn baseball cap on its head.

On the home front, our daughter Erin graduated from Penn State, marking the half way point in college graduations for us (3 of an anticipated 6). It was a great day, and Erin is headed to law school in the fall at Widener University in Harrisburg. Debbie and I will be back on the college hunt with our son Galen who will be a senior in high school this year. That will leave just Nolan at home once Galen leaves, but not for long as Nolan will be a junior this year and will be headed for college just one year after his brother. Gillian continues as a junior at Iowa, she will be spending a semester in Italy this year and she can count on a visit from her parents. Caitlin was promoted to sous pastry chef at Per Se in Manhattan, and we have had the pleasure of dining there which was a fabulous experience. Colin continues successfully with Price Waterhouse in Los Angeles. No imminent weddings for any of the children so those sorts of things are still in the future for us. However, we will all be gathering at the Penn State-Notre Dame football game on September 9, which in the family is almost as good as a wedding.

We look forward to seeing you in Georgia.

Sean Grady

July 1, 2006

Scurlock Tower
6560 Fannin, Suite 944
Houston, Texas 77030
TEL: (713) 441-3800
FAX: (713) 793-1004
rgrossman@tmh.tmc.edu

Dear Academicians,

2006 has proven to be a rewarding year, both personally and professionally. We begin with the personal story. Just when we thought that we had reached family equilibrium— a 50th wedding anniversary and 8 beautiful grandchildren, all having reached the ages of reason and relative independence---our youngest daughter, Ruth Jennifer, and her husband Bruce Oakley--- presented us with our 9th grandchild, William Robert Oakley. William was born on June 20, 2006, and weighed in at 7 lbs. 5 oz. and 20" long. Of course, he is the most marvelous child with an easy temperament and a lively interest in his surroundings, including his bottle. This delightful baby gives our family another opportunity to experience babyhood and childhood and the whole life story again.

Our three daughters and their families live in Houston, all close by, and the bonds of sisterhood and cousinhood are strong.

Having retired as Dean of Academic Affairs at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, Ellin continues to be active in the community. This year she has joined the Board of the Houston Area Parkinson's Society as well as the Development and Advisory Board of the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She continues as Honorary Board member of the Epilepsy Foundation of Southeast Texas, and as member of three advisory boards of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (Asian Art; Antiquities; and Art of the Americas, Oceania and Africa). Her "other job" is to spend lots of time with the grandchildren.

Bob has had perhaps the busiest year of his long career, developing the Methodist Hospital Neurological Institute, which is making rapid progress in the current Houston medical environment of change, new affiliations, new construction, and new programs. Bob and David Baskin, Director of the Methodist Neurosurgery Residency, are enjoying the challenge of developing the educational as well as clinical aspects of this new program. Paul Holman, now at the University of Rochester, is joining the neurosurgery faculty this month.

He also has focused on research program development in the area of spinal cord injury and therapy, working with the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation. The tragic deaths of Christopher Reeve and Dana Reeve only months apart have led to a steadfast determination by the Foundation and its affiliates to carry this work forward. Bob has developed the North American Clinical Trials Network (NACTN) which is increasing its membership in the US and Canada among university and military centers. NACTN is collaborating with a similar European network. It is hoped that this collaboration will yield enough patients to test promising new therapies under rigorous conditions and in statistically significant numbers. Interesting offshoots of this research include the development of new instruments to test hand strength, and the application of Bayesian statistics to analyze the relatively small numbers of patients in these clinical trials.

All our best wishes to our friends and colleagues,

Ellin and Bob

Ellin and Bob Grossman

School of Medicine

Department of Neurology
and Neurological Surgery

Neurological Surgery
Robert L. Grubb, Jr., M.D.
Herbert Lourie Professor

July 14, 2006

Dear Ralph,

I don't have time to write this letter. I'm packing to go to New York City and must try to take clothes which do not yell, "out-of-towners." But I did spend two hours harvesting enough larkspur seed to turn Glendale purple (Bob would pull them all out as weeds before I return) and I also received a plaintive call from Jeannette, Ralph's point person on this newsletter – so – with nothing more remarkable to report (no UNC basketball championship and no Cardinal World Series hopes) than the expectation in September of Grubblen #2 from son Robert and wife Jessica, here goes.

The trip to New York is to first visit our lawyer daughter Mary Connell in the West Village and then to meet my travel buddies, wives of other academy members and go to great museums, eat great meals, drink great wine and have a great old time – sorry don't say "old" to this group. We are all wives of ex department chairs or ex organization presidents, or ex editorial board or ex Board chairmen and we've all been to so many lovely laudatory retirement affairs that it is downright depressing and all have recent health issues adding to the pall. We've become the "grand old ladies" we thought we'd never become. To quote my adorable 2-year-old granddaughter Louisa (aren't these letters supposed to brag about our children and grandchildren?) "Oh no! What do we do now?" What do we do? We keep on keeping on and travel with great friends and share our aches and pains and heartaches and woes and many laughs over great meals and great wine, thankful to be together as we have been over countless breakfasts in countless "Ladies (or Spouse) Hospitality Rooms" throughout the country since our guys were callow residents. See you at the next one.

Julia

Mailing Address

Neurological Surgery
Washington University School of Medicine
at Washington University Medical Center
Campus Box 8057, 660 S. Euclid Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110-1093
(314) 362-3567 FAX: (314) 362-2107

June 21, 2006

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., MD
Washington University
Department of Neuro
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

RE: Round Robin Letter

The Hadley family continues to be healthful and active. Our lives are full and eventful. We continue to be blessed with good health, good fortune, and great kids.

Christopher has graduated with honors from high school. He has outstanding grades, is captain of the National Champion High School Math Team, is a National Merit Scholar, and is an Alabama State Track meet gold medalist in the 4x400 meter relay. He will attend Stanford University in September. We are all very excited for him.

Jack is ten and has completed the fourth grade. He is a conscientious, accomplished student and a great athlete; all-star basketball guard and all-star baseball pitcher.

Mollie is seven and completed first grade this year. She enjoys school and gymnastics (and tennis with Dad). She is a leader in her class and among her friends. She rules our household and tends to our cat, Savannah, our dog, Bucky, and three Guinea pigs.

Lori remains healthful and busy. She is putting the final touches on our building plans for a long-awaited beach house on the Gulf Coast of Florida. Her business sense and interior design background have been instrumental in bringing this effort to fruition.

Mark enjoys his profession and training Residents and Fellows. Now 15 years at UAB, he continues to be involved in research and writing in addition to patient care. He was honored with an Endowed Chair in Neurological Surgery this spring.

Mark and Lori Hadley



**Bidding Committee for
the 15th WFNS World Congress of Neurosurgery in Seoul, Korea**

Room #5602, SNUH, 28 Yongeon-dong Jongno-gu, Seoul 110-744, S. Korea
Phone: +82-2-2072-3381. Fax: +82-2-744-2339
E-mail: 2013wfns@paran.com / Website: www.wfns2013seoul.org

June 30, 2006

Dear Fellow Academicians,

I would like to offer my best wishes to my friends and fellow Academicians. It was a pleasure sharing quality time with you at the Half Moon Bay last year and I am looking forward to meeting you all in Atlanta this year.

As the Chairman of the Bidding Committee for the 2013 WFNS World Congress of Neurosurgery in Seoul, Korea, it is my great pleasure to inform you that our bidding campaign for the 2013 WFNS Congress is processing as planned thanks to your immense support. In addition, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the fellow academicians, who participated in the WFNS Education Program in Seoul, the Annual Spring Meeting of the society in the Jeju Island and the Korean Night in San Francisco. Your participation is greatly appreciated.



*Photo was taken during the WFNS Education Course in Seoul on April
with Dr. Brotchi & Rachel, Dr. Kim (KNS President) & Mrs. Kim and myself & my wife Dr. Cho*

We are competing for the 15th WFNS World Congress with other Asian countries, including Japan, China, and Indonesia, as well as Jordan. Japan, however, has already hosted the WFNS Congress; in addition, Japan has already been awarded the bid to host the 2007 WFNS interim meeting in Nagoya.



**Bidding Committee for
the 15th WFNS World Congress of Neurosurgery in Seoul, Korea**

Room #5602, SNUH, 28 Yongeon-dong Jongno-gu, Seoul 110-744, S. Korea
Phone: +82-2-2072-3381, Fax: +82-2-744-2339
E-mail: 2013wfns@paran.com / Website: www.wfns2013seoul.org

Since its foundation, the Korean Neurosurgical Society has successfully hosted various international neurosurgical academic conferences and now the society is preparing for the 15th WFNS World Congress. Following the Tokyo and New Delhi WFNS Congresses held in 1973 and 1989 respectively, the third invitation for Asia to host the WFNS World Congress is to be held in Seoul in 2013.

On the family side, Sung, my wife is successfully engaged in her private otolaryngology practice for thirty years. She is still enjoying meeting her old patients, sometimes in three generations. Actually I am retiring officially from my position on February 2008 and then I may continue my neurosurgical practice in other place.

Il-Kyu, my only son became an assistant professor at the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Seoul National University Hospital where I have been working at the Department of Neurosurgery since 1976 as a member of the staff. Fortunately my son-in-law is an assistant professor in our department where he is doing a lot of brain tumor surgeries and researches. I have four grandchildren with whom I am enjoying my remaining days. I am changing my interest from neurosurgery to playing golf, traveling and reading.

I am working hard for the bidding campaign and hope my fellow academicians will support me to our effort to host the 2013 WFNS World Congress in Seoul.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Atlanta.

Best regards,

Dae-Hee Han, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Neurosurgery
Seoul National University College of Medicine
Seoul National University Hospital
Chairman, Bidding Committee
for the 15th WFNS World Congress of Neurosurgery in Seoul, Korea
Tel +82-2-2072-2352 / Fax +82-2-766-3322 / E-mail: daehan@snu.ac.kr



[Poster for the bidding campaign]



Department of Neurosurgery

Penn State College of Medicine
Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
Department of Neurosurgery, H110
500 University Drive, P.O. Box 850
Hershey, PA 17033-0850

Tel: (717) 531-8807
Fax: (717) 531-3858

<http://www.hmc.psu.edu/neurosurgery>
<http://www.pennstateneurosurgery.com>

Robert E. Harbaugh, MD, FACS, FAHA
Chairman and Residency Program Director

Kevin M. Cockroft, MD, MSc, FACS
Endovascular and Cerebrovascular Surgery

James R. Conner, PhD
Vice Chairman—Neurosurgical Research

Mark S. Dias, MD, FAAP
Vice Chairman—Clinical, Pediatric Neurosurgery

Carlo M. de Luna, MD
Neurosurgery at Wyoming Valley

Elana Farace, PhD
Director of Clinical Research

James R. Fick, MD
Neurosurgery at University Park

Bruce J. Gluckman, PhD
Neural Engineering

Kimberly S. Harbaugh, MD
Peripheral Nerve Surgery

Mark Iantosca, MD
Pediatric Neurosurgery

Paul Kalapos, MD
Endovascular Neurosurgery-Neuroradiology

Uhnoh Kim, PhD
Neurosurgical Research, Neural Engineering

Sang Y. Lee, PhD
Neurosurgical Research

A.B. Madhankumar, PhD
Neurosurgical Research

James McInerney, MD
Stereotactic, Functional and Radiosurgery

Robert B. Page, MD, FACS
Professor Emeritus

Stephanie M. Patton, PhD
Neurosurgical Research

G. Timothy Reiter, MD
Spine Surgery and Neurotrauma

Steven J. Schiff, MD, PhD
Director—Center for Neural Engineering

Jonas M. Sheehan, MD
Neuro-oncology, Skull Base Surgery, Radiosurgery

Elizabeth H. Sinz, MD
Neuro Critical Care

Xinsheng Wang, MD, PhD
Neurosurgical Research

Adjunct Appointment
Philip J. Blatt, PhD
Terence Patterson, PhD
Vijay Varadan, PhD

Ralph Dacey, Jr. M.D.
Secretary, American Academy of Neurological Surgery
Washington University Department of Neurosurgery
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

May 15, 2006

Dear Ralph,

This has been another excellent year for Penn State Neurosurgery. The Neurosurgery Department continues to grow. We now have twelve neurosurgical clinical faculty and nine full time research faculty in the department as well as three adjunct research faculty members.

Our clinical efforts are going very well, with fellowship trained faculty in pediatric neurosurgery, cerebrovascular neurosurgery, endovascular neurosurgery, spinal neurosurgery, 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 2000 neurosurgical procedures per year. We are recruiting for an additional spine surgeon and have successfully recruited an additional pediatric neurosurgeon at our Hershey Medical Center campus. We continue to recruit for two Physician Scientist positions, one in Neuro-oncology and one in Functional Neurosurgery. The department has also developed a formal relationship with the Tianjin Bureau of Public Health in Tianjin, China, with collaboration in clinical neurosurgery, basic research, clinical research and medical education. The first Chinese neurosurgical research fellows will be joining us this summer.

Our new Image Guided Radiation Treatment Center has opened which houses both a Gamma Knife and a Trilogy unit for intracranial and extracranial radiosurgery. A new 16 bed Neuro-ICU is scheduled to open in August immediately adjacent to our 14 bed Neuro Intermediate Care unit and the Neuro inpatient unit. This will consolidate all adult Neurosurgical patients in one area and will be of significant benefit to our faculty, housestaff, PAs, nurses and patients. New office space, an outpatient imaging center and a multidisciplinary, Neuromusculoskeletal Clinic building are scheduled to open in 2007.

On the research front the Penn State Department of Neurosurgery now has nine full time PhD research faculty members and our external funding this year will exceed \$4 million. Three new faculty members, Steven Schiff, MD, PhD, Bruce Gluckman, PhD and Uhnoh Kim, PhD will be members of the Penn State Center for Neural Engineering. This is a joint program of the Departments of Neurosurgery and Engineering Science and Mechanics that will put us in the forefront of neural engineering research.

We will graduate two residents this year. Hitham Khalil will be going into the private practice of neurosurgery in Georgia and Akash Agarwal will be joining the Neurosurgery Department at Case Western as their endovascular neurosurgeon after finishing an endovascular fellowship year here. We have also received permission from the Neurosurgery RRC to increase our resident complement and are recruiting for these additional positions. We will match for two PGY1 neurosurgical positions next year. Keep Penn State in mind if your medical students ask about neurosurgery residency opportunities.

This year the Pennsylvania Neurosurgical Society will again be holding its annual meeting in Hershey with Paul Nelson as our invited guest. The Hershey meetings the last two years have been great successes and we look forward to another successful meeting this year.

On a personal note I am enjoying my tenure as a member of the AANS Board of Directors and the Chair of the Washington Committee's Quality Improvement Workgroup.

Finally, I would like to extend a standing invitation to any Academy members to stop and visit us in Hershey. Kim and I just bought a new home and we would love to have guests.



Robert E. Harbaugh, MD, FACS, FAHA
Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery
Professor, Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics
Penn State University-Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
C3830, Biomedical Research Building,
500 University Drive
Hershey, PA 17033-0850

Dear fellow Academy members

Yet another year has passed! My family and I are all well and happy. My two youngest daughters Leah (rising 8th grader) and Lorna (rising 7th grader) are both at camp for a month this summer. While they are away Ian, Claire and Alison are joining the annual youth cycling trip to New England. In preparation, Alison and I are riding 150 miles a week. This has been great for my health, both physical and mental.

Claire finished her first year at Beloit College but does not intend to return for a second year. She is currently in New York City studying at the NY School for Film and Television. I will not be surprised if she decides to stay in New York. Ian becomes a junior in high school this next year. His interest in the visual arts is strong and he is considering art school rather than traditional college. Looks like all my kids are headed for a career in the arts.

The Neurosurgery Department at UMC has been hit hard by the ills of academic medicine in the United States. We survived the malpractice crisis as a result of substantial tort and judicial reform. However, we are being hurt by the ever shrinking funding for trauma and indigent care. As the uninsured population grows there is more and more demand on the University Hospital, yet it is not a charity hospital. In addition, we have had trouble recruiting and retaining neurosurgeons. We struggle to compete with the income and lifestyle of nonacademic practice. Clustering of neurosurgeons in boutique hospitals and reduced emergency coverage in other hospitals has strained our on-call coverage beyond the breaking point. These problems are affecting other departments at UMC and seem to be a national trend. We just seem to be hit particularly hard. For now, all we can do is try to hang on for better times.

Louis Harkey



Griffith R. Harsh IV, M.D.

Professor of Neurological Surgery
Stanford Medical School

Brain Tumor Center

Stanford Center for Advanced Medicine
875 Blake Wilbur Drive CC 2222
Stanford, CA 94305-5826
T: 650-725-0701. F: 650-498-4686
Email: gharsh@stanford.edu

June 30, 2006

Dear Fellow Academicians:

Stanford Neurosurgery and the Harsh family have had an exciting year. Our Stanford Brain Tumor Program, Cranial Base Surgery Program, and Stanford Pituitary Center have benefited greatly from new recruits in allied fields. The department continues to grow rapidly in respect to all metrics. And the hospital is embarking on expansion to a second campus on the peninsula.

We have greatly enjoyed hosting a number of neurosurgical events in the San Francisco Bay area and Peninsula over the last year. It was a thrill to share the activities of the department and the beautiful scenery of the Bay area with so many friends during the Senior society meeting here. Meg and I particularly enjoyed working with Martin and Joan Camins as local hosts for the Academy meeting last fall at Half Moon Bay. It was great fun to observe the enthusiasm and vigor of Academy members and their spouses on the bike and hiking trails, in the ocean, and on the dance floor.

Our extended family just returned from a two week trip to southern Africa. My parents, having been several times, had long wanted to take their three sons, but we had never been able to coordinate schedules until this year, by which time our number had grown to 14. Capetown, six game camps providing widely varying geology, environments, flora and fauna, and Victoria Falls were all amazing. Both Craig and Griff are quite well, by the way, and send their warm regards.

The rest of the summer, son Griff, 21 is working in Seattle on Starbucks' supply chain, Will is "chilling with friends" after high school graduation, Meg is fighting off Google incursions, and I am back to work. She and I look forward to a great meeting in Georgia this September. We hope to see you there.

Best regards,
Griff

Griffith R. Harsh IV, MD, MBA

**Robyn and Peter Heilbrun
Sugarplum Townhouse #6
PO Box 920041
Snowbird UT 84092**

July 24, 2006

Dear Friends,

As my life as an active practicing neurosurgeon fades, I find that the after life is truly wonderful. I have had the opportunity to continue working on the "cutting edge" of our specialty, as a physician advisor for Accuray, the company that manufactures and sells the CyberKnife. In the past 3 years, I have traveled to almost 30 CyberKnife centers in this country, Europe and Asia, both teaching and learning. Robyn has accompanied me to the most exotic sites, from Bristol Tennessee to Vicenza Italy and Istanbul Turkey. In May, we were in Hanoi, Vietnam where a CyberKnife was installed at a large new military hospital.

I have also had the opportunity to enjoy more time with Robyn, my daughters, their husbands, and my grandchildren. We spend winters in Utah and summers in the Bay area, and we're so spoiled that we've quit counting our skiing and sailing days. I've even taken up painting lessons. Last summer, I made my first ocean passage --as part of a 4 man delivery crew-- sailing a J 160, one of the Transpac race boats, back from Hawaii to San Diego. The skipper and owner was a 74 year old fellow skier from Snowbird. The other two crew members were a 72 year old retired Navy pilot and another retired neurosurgeon (Ed Ganz). An incredible experience -- 'four old f---ts' sailing a race boat 2500 miles back to the mainland against the wind.

My oldest daughter Marta just completed her radiology residency at Wake Forest and has started a fellowship back at Utah. Her husband Ron is both a CPA and Mr. Mom, taking care of five year old Anna and two year old Sophie, of course "above average" grandchildren. We're delighted to have them in our neighborhood again. My youngest daughter Sarah is an attorney specializing in immigration law, married to David, an attorney specializing in real estate law. They work in San Francisco and live in Oakland. Sarah and David are my foredeck crew on my J 105 boat as we climb the learning curve of racing on San Francisco Bay.

Robyn and I continue to be thankful for good health even though we do occasionally "tweak" our joints on the slopes of Snowbird.

Best wishes to all. We probably will be in Europe or Asia at the time of this year's meeting.

Peter and Robyn

May 16, 2006

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., MD
Washington University School of Medicine
660 S. Euclid Campus Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110-0000

RE: Round Robin

My fellow academicians:

No earth shattering news from the Heros' this year. The problems we have in the department I am sure are familiar to many, if not most of you. Somehow we manage to be busier than ever and yet, there isn't enough money to give the faculty the raises that they deserve. I am sure you can all guess that this is due to a combination of lower reimbursement, increased malpractice premiums and increased expenditure on bureaucratic attempts to deal with compliance, privacy laws, etc. The compliance office for our medical group of over 700 physicians has grown exponentially and now has probably as many employees as our own department.

In spite of all of the above, it is still great fun to be a busy neurosurgeon and my greatest fear is to not be able to do neurosurgery for twenty more years. Fortunately, after having my hip replaced and a cataract removed, I feel as good as I have for years and continue to feel on a daily basis the joy of being in the operating room. The great compensation for all the problems previously alluded to comes from working with a fantastic group of residents who must think that I am getting old and spoil me as an only child, sheltering me from much of the misery related to working in the present hostile medical environment.

In terms of the academic development of the department, the best news is our having taken full control of not only all endovascular procedures, but also all the diagnostic angiography done at the Center. This has happened thanks to herculian efforts, an incredible capacity for work and excellent results on the part of our endovascular neurosurgeon, Alois Zauner. Fortunately, one of our current chief residents, Ali Sultan, who has had a full two year endovascular fellowship during his residency, will join the faculty this July which will allow Alois to take a day off every now and then and also to get to the laboratory which he is very anxious to do. Our fellow academician, Jacques

Morcos, who is an outstanding and in my opinion, world-class vascular and skull base neurosurgeon, decided to take on endovascular surgery and he will complete his training in this area hopefully this December. How much endovascular surgery he will do in the future remains to be seen since he remains a "maximally invasive" surgeon at heart. Our spine practice continues to be extremely busy with three full time spinal neurosurgeons; however, our feeling is that reimbursement has decreased more in this area than in others. Our pediatric group of four full-time pediatric neurosurgeons is very busy, but you all know about reimbursement in this particular area which is probably worse than in any other sub-specialty of neurosurgery except for trauma.

The family is great. Debbie continues in her position as Associate Professor and Director of Neuro-Oncology at the University. She has become so busy with the brain tumor patients that she really cannot see any general neurology patients and this is a problem because of the emotional harshness of a pure neuro-oncologic practice. The University is looking for a second neuro-oncologist but there aren't many of them and I don't know how much longer Debbie is going to be able to do this by herself. Carlos is in middle school and is doing great in sports, very well (perhaps not great) in academics and phenomenally in his love life. He has had a girlfriend now almost since the beginning of the year and at their tender age of 12, there are probably no downsides to this relationship and we are all enjoying it. Elsie, Seth and our two terrific grandchildren, Solomon and Sadie, spent two lovely weeks with us here during the winter and we are looking forward to seeing them in Maine this summer. We just spent a week in Hawaii with Rob who has one more year to serve as a physiatrist in the army; hopefully time is running out for him to be assigned to Iraq now, which is something that has had all of us more than a bit nervous.

Unfortunately, Debbie may not be able to come to Georgia this fall because Carlos will be in school and he still needs daily attention with his homework and other activities. I certainly plan to be there and look forward very much to seeing as many of you as possible.

Sincerely,



Roberto C. Heros, MD
Professor, Co-Chairman and Program Director

RCH:lab



The University of Michigan

Department of Neurosurgery

April 12, 2006

Julian T. Hoff, M.D.
Richard C. Schneider Professor
Department of Neurosurgery
(734) 936-5015

Ralph Dacey, MD
Secretary, American Academy of Neurological Surgeons
Department of Neurological Surgery
Washington University School of Medicine
660 South Euclid
Campus Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

Re: Academy Round Robin Letter

Dear Ralph,

Diane and I are looking forward to the Academy meeting this fall! We have truly enjoyed the camaraderie the Academy has fostered since 1975 when we became members.

As you probably know, I stopped operating in July 2005. I have continued to see patients (primarily follow-ups) and an occasional new patient. I continue to teach medical students and residents and enjoy the laboratory experience with my colleagues of many years in our Crosby Neurosurgical Laboratories.

Aging seems to bring special pleasures. Less concern about the patients in the hospital, less concern about surgical procedures that remain challenging, more time with family, better sleep habits, an improving golf game because of more time, etc. Diane and I were on a Caribbean cruise in January, will be cruising the Mediterranean in September with family, and are both celebrating 70th birthdays this year.

It is a special pleasure to honor the lives and careers of many friends. Festschrifts, retirement parties, and scientific meetings to honor friends are a lot of fun. Diane and I recently had the privilege of attending events for John VanGilder, David Thomas, Alan Crockard, and John McGillicuddy. Unfortunately we missed Marty Weiss' and Don Becker's farewells but know that they were smashing successes, LA style!

Along with the pleasures go concerns, particularly funding for research, recruitment of top quality people into our specialty, more emphasis on lifestyle by trainees, etc.

Diane and I remain healthy. We have three wonderful children and four grandchildren. What more can anyone want!

We look forward to seeing you in the Fall.

Regards,

Julian T. Hoff, MD
Richard C. Schneider Professor



University at Buffalo
State University of New York

L. N. Hopkins, M.D.

*Professor and Chairman of Neurosurgery
Professor of Radiology*

June 29, 2006

Dear Fellow Academicians:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President. The Academy is a wonderful organization and serving in this capacity has been one of the highlights of my academic career.

To bring you up to date on what has been happening in our lives over the past year . . .

Finally(!), we have finished our Jackson Hole home, and it has become a focal point for our family. What a fun time Bonnie and I had this March getting all six grandchildren (8 years and under) skiing. Most exciting was watching our 8-year-old granddaughter graduate from the bunny hill to a double black diamond within 1 week.

Our children continue to be a great source of pride for us. Bob has risen to the top of his field as a med tech analyst at Lehman Brothers. His wonderful wife Cassie and their three children live in Connecticut. Margie is putting her MBA to good use learning how to manage three boys (twins ages 3½ and a 2-year old). Her husband Larry, having attained Certified Financial Analyst (CFA) designation, has successfully embarked on a new career in financial management. The good news is that they have moved back to Buffalo. Betsy continues her incredible job as a social worker specializing in physically and emotionally abused young children. Husband Neb has embarked on a career in pediatric psychiatry after recently completing his residency at Brown.

Our department continues to thrive with the recruitment of two new faculty members and the publication of more than 30 articles over the last year. We are fortunate to have a dedicated and talented team of physicians, nurses, and support staff. In the works is a multidisciplinary, cross-specialty global vascular center. All very exciting!

Bonnie and I count our blessings – still having fun and best friends after 42 years!

Looking forward to being with you at Reynolds Plantation this fall,

Nick and Bonnie Hopkins

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES DIVISION

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH SCIENCES
AND DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE

30 June 2006

Dr. Ralph G. Dacy, Jr.,
Washington University
Department of Neurosurgery
600 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

Dear Ralph,

Thanks for the reminder to contribute a note which will be brief.

Though I'm retired for 8 years, I'm still at Neuro but mostly supporting student and faculty programs, fundraising and still involved in global health issues.

Supporting programs for medical education, postgraduate medical education and scientific research in Armenia is happily time consuming, productive and thus satisfying.

At Columbia we await a new EVP/Dean, Lee Goldman from UCSF. As they say, "Tune in next week" and we'll see where we go from here. Yes our children are thriving as is our one grandson. Yes we have been traveling some but unfortunately won't be able to make the coming Academy meeting.

Best to you and all our friends.


Ed Housepian

July 4, 2006

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., MD
Washington University Dept of Neurosurgery
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

Dear Academicians,

Susan and I had a wonderful visit to London on the occasion of David Thomas' retirement. We met many old Neurosurgical friends from around the world and, with them, enjoyed the Thomas' and British hospitality. This trip came at just the right time for us as we had had rather a difficult six months. Susan's father passed away, essentially of old age, and this was a very sad occasion for a very close-knit family. In addition, Susan slipped on the last day of the winter's ice in Parry Sound and sustained a classic Colle's fracture. I splinted her forearm with the appropriate sailing magazine and this brought temporary relief. Fortunately, an old friend of ours, a very experienced General Surgeon in Parry Sound, was digging up his spring garden, so I got him to come into the local hospital and reduce and cast the fracture. The choice was either me, or the General Surgeon, and Susan, wisely, chose the latter. An additional problem was that Susan's foot slipped off the brake onto the accelerator while she was parking our SUV, and she, therefore, charged a concrete wall with impressive speed. The car was totalled but fortunately, Susan only suffered bruises from the seat belt and the deployed airbags. The week in England was exactly what we needed and David and Hazel were sent off in good style with warm wishes from many friends around the world.

David Kline phoned me to say that he was no longer the Head at LSU. He and I met in 1970 and became close professional and subsequent personal friends. David gave his heart and soul to the program and it is most unfortunate that the last year or so was marred by Katrina. As expected, David soldiered through with dogged, conscientious care of his patients and the program. We look forward to attending an event in his honour early next year.

I have nearly concluded my latest gig which is advising the Premier and Minister of Health on the whole issue of Wait Times in the Ontario health system. Our program has been remarkably successful and Wait Times have come down in a very satisfactory manner. All countries, however, have demonstrated that the trick is to sustain the initial gains and this requires a transformation of health care delivery in the Province. We have to move from a pre-industrial revolution setup, with 150 craft shops (individual hospitals with individual boards), to something resembling a provincial system. We spend \$36 Billion a year on this system and the trick is not to introduce a Stalinistic central control and command program, but to get a rational system in play in which the major providers can play leadership roles on a regional basis. Our main

success is that all the Expert Panels, which advise me and the government on such items as Cataracts, Cancer, Cardiac, Surgery, CT/MRI, and Hips and Knees, are personal friends of mine and experts in their field. Although the bulk of the profession, as usual, are not particularly happy about change, the fact that the leaders are from their own group, certainly makes this major change management program a lot easier to implement. A major triumph has been securing a single, provincial IT program, linking the 150 cottage industries. This has also been quite interesting because, despite a unanimous vote that we needed a single system for the Province, what the hospitals really meant was "we want a single system, but don't touch mine".

Four children and 12 grandchildren are all flourishing and, by fluke, all in Toronto, so Susan continues with full employment as a grandmother.

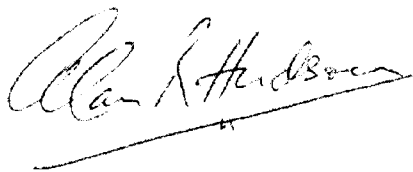
Jim Rutka and his team continue to do superb things in Toronto. Jim has a constant stream of colleagues visiting. We were particularly pleased to meet with Michael Apuzzo, whom we had not seen for many, many years. He came up to give a talk on Nanotechnology. Ed Laws was another old friend who visited, bringing us up-to-date on the World Federation.

Susan stays in touch with Gloria Hendrick and Joanne Hoffman. I had the pleasure of meeting Bill Lougheed's son on the occasion of a visit to a hospital in Barrie a couple of months ago. Toronto was indeed lucky to have men of this caliber to teach the residents and the influence of these pioneers is certainly remembered in Toronto with gratitude.

Susan is still a bit skeptical, but I intend trying retirement, for the fourth time, this October. Our plan is to celebrate with a trip to the Serengeti. We have been to all the major game reserves in southern Africa, but have never journeyed to central Africa, so we look forward to this trip with keen anticipation.

Looking forward to seeing our friends next year when, hopefully, retirement will give us a little more spare time to travel.

All the best.



Alan R. Hudson, OC, FRCSC
Lead, Access to Services and Wait Time Strategy
Health Results Team
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
620 University Avenue, 16th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2L7

Tel: 416-971-9800 ext. 1610
Fax: 416-971-5940
Email: alan.hudson@cancercare.on.ca



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Patrick J. Kelly, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Professor and Chairman
Department of Neurosurgery

530 First Avenue, Suite 8R
New York, NY 10016-6497
Telephone: (212) 263-8002
Facsimile: (212) 263-8031
E-mail: patrick.kelly@med.nyu.edu

May 13 2006

Ralph Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
Department of Neurological Surgery
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

Subject: **Round Robin**

Dear Ralph;

Plus Ça Change, Plus C'Est La Même Chose.

Last summer I was committed to major changes: Retirement. I've been a neurosurgeon for 32 years. That seemed long enough. I was tired of the institutional politics, never ending battles with the dean and the administration, demanding patients, worries about increasing overhead and decreasing reimbursements, etc. etc. Screw it! It was time for change: get off the financial treadmill, make less, spend less and enjoy the fruits of my labors.

Our duplex co-op on the Upper East Side had to go: 13 rooms for two people and two scrawny cats, and a monthly maintenance that could support a small country. Silly! In spite of vehement objections from Carol and 16 year-old Caitlin, now at a boarding school in the UK, the co-op went on the market.

"But what about your boat?" Carol asked. I'd owned CYGNUS for 16 years. She was a beautiful thing. I didn't mind spending my hard-earned money on her. But it was a lot of hard-earned money. Nonetheless, what's fair is fair: if Carol loses her precious apartment, I deserved to lose my beloved yawl. I put CYGNUS on the market.

Then there was our house in Northeast Harbor, Maine. I'd selected this town for one reason and one reason only: The harbor. With surrounding mountains shielding it from the wind and the Cranberry Isles acting as a natural breakwater, Northeast Harbor was the best and most protected harbor on the Maine coast. But without the boat, there was little point in having a house up there. And who needs a house in a town that only stays open from Memorial Day to Labor Day and requires a 9 hour drive to get there? So we listed the house for sale too.



I put a ridiculously high price on CYGNUS, secretly hoping that nobody would want her at that price. But the Hinckley brokerage didn't help: Their listing proclaimed that she was "the best kept Bermuda 40 that we've ever seen! A great buy for the discriminating yachtsman." There was a lot of interest. Within less than a month CYGNUS was in the proud hands of someone else. Funds were quickly wire-transferred to my bank account. I thought that looking at the balance of my savings account would give me some pleasure. But it wasn't as satisfying as watching CYGNUS bob on her mooring - clearly the prettiest boat in the harbor. But now she was no longer mine.

There was also a lot of interest in the Northeast Harbor house. And we also sold that at almost the asking price. Caitlin returned from school in the UK for the Christmas holidays and she, Carol and I went up to Northeast Harbor to supervise the move. I must admit that, even for me, it's a painful thing to watch stuff that has been a pleasant part of your environment get loaded into boxes and jammed into a truck. It was especially hard on Caitlin and her mother. As we walked around the little town for a "last look", Caitlin started wailing.

"I've been up here for every summer of my entire life!" she sobbed. Carol was also morose and asked "Why are we doing this?" Looking around Main street and down at the harbor, I had to admit that it was, indeed, a special little town. I made the mistake of voicing this sentiment. This amplified the wailing and the accusatory looks from the two of them as if to say: "Why are you doing this to us?"

We walked back to the house in an uncomfortable silence; Caitlin sobbing, Carol depressed and me, like a shell-shocked veteran hiding in a foxhole, realizing that a single word could launch a barrage. As we descended the hill leading down to our house, the sight of the moving van loading at the garage door increased the sobs. Then, out of the corner of my eye, I saw a sign:

"House For Sale" with the name of a local real estate agent. I gently steered my family down the new road.

"What are we doing?" Carol asked. Indeed, I asked myself, what was I doing?

"Let's take a look at this house", I said.

"Why? What for?" Carol demanded. I told her that I was just curious. Which was followed with another round of "Why" and "Whatever for?"

But by that time we were passing in front of the house. The women stopped dead in their tracks. "Now this is a house I could love!" Carol exclaimed. "It's beautiful", said Caitlin. The shingle-style "Arts and Crafts" house with its tan shingles and dark green trim, nestled in the pines was, indeed, picture-perfect. And it was near the harbor. I picked up my cell phone.

"What are you doing?" Carol asked. Good question; what was I doing?

“Why don’t we take a look at this? I’m calling the real estate agent.”

“Great!” said Caitlin, tears not yet dry but now beaming.

“Why are you doing this to us?” Carol demanded. I told her that I just wanted to see what the inside of the house looked like. She said that it didn’t matter what it looked like, we weren’t going to buy it.

“Why not?” I responded, not believing what I had just said.

“I thought that you were going to retire. How can we afford it?”

“Oh... Right!” I called the real estate agent anyway. The phone was answered on the second ring. “Damn!” I thought.

“I know you’re probably very busy,” I began. “But we were passing by the house off Huntington Road and....”

“No problem”, she said. “I’m very close and can be there in five minutes”. She was there in less than five minutes. I was trapped. It was like playing Russian roulette and finding the bullet in the first chamber.

So we looked at the house. The girls loved it. Caitlin picked out her bedroom – the one with a round window in the bathroom. Carol started pondering the important questions of life: drapes or shutters and what couch would best fit in front of the fireplace? I pondered another important question:

“What in the hell am I doing?”

Needless to say, we bought the house. As it turned out, it was fortunate. The Gracie Square Co-op sold. We’d bought a five-room co-op in Sutton Place. Thirteen rooms jammed full of stuff does not fit into five rooms. The overflow went up to Maine.

However, there was still something missing. Why be up in Northeast Harbor, Maine – the best harbor on the Maine Coast - without a boat?

Carol said, “You’re not going to buy another boat!”

I answered, “Well, I’ve always liked boats. I’ve owned boats for 40 years. I’m just looking.”

So, I started looking at boats. I even found my old boat that I’d owned as a resident, lived on in Galveston, Texas and brought up to Buffalo. It was for sale. But it was even more of a wreck than when I’d owned her. Common sense prevailed over nostalgia. I began looking elsewhere. And as I looked at boats in weekend excursions to Southern

Connecticut, Florida, South Carolina, Massachusetts, etc., I noted something very interesting: The boats I found myself looking at were getting progressively larger and more expensive.

I eventually found my dreamboat – the boat I’ve always wanted but could never afford: a Hinckley Sou’wester 50 (SW 50) yawl. They only produced 23 of this model – don’t know why; they had the prettiest shape of any Hinckley-built sailboat and they sold like hotcakes in the late 70’s. But this one was even more special.

The Hinckley broker referred to her as a “creampuff”. It sounded too good to be true (like “owned by a little old lady who only drove her on Sundays”). So I checked it out – and it *was* true. After she’d been built by the Hinckley Shipyard in 1979, she was sailed from Southwest Harbor, Maine, around Gaspe’, through the St Lawrence, Lakes Ontario and Erie to Detroit. That was the only voyage that she’d ever made in her life - a sad thing for a vessel capable of crossing oceans!

Her elderly “collector” owner kept her tied up at the Detroit Yacht Club in the summers. He never took her out. He died 5 years later. She then sat in a heated storage shed for 16 years when an obsessive-compulsive Detroit businessman bought her from the estate and replaced every system that could have dried out (pump impellers, hoses, fuel lines, etc.), updated the electronics and even installed custom-made Ralph Lauren curtains over ports and deadlights. He had piles of money but no time. He may have taken her out 14 times in the 6 years he’d owned her. The clock on the 120 hp Ford-Lehman diesel registered only 1110 hours of use in the 27 years of its life! That works out, considering a cruising speed of 7 knots, to a grand total of only 159 miles, but probably much less, since one runs a diesel a few times a week to charge batteries, etc.

Anyway, when I went up to Detroit to have a look, I was irretrievably hooked. The boat, in spite of her 27 years, looked new. Her hull shape looked like CYGNUS’s – just bigger. No surprise there: naval architect Bill Tripp designed both the Bermuda 40 and the SW 50. Of course, I offered to buy her on the spot. My wife, by now, resigned to the fact that I was unstoppable and probably certifiable, offered little resistance- especially when she saw the pictures of the varnished mahogany interior, the microwave oven, the flat screen TV in the main cabin and the Ralph Lauren curtains.

So, here’s the plan: I’ll bring the boat back to Southwest Harbor, Maine sometime in May. I have already changed her name on the USCG vessel documentation. I have a priest on stand-by; a few carefully chosen words to the man upstairs and a liberal sprinkling of holy water should dispel any bad luck resulting from the name change. Hinckley will repaint (Awlgrip) the hull flag blue and add the new name and hailing port on the transom:

CYGNUS
Northeast Harbor
Maine

So that was the Kelly idea of “downsizing”: sell a house; buy a bigger one about 200 yards away from the first. Sell a boat – a Hinckley yawl with a flag blue hull; buy a bigger Hinckley yawl that will soon have a flag blue hull. I guess that one only appreciates what one has when faced with losing it; that’s when you see that your life, as you know it, isn’t so bad after all. However, we did replace the large Manhattan co-op with a smaller one.

So... what about retirement?

Well, perhaps retirement is very over-rated. I recall reading somewhere that the average survival of men following retirement is three years irrespective of the age at which they retired. And let’s face it: your work defines you. You meet someone and they ask what you do. “I’m a brain surgeon”. This cuts you some slack. For example, someone might say: “Pat Kelly? Well, he’s a strange duck and somewhat of a bore. But he has a charming wife and a beautiful daughter. And, after all, he is a brain surgeon.”

Correction: A brain surgeon with a sailboat, Goddammit!

And yacht brokers and real estate agents love me!

Sincerely;

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

Patrick J Kelly, MD FACS

July 10, 2006

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Washington University-Dept. of Neurosurgery
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

Dear Ralph:

After a period at Charity during Katrina and then a few days in Houston, Nell and I eventually evacuated to North Carolina where we have a cabin near Blowing Rock. We then returned to New Orleans to rebuild our two flooded houses and to help reconstruct LSU Neurosurgery in October. We live on the 2nd floor of one and now have a FEMA trailer to retreat to when we need AC.

Prior to Katrina I had decided to step down as the Chairperson of Neurosurgery because I had done that for 36 years. Since Katrina, of course, the search and all here has been topsy turvey. The Dean/Chancellor though appointed Dr. Frank Culicchia a West bank Neurosurgeon with a thriving practice as the new head. Frank began in that position June 20th, 2006. Mike Carey and I will stay for another year or so to help in the transition. Roger Smith who is the head of Neurosurgery at Ochsner is now our Program Director. Ochsner is now the primary institution with clinical rotations to West Jefferson Hospital and Children's. We have lost some faculty as well as residents. Faculty remaining besides Dr. Carey, Dr. Smith and myself include Gabriel Tender, Robert Tiel, Joseph Nadell, Richard Coulon, Jose Bermudez, Lori McBride, and relatively recently Dr.'s John Steck (Dr. Culicchia's partner) and Daniel Kim. Much of course remains to be done and the next year should be both challenging as well as exciting. Thanks to all the Academy members for their offers of Help, Sympathy and Support!!!

Dave & Nell Kline
307 Fairway Drive
New Orleans, LA. 70124
(504)296-0158(Cell #)

DGK/vcp



University of Pittsburgh

School of Medicine
Department of Neurological Surgery

UPMC Presbyterian
Suite B-400
200 Lothrop Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2582
Academic: 412-647-0988
Fax: 412-647-0989
Clinical: 412-647-3685
Fax: 412-647-5559

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr, MD
Secretary, American Academy of Neurological Surgeons
Washington University
St. Louis, Missouri

June 8, 2006

Dear Ralph,

We are in a time of change in our department, as a search for a new Chair begins. Dade Lunsford has stepped down as Chair and will focus on his clinical practice, teaching, and research. Fortunately, our institution is investing further in neurosurgical technologies including radiosurgery. As you know, Dade has always demonstrated stellar leadership, support, and integrity while at the helm this past decade. We have a large program with superb residents, an excellent cadre of younger faculty, and strong subspecialty interests.

As President-Elect of the CNS, this year has been very interesting, as we develop further innovative concepts in neurosurgical education, work to address national issues of socioeconomic importance, grow the organization, and develop future neurosurgical leaders (always the most enjoyable aspect of the job). There is so much creativity in the organization, with almost exponential growth in a diversity of programs. The 2007 meeting will be in San Diego; Susan and I just returned from a site visit where a number of great venues were chosen for special events.

Susan and I spent a few days in Park City Utah this winter skiing. Our friend Joel MacDonald joined us one day and introduced me to the joys of "off-piste" skiing and jumping off cornices.....fortunately no injuries, but there has to be an age when this is no longer feasible!

Our oldest son Alex is now 14 and our youngest, Max, is 12. We recently bought the boys an old 14 foot Edgewater boat for them to practice their skills. Our summer cottage in Canada is on an island, so if they want to go to the marina or eventually chase young women, they will have to learn to drive.

As for me, I am still learning neurosurgery. The practice of functional neurosurgery is as broad as the imagination, applications and new concepts for radiosurgery are growing, brain tumors remain puzzling, and neurotransplantation research and trial design continues.

Hope to see you on the golf course,

Douglas Kondziolka, MD, MSc, FRCSC, FACS
Peter J. Jannetta Professor of Neurological Surgery and Radiation Oncology

Dade Lunsford, MD
Chairman

Anderson, P. David, MD

Arbight, A. Leland, MD

Baizer, Jeffrey, PhD

Bissonette, David, PA-C, MBA

Benson-Walter, Eleanor B., PhD

Blammond, Donald J., PhD

Bohannon, C. Edward, PhD

Bowles-Mayle, Wendy, MA

Braaten, Peter C., MD, MPH

Breider, Glenn, PhD, DVM

Brown, Michael B., MD

Brown, Larry W., PhD

Brown, Amin, MD

Brown, Douglas S., MSc, MD

Brown, Ann, MSc

Brown, John J., MD

Brown, Ajay, MBBS, MS, MCh

Brown, Edwin, PhD

Brown, Hideho, MD, PhD

Brown, Ronda, PhD

Brown, Ian F., MD

Brown, Michael J., MD, MBA

Brown, Robert J., MD, PhD

Brown, Richard M., MD

Brown, Miguel, PhD

Brown, Kevin A., MD

Brown, Harold B., PhD, MPH

Brown, William C., MD

Brown, Howard, MD



서울아산병원 ASAN Medical Center

138-736 서울특별시 송파구 풍납2동 388-1
388-1 Pungnap-2dong, Songpa-gu, Seoul 138-736, Korea
Tel : 82-2-3010-3114 Fax : 82-2-3010-3113
www.amc.seoul.kr



울산대학교 의과대학
UNIVERSITY OF ULSAN
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



하버드대의 협력의료기관
HARVARD MEDICAL INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION INSTITUTION

Ralph G. Dacey Jr. M.D.
The American Academy of Neurological Surgery
Washington University
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

June 30, 2005

This is my first letter for the Annual Round Robin for the academy.

I was accepted as an academician last year at Half-Moon Bay meeting.

It is great honor and pleasure for me to become a member of the precious society.

I'm the second neurosurgeon of Korea to become the member of the academy following Dr. Dae Hee Han.

I really thank all members of the academy for showing me such a wonderful welcome at Half-Moon Bay.

Especially I'd like to thank Dr. Laws and Dr. Hoff for inviting and introducing me to the meeting.

I have been busy in doing aneurysm surgery as usual since I came back to Korea.

On the family side things are moving forward very well.

My wife, Eunjoo Lee, returned to Korea after 4 years staying in the state for children care in Ann Arbor.

She had a nice piano concert at the Carnegie Hall in New York on June 25th, 2006.

First daughter, Youjin who graduated medical school in Korea, moved to New York and completed ECFMG certification. She is trying to get a job(residency program) in the state.

My second daughter, Youngjin, graduated University of Michigan and is trying to get into a law school.



서울아산병원 ASAN Medical Center

138-736 서울특별시 송파구 풍납2동 388-1
388-1 Pungnap-2dong, Songpa-gu, Seoul 138-736, Korea
Tel : 82-2-3010-3114 Fax : 82-2-3010-3113
www.amc.seoul.kr

울산대학교 의과대학
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COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



하버드대 협력의료기관
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ASSOCIATED INSTITUTION

My son, Thomas, who is an american citizen because he was born in Boston when I was a fellow at MGH, is studying well in University of Michigan.

Even though the schedule for the academy meeting and Korean neurosurgical society meeting is exactly overlapped this year, I decided to attend the academy meeting.

My wife and I realiy are looking forward seeing all members of the academy in Atlanta.

Best regards,

Byung Duk Kwun, M.D.

Professor

Dept. of Neurological Surgery

ASAN Medical Center

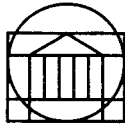
388-1 Pungnap-2dong, Songpa-gu,

Seoul, Korea

e-mail : bdkwun@amc.seoul.kr

Tel : +82-2-3010-3552

Fax : +82-2-476-6738



May 31, 2006

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., MD
Washington University Dept. of Neurosurgery
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

schillizzij@nsurg.wustl.edu

Dear Ralph:

It is a pleasure to contribute this year to the Round Robin Letter and I am sorry that Peggy and I will be unable to attend the Academy meeting as there is a conflict with a Pituitary Society meeting in South America that I must attend.

This year marked the end of my tenures as President of the American College of Surgeons and also the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies. I went out with a bang regarding the latter as I fell down the stairs just on the eve of the beginning of the International Congress in Marrakesh, Morocco and broke my right wrist. Fortunately everything healed well but it was quite an experience to undergo closed reduction under anesthesia in a Moroccan hospital. Everyone was very kind and professional and thank goodness it all worked out well and I had it operatively corrected once I returned to the States. There were a number of other trips that were more fun, including receiving Honorary Fellowship in the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. Best of all was induction into the Institute of Medicine here in the United States and I hope to be able to make some contributions to the work of the IOM.

The family is doing very well. We now have six grandchildren and enjoy visiting them in various places around the country.

Back home in Charlottesville things are moving along beautifully. John Jane, Jr. has developed his pituitary surgical skills to a really impressive degree and is a superb endoscopic anterior skull base surgeon with tremendous enthusiasm and a wonderful teaching ability and a desire to inspire our residents who benefit greatly I think from all of this. It is great fun to keep moving along with new concepts and new techniques.

Peggy and I send our fond regards to all of the members of the Academy.

Sincerely,

Edward R. Laws, MD, FACS, DMedCh Naples (hon),
FRCSEd (hon), FRCPSG (hon)
W. Gayle Crutchfield Professor of Neurosurgery
Professor of Medicine

ERL/bb

Department of Neurosurgery

600 North Wolfe Street / Carnegie 466
Baltimore, MD 21287-7709
Patient Care Office (410) 955-2251
Administrative Office (410) 614-3536
FAX (410) 955-6407
dmlong@jhmi.edu

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

July 10, 2006

Round Robin

Dear Academicians:

Harriett and I began the year with a wonderful trip to China planned by one of my ex-fellows who is now a professor at the Beijing Neurosurgical Institute. As a part of the trip, we tested ourselves in the high mountains of Western China near Tibet. We visited the panda territories and hiked through mountains and parks, unfortunately without seeing a panda except in the Panda Research Center. It was a part of China we had not seen before. We had a very enjoyable trip with three Chinese hosts who took us places that tourists are commonly not able to go. A three-mile hike up a mountain from 12,000 to about 17,000 feet was a reasonable stress test for my stent.

Most of the year was relatively uneventful for us personally. We did have a number of events featuring children and grandchildren however. Our second daughter, Elizabeth, completed a third masters program and graduated in April. Her thesis project for this degree in the book and paper arts was a room sized dome constructed and painted with paper and paints she had made herself. It was no surprise that the basic theme was the mind and brain function. In her other life, Elizabeth still directs the Center for Digital Research at the University of Chicago Library.

David has also spent much of the year in Chicago. He works for the Laureate Company which manages private colleges and professional schools. David undertook the reorganization of administration in one such school and had been dividing his time between Baltimore and Chicago throughout the year. His wife, Liz, completed her Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins and continues as a postdoctoral fellow in our School of Public Health. Her field is epidemiology of cardiovascular disease.

Kimberley and her children still live a few blocks away across a park so we see them regularly. Lee (her husband) now leads our orthopedic spine division, so he and I share patients regularly. We currently have the children for a week while Kim and sister Elisabeth are taking a walking tour of the Lake Country of England.

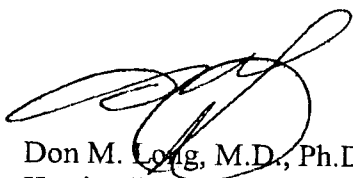
I think there is a reasonable chance that we will survive our heightened activity level, and we are having a great time doing it with the grandchildren.

The great pond project is maturing nicely. We built two ponds; one about 12 feet x 15 feet and another about 20 feet x 22 feet connected by a stream with three waterfalls and planted the whole area, mainly with dwarf conifers. I have had a very enjoyable time continuing the plantings, particularly creating an area of somewhat exotic wildflowers on the edges of one of the ponds. We have created a retreat that lets us shut out the noisy big city which surrounds us and most evenings when the weather is decent, you will find us sitting on the edge of pond feeding the fish and relaxing. The ponds have destroyed my work ethic at home.


The year was particularly unique in one way. For the first time since we have been in the house, we were not engaged in some house project which totally destroyed our tranquility for an extended period. However, we are going to put an end to that because the rest of the summer we will see the construction of a greenhouse and a cutting garden for Harriett down in our old orchard. I am busy setting up my eventual retirement so that I can spend all of my time working on the garden.

Our health is good. We have trips planned for India and Turkey. I am still in full-time practice and have no plans for any significant change in the foreseeable future as long as we both enjoy that good health. We look forward to seeing all of you in the fall.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don M. Long', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Don M. Long, M.D., Ph.D.
Harriett Long


THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
SECTION OF NEUROSURGERY • MC 5026
5847 SOUTH MARYLAND AVENUE • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637
TEL: 773/702-2125 FAX: 773/702-2018

R. LOCH MACDONALD, M.D., PH.D., F.R.C.S.(C), F.A.C.S.
Professor of Neurosurgery
Section of Neurosurgery
E-Mail: rlmacdon@uchicago.edu

June 30, 2006

Dear Ralph

It was an important year for us in the subarachnoid hemorrhage field. We finished the CONSCIOUS-1 clinical trial, recruiting over 400 SAH patients from neurosurgical centers in North America, Europe and Asia in 11 months. I chaired the steering committee and spent an enormous amount of time getting this study done. We are in the early stages of data analysis at this point but we think we have a drug, an endothelin antagonist, that does reduce angiographic vasospasm. What I am also proud of is that we were able to collect that will allow us to answer a number of important questions about subarachnoid hemorrhage, vasospasm and delayed neurological deterioration. Clinically at the University, the work situation continues to deteriorate. The hospital cannot seem to support our needs for subarachnoid hemorrhage and stroke patients and there seem to be few allies to help with this.

We enjoyed a week in Turkey this year. The 9th International Conference on Cerebral Vasospasm was held in Istanbul and was an excellent, well-attended meeting. We spent a week afterwards on the Aegean coast relaxing and visiting some of the many Greek and Roman archeological sites.

Our 17-year-old son Iain continued with his hockey but he figured out that he was a better runner than hockey player, which as a neurosurgeon, seems like a better sport. He made it to the state track meet in the 1600 meters but was humbled competing against kids running just over 4 minutes. Robyn, our 15-year-old, is still very involved in ballet and dance. She also started running. Our youngest, Erin, is 12 and is also mainly involved in dance and still the Joffrey ballet.

We look forwards to seeing everyone in Georgia this year.

R. Loch Macdonald

Dear Ralph,

This has been a year of change for us. We have moved to Oklahoma City where I am the new Chairman at the University of Oklahoma. The move has been a good one with the Dean and the hospitals being very supportive. We will soon move into a new Children's Hospital facility and a new unit for Neurosciences at the adult hospital. We have recruited two new members to our faculty, Naina Gross and Eric Sincoff. Naina trained at Baylor and has finished a pediatric neurosurgery fellowship with Rick Boop in Memphis. Eric trained at St Louis University and has finished his skull base fellowship with Johnny Delashaw. We hope to recruit five more faculty (including two PhD's) in the next two years. As the only Pediatric Neurosurgeon in the state it has gotten busy for me very quickly. In addition, I have been taking adult call which has been a bit of a transition but overall very rewarding. This year will be full as I begin a two year term as the president of the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons and serve as the Scientific Program Director for Don Quest's AANS Meeting in 2007.

On a personal note, we miss our friends Atlanta but are exploring areas of Oklahoma and meeting new friends. We have bought a 102 year old house in the historic district, which we are planning to do some renovation/preservation in the not to distant future. Barbara has become involved in the neighborhood Historical Preservation group and is helping plan the fall Heritage Hills Home and Garden Tour. She has also been commuting back to Atlanta to work on various projects at Emory.

All in all, it has been a very busy but energizing year for us.

Best Wishes,

Barbara & Timothy Mapstone

Round Robin Letter
Marc Mayberg

I am continuing in a venture to establish the Seattle Neuroscience Institute. SNI will be a state-of-the-art specialty clinical facility on one of the Swedish Hospital campuses in downtown Seattle. It will be combined with a Heart and Vascular Institute in a specialty hospital which is being completely rebuilt. On the Neuroscience side, we are nearing completion of 8 new operating/interventional suites, new ICU, new inpatient ward, new outpatient offices, CyberKnife and integrated imaging with intraoperative CT, biplane angio and MRI. The clinical facility is connected to a privately owned technology development building which will house a bioskills laboratory, space for engineers and technology development, as well as a convention facility. Our clinical service currently does not include neurosurgery residents, but we are training four specialty fellows in cerebrovascular microsurgery, endovascular neurosurgery, minimally invasive surgery and spine. There currently are 9 neurosurgeons and one interventional neuroradiologist at SNI, and we anticipate that this number will grow in the near future. The hectic building pace has kept Dave Newell and me busier than expected, especially in light of the growth of our clinical practices as well.

Activities at home have kept me busy as well. Terry is pursuing her second career as a painter primarily working with oils. She holds an option to return to her neuroanesthesia practice, but has not exercised that option to date. Katie (age 7) is full of life and energy, and keeps us chasing her through piano, gymnastics, soccer and baseball. Matthew (age 11) is over expressing his sports gene right now, and is primarily interested in the basketball/baseball/football game of the moment. Both are rediscovering the array of activities around Seattle.

Construction will be completing toward the end of this year on Seattle Neuroscience Institute, and I hope many of you will be able to visit. I look forward to seeing you all in the near future.



Marc R. Mayberg, MD
Executive Director
Seattle Neuroscience Institute

Department of Neurosurgery
Mayo Clinic
200 First St. SW
Rochester, Mn 55902
507-284-5317

July 3, 2006

Dear Colleagues,

As I sit here drafting this letter, my wife Irene is down in Texas with our three older children at a US Swim Open meet in Austin to be followed by a week of training at the Texas Longhorn Swimming camp. I wonder how this could have occurred, after all my sports of preference are fly fishing, sailing, and uncorking. Without a doubt, swimming has emerged as a dominant force in our lives, and that is not necessarily a good thing. For example, last Memorial Day weekend was a 9 hour road trip to Thunderbay, Canada- and that is just one way! The hotel accommodations were actually better than usual, but then again of course, there was a drug bust across the halls the last night of our stay. When crossing the border, the custom agents just shook their head in disbelief at our true but lame explanation for why there were 9 kids in our van (yes, we have just 6 of our own, but when some friends learned that I had been cajoled into driving to Canada, they quickly called and begged me to take their kids). My wife has become so enthralled with swimming that she actually joined masters swimming, and now in order for me to see her, I have also joined. What that means in practicality is dropping our oldest daughter off at her practice and then starting masters swimming at 5:30 am for an hour before going to the hospital. For those of you who are reading this wandering letter, let me tell you that a speedo is not a pretty thing on me, and fat sinks quicker than muscle. Occasionally, my wife will grace her presence in my lane, but since I am the slowest of the group, she also tends to leave me floundering in the far lane ignoring my embarrassing presence. But I am getting better or rather faster, and now swim the mile in about 35 minutes.

Of sad news in the last year is the passing of our second St. Bernard, Tinkerbell. There was a rebellion in my family with an attempt at replacing old Tinker with two ugly Himalayan cats. Personally, I am not a cat fan. Give me a big old dog any day. There is little worse than awaking at 5 am to put on one's speedo and finding an aloof fat cat sitting on your chest. No dog drool, no wagging tail, no dog with the look saying "are you nuts to go swimming?"- just a lump of cat.

Our annual family ski trip to Colorado was lots of fun. We drive in the van, or rather I drive while my wife sleeps and the kids watch videos. This year, most of them elected to start snow boarding. Irene and I thought about it, just briefly, and stuck to skiing. The snow was good and the weather was great. We stayed at a friend's house (ranch) - quite large and not affordable by an academic neurosurgeon so I raided his wine cellar at night.

The Department is doing well and we are eagerly looking forward to the arrival of some new colleagues- Dr. Kendall Lee in functional neurosurgery, Dr. Mark Pichelman in complex spine, and Dr. Giuseppe Lanzino as our endovascular neurosurgeon. We have also recruited a Ph.D., Dr. John Henley, to spear head a regenerative research program within neurosurgery. For the most part the rest of the group is doing well. Specifically, Bruce Pollock continues to demonstrate that he has ink in his veins, Rob Spinner continues to expand the peripheral nerve practice as evidenced by 83 brachial plexus operations last year, Bill Krauss helps direct the residency but still continues to increase his complex spine and spinal cord tumor practice, Mike Link is doing at least 3 acoustics a week along with many other skull base monsters, and Dave Piegras continues to work long hours both with surgery and national leadership commitments. The rest of the group including Drs. Rick Marsh, John Atkinson, Dudley Davis, and Corey Raffel, continue to be very productive and helpful both advising and implementing changes in the training program that have transpired over the last year.

With Best Wishes,
Fredric B. Meyer, M.D.

Jacques and Fiona Morcos

June 23, 2006

Dr. Ralph Dacey
schillizzij@nsurg.wustl.edu
Round Robin Letter

Dear Fellow Academicians:

The venue for this year's meeting looks terrific. Fiona and I are sorry we are going to miss it as I had made prior arrangements to be in Switzerland for a bypass course.

The year has been rather uneventful for our family. The most dramatic event was probably the graduation of our 11 year old daughter, Isabella, from elementary school to middle school! I cannot believe how much stress they put on kids these days when entering middle school and I simply could not believe the intensity surrounding the multi hour entrance exam, the so-called "SSAT." This is too much pressure too early in life. Luckily for Isabella, she "made it." As for our 9 year old son, John, he continues to be a bottomless pit of encyclopedic information regarding all trivia regarding baseball and basketball. Our 7 year old, Christina, is happily engaged in tennis lessons and looks very much forward to horseback riding during our upcoming summer vacation in Utah. Fiona, of course, continues the incredible juggling of all those kids demanding activities.

On the professional front, our Department at the University of Miami continues to feel the heat of the incredible malpractice crisis with premiums that are ever soaring with no end in sight. I personally continue my "second wind" of training in endovascular neurosurgery in addition to my busy practice of cerebrovascular and skullbase surgery.

Have a great meeting in Georgia!

Sincerely,

Jacques and Fiona Morcos

5844 Stony Island Ave,
Chicago, Il. 60637

Midsummer 05 21 06

jandvmullan@comcast.net

Ralph G Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Washington University Dept of Surgery
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, Mo. 63110.

Dear Ralph

“We’re not yet dead”. This, lifted from the hilarious ‘Spamalot’, is by way of communication with our contemporaries, the Academy octogenarians. It is worth seeing. One of the pleasures of retirement is pursuit of the inessential.

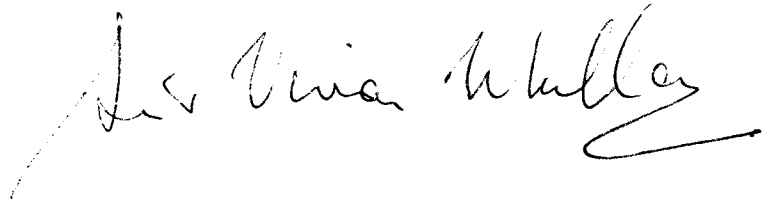
Each decade is meant to be enjoyed. We have enjoyed each in turn. When neurosurgery became too exacting for us we gave more time to our Michigan tree farm and to some ancestral acres. Felling a tree requires a planned escape route and a certain speed of exit, should the tree deviate from its designated landfall. The speed of exit must not drop below a certain estimate. As in neurosurgery, this exact figure may not be left to trial and error. Thus the more active aspect of tree farming came to an end. I miss it. As Paul Bunyan, George Washington and Abe Lincoln (in a modified way) all recognized, tree felling is one of the great and under-appreciated pleasures of life. We still manage trees and acres but, at a physical level, have been reduced to gardening – patio, regular and landscape. It is not the same.

Of the three traditional accompaniments of maturity, namely auditory challenge, memory challenge and arthritis, the good news is that I have no arthritis. Vivian has, of course none of the above. Thus we get around, enjoy the University life, since we live on campus, and read books- lots and lots and lots of books. (On historical grounds for example, I could have told our leadership that never, since the days of Pericles, could democracy be imposed upon an autocracy without an extensive blood-bath. But nobody ever called me.) The auditory challenge does not prevent me from enjoying our excellent Chicago Shakespeare theatre, since I already know the plots, nor ‘Spamalot’ nor Circe du ‘Shanghai’ which is now playing, which don’t need words. Nor has the memory challenge lessened all those wonderful recollections that we accumulated of our more active days in the company of our friends of the Academy.

Neurosurgically, we have nothing to offer the active members of the Academy, except the recipe for surviving our first coronary insufficiency symptoms, (without bypass) by twenty six years, should anyone be curious enough to ask; and of course our assurance that retirement is not to be feared, but to be enjoyed, as one of the great experiences of life.

We wish the Academy every success, every enjoyment and every enlightenment at its upcoming meeting.

John (Sean) F. and Vivian Mullan



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

July 3, 2006

Dear Friends,

Life chugs on, not as busy as it was 10-15 years ago, but busy enough to keep Julie and me fully occupied. Julie is still involved with the Trustees of the Visiting Nurse Service and Learning Leaders (school volunteers), which keep her busy with various projects. It seems to me that if you have spare time and haven't learned how to say "NO", people find things for you to do.

We still fly Air Patterson back and forth between Burlington, VT and NYC every week. I like the flying, and it goes as well as ever, though I guess that I'll have to give it up before too long. Oh well! Jet Blue would probably be less expensive.

Our daughter Ritchie, like her husband a physicist, is on the road fairly continuously. I don't know how they do it and still juggle two small girls, but it seems to work out.

Son Hugo and family are fully occupied in Mountain View, CA. He is with a startup, DataDomain, that seems to be doing quite well. At the moment, the whole family is off to China, where Kira, 10, is involved in a series of gymnastic meets with Chinese girls.

Son Xander remains involved in politics and non-profits in Portland, OR. He and his wife have an extremely lively two year old daughter. They and Ritchie's family have just spent a couple of weeks with us in Vermont. The sound you hear in the background is the washing machine working overtime to catch up.

See you all in the fair state of Georgia.

Best regards,

Russel



Department of Neurosurgery

TS Park, MD, Chief
 Jeffrey R. Leonard, MD
 Matthew D. Smyth, MD
 M. Caglar Berk, MD, Fellow
 Jeffrey M. Gidday, PhD
 Nicole Ladovsier, PA-C
 Marie Orton, PA-C
 Krista Hollander, PA-C
 Laura Doelling, RN
 Dan Puglisi, PT
 Lee Dee Koyu, PT
 Tiffany Gates, MA

Research Laboratories
 Jeffrey M. Gidday, PhD
 TS Park, MD
 Matthew D. Smyth, MD
 Jeffrey R. Leonard, MD
 Barbara Rangel, PhD
 Gary Zhang, MD, PhD
 Robert Altay, MD
 Gregory Peebles, BA

Operating Room
 Nancy Geraci, RN
 Ann Huddleston, RN
 Krista Kuehls, RN
 Ann Smalley, RN
 Ann Walker, RN
 Krista Oehler, RN
 Krista Echmann, RN

Administration
 Ann Borlinghaus, Office Mgr.
 Bethel-Anderson
 Anna Forghash
 Ann Overley
 Ann Jones
 Ann Horn

July 12, 2006

Re: Round Robin Letter of the AANS

Dear Colleagues:

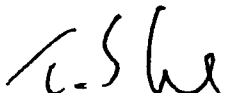
This last year was a good year to my family. Mee Aeng is making good progress on her Ph.D. thesis on educational technology and she hopes to get her degree this year. Our daughter, Mina, is taking time off from her law practice in New York City and is writing a novel in France. She plans to return to her work this year. Our son, Tom, is doing his MBA at the University of Chicago. This summer he is doing an internship at Goldman Sachs in London. Mee Aeng and I are happy together.

I have kept myself busy with my own work. I visited the King Fahad Medical City in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in June. There I performed Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy surgery on children with spastic cerebral palsy, and brachial plexus repair for babies with this birth injury. It was my first visit to the medical center and it provided a great experience to learn the different culture. I plan to visit them twice a year.


My golf handicap was lowered somewhat this year. A highlight for me was an opportunity to play at the Augusta National, Pine Valley, and Bandon Dunes golf clubs.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely,


 TS Park, M.D.

One Children's Place, Suite 4S20
 St. Louis, Missouri 63110-1077
<http://pedns.wustl.edu>
 (314) 454-2810
 (800) 416-9956
 Fax: (314) 454-2818

St. Louis Children's Hospital is a member of 

13623 N.E. 32nd Place
Bellevue, WA 98005-1400
June 30, 2006

The Round Robin Letter
American Academy of Neurological Surgery

Dear Academicians:

A few of you had inquired about "How I am?" and I decided to reply to all that "I'm Fine".

There is nothing whatever the matter with me, I'm just as healthy as I can be,
I have arthritis in both my knees, and when I talk, I talk with a wheeze,
My pulse is weak, my blood is thin, but I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

My teeth will eventually have to come out, and my diet I hate to think about.
I'm overweight and I can't get thin, my appetite is such that it's sure to win,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet, or I wouldn't be able to go on the street.
Sleep is denied me, night after night, and every morning, I am a sight
My memory failing, my heads in a spin, I'm practically living on aspirin
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.


The moral is, as this tale we unfold, that for you and me who are growing old
It's better to say, "I am fine," with a grin, than to let them know the shape we're in.
How do I know my youth has been spent, because my get-up-and-go just got up and went.
But, in spite of all that, I'm able to grin, when I think of the places my get-up has been.

Old age is golden, I've heard it said, but, sometimes, I wonder as I go to bed
My ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup, my eyes on a table until I get up.
Ere sleep dims my eyes I say to myself, "Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?"
But I'm happy to say as I close the door, my friends are the same as in days of yore.

When I was younger my slippers were red, I could kick my heels right over my head.
When I grew older my slippers were blue, but I could still dance the whole night through.
Now I'm old, my slippers are black, I walk to the corner and puff my way back.

The reason I know my youth has been spent, my get-up-and-go has got up and went.
But I really don't mind when I think with a grin, of all the nice places my get-up has been.
I get up each morning and dust off my wits, pick up the paper and read the obits.
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead, so, I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed!

Best wishes to everyone. Have a fun meeting, and above all, Have a Good Life!


Cone Pevehouse



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

July 28, 2006

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

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Secretary, American Academy of Neurological Surgery
Department of Neurosurgery, Box 8057
Washington University School of Medicine
660 South Euclid
St. Louis, MO 63110

Dear Ralph:

Here I go again, submitting a Round Robin letter nearly one month after your stated deadline and hoping that it's not too late for inclusion in the volume. Where has the summer gone?

Unquestionably the big excitement for Dave and Jane this year has been the marriage of our son Andrew to an absolutely marvelous lady, Lindsay Gilbert, this past November. Like our other daughters-in-law, Lindsay hails from the southwest (Phoenix) and like Andrew was working in Denver in the commercial real estate business. Enhancing the delight of their marriage has been their announcement this month that we will be expecting another grandchild before year's end.

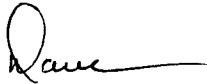
Jane and I have been enjoying a somewhat more relaxed schedule, at least as pertains to fewer professional obligations and especially less travel to distant neurosurgical committee meetings. For me the opportunity to focus more on patient care has been a welcome change. Jane on the other hand has been spending a lot of time, energy and deliberation this past year in designing and directing the completion of our north woods home near Ely, Minnesota, on the rugged shore of White Iron Lake. At this point the home construction is essentially done though inside "finishing touches" remain. We were delighted to have our sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren together there over the 4th of July holiday. Beyond the family fellowship we managed to get a considerable amount of work done such as sanding and staining decks and dock, preparing for concrete work, moving dirt and debris, and constant cleaning (oh the joys of new home ownership). Nevertheless we are thrilled with the project and looking forward to welcoming family and friends for visits year round.

It is heartwarming to see our department thrive and in fact grow under Fred Meyer's leadership. The recruitment of Dr. Mark Pichelmann to our staff from our resident ranks to specialize in complex spinal surgery is most welcome. Additionally Dr. Kendall Lee, recent graduate from the Mary Hitchcock/Dartmouth program to build the practice in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery is very exciting for the combined departments of neurology and neurosurgery. Further, Kendall has dedicated time for translational research which I'm confident will eventually lead to advances in functional neurosurgery. We have had approval over the past two years for recruitment of an adult neurosurgical oncologist with a commitment for resources to support significant time in basic brain tumor research. If you know of well qualified individuals, please pass their name on to us here at Mayo as we believe this represents an excellent opportunity for a young academic neurosurgeon/scientist.

July 28, 2006
Page 2

Jane and I think often about the many blessings that we have realized over the years including our children, their families, our friends, the privilege of being affiliated with Mayo and such wonderful colleagues, as well as life in Rochester. We earnestly hope for resolution of the terrible military and sectarian conflicts going on in our world. We look forward to enjoying the company of our friends and colleagues of the Academy at the upcoming meeting at Reynolds Plantation and hope to see you all there.

Sincerely,



David G. Piepgras, M.D.
Professor of Neurosurgery

DGP:cbh

June 28, 2006

Dear Round Robin,

The annual Round Robin has become a way for us to mark time & reflect on the past year.

John continues to maintain a full surgical schedule and academic responsibilities as residency training director for Neurosurgery. He is Director of the Neuroscience Institute which accounts for about 15% of Albany Medical Center's revenue base. His fund raising prowess continues and he has raised additional funds for a Neurosurgical ICU as well as seven funded chairs for neurosurgery and neurology. One of his researchers recently was awarded a Javits grant for stem cell research. Last week the President of the Medical Center announced that they were naming the new medical school Simulation Lab in John's name. So, things are quite exciting at AMC. John enjoyed his work on the Board of Neurological Surgeons and is anticipating his term as President of the Society of Neurological Surgeons.

He has recently focused his administrative skill toward the Board of the Saratoga Performing Arts Center where he is leading the strategic planning efforts. In his spare time he is working on the second edition of his textbook and he captures any opportunity to practice the piano particularly the works of Nikolai Medtner, Scarlatti and Chopin. At his annual GALP (Get A Life Party) he & a very talented medical student/violinist played for 32 dinner guests & wowed us all. Unfortunately, Chantel Juillet, the chamber music director @ Saratoga can not entice him to play for the summer season...Maybe next year.

In March Peggy joined the North Shore LIJ Health System (NSLIJ) as Deputy Executive Director for Long Island Jewish ...no she did not get a badge. NSLIJ is the third largest health system in America & has 17 hospitals. LIJ is one of the two tertiary hospitals in the system. They are undertaking a \$160 m expansion so she hit the ground running and just loves the people at LIJ and the work she is doing.

The family continues to thrive Catherine has been in kindergarten 160 days (as she likes to point out) & especially likes math. Andrew is 3 & quite the charmer: he has progressed from saying "ball" to throwing overhand and on a recent expedition to the driving range hit 150 successive balls off the tee! We are considering him as our retirement "ringer"....Richard loves his work in corporate law and Christine runs to keep up with the children. International travel this year took us to Japan & the Caribbean – partially for pleasure with some lectures thrown in for good measure.

So, that's the update. Hope you are all well & 2006 fulfills all your wishes.

With Warm regards,

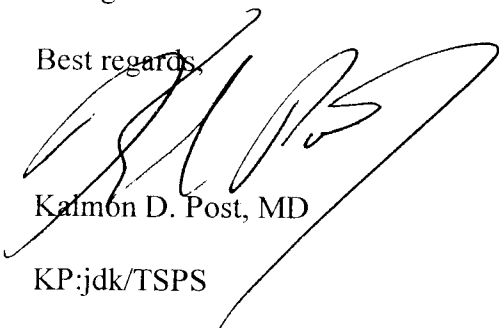
A. John Popp and Margaret Vosburgh

He has been a superb asset for us. Dick Winn, MD, continues to head our research and educational program and always keeps us in good humor. Josh Bederson, MD, is our vice chair and program director and has changed his focus somewhat towards skull-based surgery with a significant effort towards endoscopic techniques. It has been exciting to watch that transition. Isabelle Germano, MD, heads the tumor program and has been spearheading our Novalis program. Aman Patel, MD, has been extraordinarily successful in our endovascular areas, such that he now has an associate, Dave Johnson, MD, and the 2 of them can hardly keep up with volume.

Mount Sinai has done extraordinarily well these past 2 years with a complete turnaround from the deficits that it faced several years ago. It is now richly in the black, expanding programs dynamically with excellent leadership looking at strategic plans for new an expansive translational research building to be completed within the next few years.

As I noted in the beginning, all in all, it has been a very good year for our department and for me personally. I look forward to seeing my fellow academicians at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Georgia in October.

Best regards,



Kalmon D. Post, MD

KP:jdk/TSPS



Mount Sinai
School of
Medicine

Kalmon D. Post, M.D.
Chairman

Edward I. Malis M.D./
Dunne and Joseph Graber Professor
Department of Neurosurgery

Department of Neurosurgery
One Gustave L. Levy Place
Annenberg 8-06, Box 1136
New York, NY 10029-6574

Tel: (212) 241-0933
Fax: (212) 423-9285
kalmon.post@mountsinai.org

June 8, 2006

Ralph G. Dacey Jr., MD
Washington University
Department of Neurosurgery
660 South Euclid
Box 8057
St. Louis, Missouri 63110

Round Robin Letter

Dear Friends:

It has been a wonderful past year for us.

At home, Linda has completed her textbook for hospital ethics committees that will be published by Johns Hopkins Press. It is due out in the fall of 2006 and I expect to retire on the proceeds. She had been working at Montefiore full-time in the bioethics division until a year ago, when she stepped out to finish the textbook. Only heaven knows where her work will be focused now, but she continues to love being a medical bioethicist. Illana is back at work at Skadden Arps in New York as her children, our grandchildren, are now 7 and 9 and in school full-time. We are fortunate that they live 1 mile down the road and we get to see them quite frequently. Alex is in our residency program and is scheduled in July to start his senior year. It is still not entirely clear what his focus will be in neurosurgery and whether he will aim towards academics or private practice. His wife, Lauren, will be chief resident in emergency room medicine at Mount Sinai starting in July. They have yet to start a family.

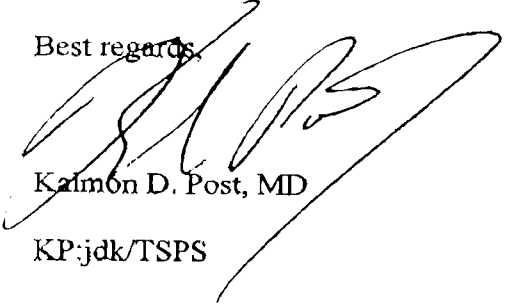
The department has had an excellent past year, growing another 10%. We were fortunate enough to have Nirit Weiss, MD, join our faculty, having completed her residency at Johns Hopkins. Her focus is spine so that we now have 3 full-time people focusing on complex spine. Including Tanvir Choudhri, MD and Arthur Jenkins, III, MD. Ron Alterman, MD, also joined our department last year and is performing approximately 100 deep brain stimulation cases per year.

He has been a superb asset for us. Dick Winn, MD, continues to head our research and educational program and always keeps us in good humor. Josh Bederson, MD, is our vice chair and program director and has changed his focus somewhat towards skull-based surgery with a significant effort towards endoscopic techniques. It has been exciting to watch that transition. Isabelle Germano, MD, heads the tumor program and has been spearheading our Novalis program. Aman Patel, MD, has been extraordinarily successful in our endovascular areas, such that he now has an associate, Dave Johnson, MD, and the 2 of them can hardly keep up with volume.

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As I noted in the beginning, all in all, it has been a very good year for our department and for me personally. I look forward to seeing my fellow academicians at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Georgia in October.

Best regards,



Kalmon D. Post, MD

KP:jdk/TSPS

June 27, 2006

Our Dear Friends,

Another year has flown by – the only good news about that is that it seems we get to see you at the Academy sooner and sooner every year!

The Quests have had a very blessed, healthy and happy year. Wendy and Pete presented us with our 6th grandchild – Pierce Quest Trevisani, on June 12th – he joins his big sister Blake and big brother, Luke. They are thrilled and so are we. Wendy and Pete continue their careers at Thornberg Investments and love living in Santa Fe.

Amy and Ted are in Potomac, Maryland with our grandchildren, Halle and Jack – well ok their children. Ted is at Bethesda Country Club – loves every minute of teaching and playing golf. Amy stays at home and keeps the home fires burning.

Susan, Jared, and daughter Dylan are in Rowayton, Connecticut – at least one family is not too far way. They are going to present us with our 7th grandchild in August. (It just keeps getting better and busier all the time.) Susan takes care of Dylan and is getting very organized for their new arrival. Jared is at Lehman Brothers and thriving.

We have had many terrific times as a family – they come here, we go there, etc. etc. We took the entire gang to Hawaii this past spring. It was a wonderful adventure.

Don and I continue to be as busy as ever. Once in a while even taking a few days for together time – Santa Fe, trip to Mexico, Greece in a couple of days and then a barge trip in September on the Canal du Midi – Southern France.

Don continues to love his work – his colleagues, residents, surgery, medical students – the list goes on and then of course – all the extra stuff –

Page 2

various boards – the AANS which has become a passion for him. I'll let you know what I think of that in 2007 – Hmm!!

I keep telling Don it's not normal to be going all the time, socially and professionally – he responds we are not normal – OK, OK that's his take – actually I think we are crazy but good crazy.

I continue being headmaster of our homes. My family and friends are of extra special interest for me. Once in a while I even have time to continue my volunteer activities with underprivileged children which I adore.

We love you guys and cannot wait to see you in October.

Love

Ilona

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ilona', written in a cursive style.

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

June 30th, 2006

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., M.D.
Washington University Dept. of Neurosurgery
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

Academicians,

Jas and I are mostly in Rancho Mirage, CA these days. The Springs, where we live, has a really good golf course and I'm working my handicap downwards – giving the game way more time and attention than it deserves.

Jasmine has her real estate license and hardly wants to leave the place. We both enjoy it very much.

We still have our large empty nest in SLC and next month will again host (Alumni Assoc.) a front lawn party for the entering class of the UU SOM. We really enjoy that. Also, the five boys and their families use the place to assemble each weekend with their respective families. We're now resurfacing the tennis court for the grandkids who are just getting started.

Three of the five are in medicine. Chuck is a busy neurosurgeon and has tried to entice Bob Carter to come West – not sure he's going to pull that off. Christopher has finished his psychiatry residency (UCSD) and then a two-year fellowship in childhood and adolescent psychiatry – and is now on the faculty at the UUHSC. Michael is just starting his clinical clerkships as a junior med student at the UU SOM. We just want to live long enough to see some of the grandkids through high school. They are a colorful group.

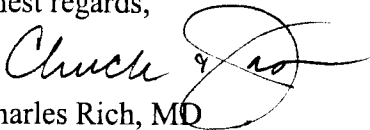
Bill Couldwell was the star attraction for the University of Utah at their annual fund raising dinner in Palm Springs last winter. He deserves the headliner billing and did a terrific job. He has a really strong department and the admiration of the downtown folks.

Someone told me the other day that they couldn't believe that we'd "just disappeared" in retirement. Come visit us at The Springs and you'll see why.

We're definitely getting to the AANS Annual Meeting this spring.

We miss all of you,

Highest regards,



J. Charles Rich, MD

Hugo Rizzoli

2006 Round Robin

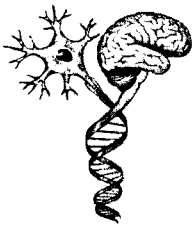
Dear Academicians,

I wish all of you a happy and healthfull year. I will not be coming to the meeting this year- its hard for me to travel (I will be 90 in a few weeks). However, I did get a ride to Durham for the Senior Society meeting late in May.

I still go to GW to see patients one day a week. Health fair. Have a good meeting.

Sincerely,

Hugo Rizzoli



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

Mark A. Bernstein
Michael D. Cusimano
Peter B. Dirks
James M. Drake
Mehdi M. Fazl
Michael G. Fehlings
Giovanni Gentili
Edward J. Ginsberg
Anand Guha
Saman Hodaie
Neha Kulkarni
Thomas M. Lozano
Jonathan Massicotte
John J. Muller
Edward G. Perrin
Masoud Pirouzmanesh
Richard W. Rowed
Michael L. Schwartz
David S. Smyth
Charles H. Tator
Michael D. Taylor
William S. Tucker
Michael Tymianski
John A. Valiante
Christopher Wallace

Neuroscientists

John D. Davis
Gordon Green Dennis
John H. Eubanks
Robert A. Houlden
William D. Hutchinson
Gordon McGlade
Jean-Francois Saint-Cyr
Andrei Veloumian

Herititus

Robert Elgie
Gordon Fleming
Robert R. Hudson
Robert P. Humphreys
Thomas P. Morley
Edward Schacter
John R. Tasker



Dr. Ralph G. Dacey, Jr.,
Department of Neurosurgery,
Washington University,
660 South Euclid,
Box 8057,
ST. LOUIS, MO 63110, U.S.A.

July 4, 2006

Re: **American Academy of Neurological Surgery, Round Robin Letter 2006-2007**

Dear Ralph:

Now, more than ever, I look forward to summer and the completion of another academic year. Before I review some of the successes of our program this past year, I thought I would give some news from the family front.

My son Dan and I paddled the Nahanni River last summer on a spectacular 2 week canoe trip in the Northwest Territories of Canada. It was a trip of a lifetime. The vistas were incredible. Dan just finished 3rd year at McGill in the music composition program. My daughter, Hana, just graduated from the National Ballet School of Canada, and is dancing this summer in Stuttgart and Cannes. My youngest, Marissa, is teaching at tennis camp. And Mari has finished another busy but fulfilling year as School Board Trustee in Toronto. For our summer vacation this year in August, we have planned canoe trips for the entire family in Killarney and Bon Echo Provincial Parks, and along the French River.

Mari and I enjoyed a couple of nice "business" trips together this year. The first was to Great Exuma in the Bahamas for the ASPN meeting in February; and the second was to Tokyo for the Japanese Congress of Neurological Surgeons' in May. I also had a chance to travel to Taipei, Taiwan, and to Singapore -- new places for me.

As for our program, we are delighted to have accepted 4 new PGY1 residents this year. It was just last year that I lobbied our Dean to procure an extra residency position, and I am glad that we succeeded. Our academic curriculum this past year was enhanced by visits from John Popp, Ed Laws, Amin Kassam, Giuseppe Cinalli, Web Pilcher, Web Cavenee, Necmettin Pamir, Michael Bliss,

Mike Apuzzo and Alex Sanford. I would like to thank these distinguished visitors for enhancing our curriculum, and for spending time with our residents in Toronto.

Two of our residents received the coveted McKenzie Awards at the Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences meeting for best presentations in basic science and clinical research. Several of our residents received external awards for their research projects. Our grant capture this past year was at \$5.5 million. The Labatt family generously donated yet again another \$5 million to support our Brain Tumour Research Centre. And we are in the process of building a Skull Base Centre of Excellence with Dr. Fred Gentili as Director.

We have recruited Dr. Julian Spears to St. Michael's Hospital as a hybrid endovascular/open cerebrovascular neurosurgeon. We are in the midst of recruiting a Division Head at St. Michael's Hospital, and we are also looking for one at Sunnybrook Medical Centre.

As always, I couldn't do the job I do without tremendous support from Chris Wallace who has served as Program Director for me these past six years. Chris has done an outstanding job, and we have always been "in synch" regarding our vision and aspirations for the program.

We do look forward to seeing all of you at the Reynolds Plantation, and wish all of you a happy and healthy summer filled with rest and relaxation – likely a pipe dream for most of us!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim", written in a cursive style.

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

JTR/sn



Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität

Klinik und Poliklinik für Neurochirurgie

Direktor: Prof. Dr. J. Schramm

Universitätsklinikum Bonn

Sigmund-Freud-Straße 25
D-53105 Bonn

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

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr. M.D.
Washington University Dept. of Neurosurgery
660 South Euclid, Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110
USA

Prof. Dr. J. Schramm

Telefon: (+49) 228 - 287-6500
Telefax: (+49) 228 - 287-6573
E-mail: Johannes.Schramm@ukb.uni-bonn.de

June 2006

Dear Academicians,

During the last year quite a number of things have happened. In the hospital things have changed because my former collaborator Bernhard Meyer has become the chairman at the Technical University in Munich, taking three other people with him. It took us a couple of months to fill the positions again and we felt the impact of several good people leaving.

My current deputy, Carlo Schaller is already lined up to obtain a position outside, he has been selected to be the chairman at the university of Geneva in Switzerland, final confirmation by the local government still pending.

Life at the state-run universities here in Germany has been changing considerably in the last two to three years, because the state has granted the universities more independence, at the same time increasing the pressure on the academic staff members. The allocation of research funding is now strictly related to output which is measured by the amount of grant money acquired per department, the number of publications and the quality of publications assessed by the impact factor. Although the weaknesses of the impact factor are well known, that's what they use. Two of our basic science people also had excellent offers for positions outside, one to the chair of physiology in Frankfurt and the other one to an American university as a basic scientist. I managed to convince the dean to come forward with a very good offer and together we already were successful in keeping one of them here in Bonn. So, if the people working in your department have become too good they all get better chances outside and sometimes it is not easy to keep the good people together.

We had a von Wagenen fellow here for one year (Devin Binder from UCSF) and it was a very successful and most enjoying time together. He got a real deep immersion into matters of epilepsy surgery and could finish a few nice projects in our basic science labs. Both my colleagues and he himself enjoyed the collaboration very much. It appears to me that the idea of von Wagenen was really wise.

There was a lot of unrest in the last couple of months, because doctors working in university hospitals for the first time were trying to establish negotiations between their own doctor's union and the employers, which are the federal states, currently not very well off financially. So the negotiations were very difficult and it actually came to a strike, which lasted a total of 14 weeks. Sometimes two days a week, sometimes three days a week and in the end for a full week everybody went on strike, in particular anesthetists. So the number of cases went down 15%, we only operated in two ORs instead of four and everybody was more and more unhappy. Its only about 10 days that the strike is finished and work is going back to normal. That was the first strike by doctors at the university hospitals since the Second World War. It is related to the possible introduction of the European working time order which would have let to significant losses in income by the young doctors since they would have been restricted to a very low weekly work time, usually associated with some financial loss. At the present time it is still

unclear whether the European working time directive will actually come as planned, because obviously nobody can afford to have so many more doctors to compensate for the loss in overtime working. So we are waiting for the wise decisions of the governments here in Europe.

In the family everything is more quiet now with the son studying abroad. He just returned from his first year at university for the summer break back home. The two daughters are working on their doctorates and we don't see them very often. As mentioned in the last round robin letter Dorothea and I use the time for a bit of more traveling together. I have been involved with both the AANS and the CNS meeting and I have some other commitments in the US, so there is a lot of travel across the Atlantic and it was just too much to also attend the Academy Meeting. Hopefully that will be better next year.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Johannes Schramm', written in a cursive style.

Johannes Schramm, M.D.



NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF NEW JERSEY

NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

Peter W. Carmel, M.D., D. Med Sci
Professor and Chairman
Director
Neurological Institute of New Jersey
973-972-2326
pcarmel@umdnj.edu

Michael Schulder, M.D.
Professor and Vice Chairman
Director, Center for Image-Guided
Surgery and Stereotactic Radiosurgery
973-972-2907
schulder@umdnj.edu

Gregory E. Catrambone, M.D.
Professor of Pediatric Neurosurgery
973-972-2906
gcatramb@aol.com

Robert F. Heary, M.D.
Professor, Spine Center of New Jersey
973-972-2334

Richard H. Maniker, M.D.
Professor, Center for Peripheral Nerve Surgery
Professor of Orthopedic Trauma
973-972-2908
maniker@umdnj.edu

Thomas J. Prestigiacomo, M.D.
Professor of Vascular/Endovascular Surgery
973-972-1163
tjacomo@umdnj.edu

David Goldstein, M.D.
Professor of Minimally Invasive Neurosurgery
973-972-8211
goldstein@umdnj.edu

John N. Sapru, Ph.D.
Professor of Neurosurgical Laboratories
973-972-5876
sapru@umdnj.edu

Robert Danto, Ph.D. FASNM
Professor of Electrophysiology
973-862-9900
rdanto@umdnj.edu

John J. Adler, RN, MSN
Nurse Practitioner
973-972-2327

John J. McKelvey, RN, MSN, NP-C
Nurse Practitioner
973-972-1829

Christine Makar, RN, MSN, NP-C
Nurse Practitioner
973-972-2897

Matthew, MS, PA-C
Physician Assistant
973-972-8454

Dear Academicians,

It was indeed a great honor to be elected a member of the Academy at last year's meeting. So this first letter of mine must include some introduction.

Having been Peter Carmel's medical student at Columbia I have tremendously enjoyed being a faculty member in his department at New Jersey Medical School. Being part of the steady expansion of our department in every which way has been a most rewarding experience. We now have 2 residents a year for a 7-year program (including PGY-1), along with 7 full-time and about 6 part-time faculty. This critical mass of like-minded people has to be one of the best aspects of academic neurosurgery.

My academic pursuits have been in analyzing and adapting techniques for image guided surgery, including functional imaging and lately intraoperative MRI. I was elected president of the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery in June, another honor considering some of the true neurosurgical titans who even recently have held this post.

My wife, Lu Steinberg, is a clinical psychologist with a private practice in Manhattan. She is academically involved as well, having written a number of articles and chapters relating mostly to post-traumatic stress disorder. Lu was just elected president of her psychoanalytic section in the American Psychological Association. Somewhat inevitably, she still has the primary caregiver role in our family. Our daughters, Ilana (14) and Talia (11) have just finished 8th and 5th grades, respectively. They are both great kids who are very understanding of their father's frequent and sometimes inconvenient absences.

Lu and I look forward to joining you all at Reynolds Plantation in October.

Yours,

Michael Schulder, MD
Professor and Vice-Chairman
Department of Neurosurgery

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Dear Fellow Academicians:

We had an interesting year at the Children's Hospital in Boston. Our MRI OR room came online this fall. We use the Imris system, with the magnet sliding out of a "garage" on an overhead track. The images have been quite good, but even in a room specifically designed for the magnet, there was a lot of trimming and fiddling to do before stray bolts and plugs degrading the images were finally detected. We are using it very frequently, but as you all know, a clean scan at the close of the operation may not always be the best thing for the patient. Our throughput has been drastically reduced in this room compared to a regular OR, since each scan takes about 45 minutes to do (every instrument and piece of equipment must be accounted for and/or counted, and equipment moved out and in of the high gauss lines, etc.). We are still working out the kinks and learning its limitations -- but I think that the iMRI will be quite an advance in the long run, especially for pediatric patients, in whom a clean post-operative scan often has tremendous long-term implications.

We have five of us now full-time in the pediatric neurosurgery practice, each of us subspecializing and seeing a stimulating blend of patients. Joe Madsen does the epilepsy and functional work; Lilly Goumnerova the endoscopies, brachial plexus, and tumor work; Mark Proctor does the complex spine, sports medicine and craniofacial cases; Ed Smith does the pituitary and vascular work. I keep up my tumor, vascular, and congenital spine practice -- but it is a great pleasure seeing the practice develop in the hands of such capable associates. I will operate on my 250th pediatric moyamoya patient within the next month or two. Once again this year, we had a wonderful pediatric fellow, Paul Klimo, who trained with Bill Couldwell in Salt Lake City, and brought to us some of Ron Apfelbaum's methods and teachings in complex spine. This cross-fertilization that takes place when a gifted and well-trained fellow joins the service for a year continues to be one of the great pleasures of having a post-graduate fellowship. The news that Peter Black is stepping down after nearly 20 years as departmental chairman will mean a new direction for the department, and "interesting times" for all of us. Peter did a tremendous job building up a world-class department during his time as chairman, and one has a difficult time recalling how small the department was in 1987, and how much its research and clinical capabilities have improved during his tenure. He attracted world-class neurosurgeons and researchers to his faculty, and he can be proud of his legacy.

Susan has finally "retired" as an operating room nurse at the New England Medical Center. She babysits for Heather's grandchildren twice a week, and will travel out to California very shortly to help Elizabeth when her new baby arrives. This little one will be our fourth grandchild. Susan and I look forward to seeing everyone in the fall --

Mike

R. Michael Scott, M.D.
Neurosurgeon-in-Chief
Department of Neurosurgery
The Children's Hospital, Boston
300 Longwood Avenue; Bader 319
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
617 355-6011; FAX, 617 730-0906

*Warren and Diana Selman
2656 Berkshire Road
Cleveland, OH 44106*

June 30, 2006

Dear Academicians:

This has been, overall, an exciting year for all of us filled with wonderful opportunities for me at the hospital and medical school, at school for Jack, Hadley, and Jordan, and in the community for Diana. While very happy with these life opportunities, our hearts are saddened by the loss of my mother, Helen, but known to all as Big H, this past March. We celebrated her 90th birthday in January, and carry the memory of her surrounded by loved ones, her eyes shining bright with love, happiness, and contentment. We were blessed to have had her live with us for the past several years; her strength, wisdom, and graciousness was a gift to each of us. She is thought of and missed each and every day.

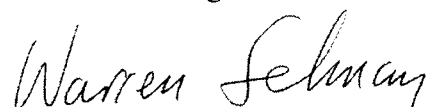
In June of 2005, we celebrated our Fiftieth Resident Graduation Reunion, with a return of residents who graduated under the direction of Frank Nulsen and Robert Ratcheson. We honored Bob Ratcheson that evening by unveiling his portrait to commemorate his 24 years of leadership. In November 2005, I accepted the position of Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery at Case School of Medicine and University Hospitals of Cleveland. The department continues to grow with the addition of three new faculty members. In September 2004, we welcomed Dr. David Hart, an endoscopic and minimally invasive spine specialist. Dr. Deborah Blades, a UHC/Case alumni and an expert in functional and restorative spinal neurosurgery, and Dr. Akash Agarwal, a cerebrovascular neurosurgeon, will be joining us in August 2006.

All of us in the clinical and basic neurosciences are enthusiastic about the recently announced fifty-year affiliation agreement between the University Hospitals and Case Medical School, which has allowed for the establishment of The Neurological Institute of University Hospitals of Cleveland on the Case Medical Campus.

Jack, Hadley, and Jordan continue to thrive in school and both Diana and I are enjoying their unique development, although we will be missing them as they leave for summer camp in a few short weeks.

We both look forward to seeing you all in October!

With kindest regards,



Warren R. Selman, M.D.

Kenneth & Marjorie Smith
Round Robin Letter

Dear Friends

We regret to be unable to attend the meeting in Georgia this fall. We will be going to Kenya Africa with a Washington University/Saint Louis University neurosurgery team headed by Dr Michael Chicoine and Dr Paul Young. We are thrilled to be going back after several years. Ken will work with the team. Waiting in Nairobi will be about 70 boxes of books that I shipped months ago. It will be exciting for me to distribute them to schools and orphanages. Our daughter, Sue, a neurosurgical nurse also at STLU will have her first experience as part of this wonderful experience of service, teaching and learning.

The year 2006 has been very special for us as we celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 6th along with our son Ken and his wife Pam's 25th on the same day. Our weekend brought in all of our family except two grandkids and many other out of town relatives and friends. The weather was beautiful, the food delicious, and oh did we have fun. Sunday afternoon June 4 we had a reception followed by a concert at our church.

Our church organist, Charles Collins opened the program with Bach's Piece d'orgue. At the piano, our granddaughter Katy Houghton thrilled us with the perfectly beautiful Debussy's Arabesque # 1 followed by her father, Eric's playing of Beethoven's Pathetique. Our daughter Carol, organ and Susan Slaughter, principal trumpet played Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring.

We were thrilled to have New York Opera star Mary Dunleavy sing a ballad from Baby Doe and a world premiere of three Psalms written by our son in law Eric Houghton who accompanied her (and everyone else!) Also from New York, Bryan Dore and this wife Maria Landers sang arias from Puccini and Verdi.

St Louis Symphony concert master, David Halen played Meditation from Thais by Massenet. The SLSO Brass Quintet played Ave verum by Mozart featuring principal horn, Jennifer Montone and Amazing Grace. The concert's finale was Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Trumpets in C Major featuring Susan Slaughter and Josh MacCluer with Charles again playing the organ.

It was wonderful to be able to share this superb music with so many of our family and friends. We are so thankful for these many years together shared with our family and friends.

We're thankful for continued health and Ken's opportunity to continue to work in neurosurgery each day, seeing many patients and working with the residents and students.

Life is good.

Kenneth & Marjorie



The Neurological Institute
Dept. of Neurological Surgery
710 West 168th Street
New York, NY 10032
212.305.4118 Tel
212.305.2026 Fax
ras5@columbia.edu

June 20, 2006

Dear Academicians,

The house seems strangely quiet again. Our daughter Reece just completed her sophomore year at Boston University and was back home for a few weeks. Full of the optimism and invincibility of a 20 year old girl, she has started a summer internship in Manhattan with the fashion design group of Proenza Schouler. Not surprisingly, I had no idea who these 20-something design phenoms were, leaving my daughter incredulous as to how her father could be so hopelessly out of touch with the real world. To ease her commute time, Reece has decided to take a room in a New York University dorm for the summer. My wife, Barbara, somewhat gratified that she will not have to wait up until 2 AM to know that Reece is home after her nights out (I, of course, do not wait up or wake up) is not sure if it's a good or bad thing that she will only be home weekends this summer.

Hudson is going to start college this fall. He's our youngest child and is heading to University of Wisconsin in Madison. His decision to become a "Badger" was two pronged. First he learned that there were more CEO's of Fortune 500 companies that graduated from Wisconsin than from any other school. Second, the friends he stayed with on his last visit had a great dorm room. When I asked for a description, I was regaled with the empty pizza boxes, empty Chinese food containers, and the half-empty beer bottles. He had no doubt found his paradise.

Did I mention that Savannah is almost 14 years old, has cataracts, bad hips, and can't hear well? She's our black lab, and the only sweet child. So our household is undergoing a quiet revolution. Barbara and I are celebrating this new phase by going on safari in Africa this fall. Hopefully, we'll be back in time for the meeting in Georgia.

Best to everyone,

Bob

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NICHOLAS THEODORE, M.D.
PETER NAKAJI, M.D.

June 27, 2006

Dear Fellow Academians:

Lynne and I enjoyed the meeting in Half Moon Bay with the scientific program and, of course, the most enjoyable social-recreational program in such a beautiful place. We are looking forward to the meeting in Georgia at the Reynolds Plantation.

The year between has been eventful, interesting, and on the whole, good. Lynne and I traveled to several interesting places. St. Petersburg, Russia, for example, was very good. The Russian hosts were phenomenal but we were even more impressed with the art and history of the city. Stephen, Lynne, and I also spent a very nice few days in Cabo, Mexico, for spring break. Every four years the most popular sporting event occurs, The World Cup. Lynne and I were fortunate enough to go to Germany and see the US Team in three matches in "group" play. Our team did not fare well, but the spirit and support of the US fans was absolutely great. We felt very proud to be American Citizens. The Germans, as hosts, were also very helpful, friendly, and gracious.

Alissa is doing great south of L.A., loving her job at UCLA. Stephen finished his freshman year in high school. He had a very good year and loves his school. He did very well academically and his lacrosse team had an extremely successful year.

Chris, after graduating from Arizona State University, is working in sales and promotions for the Arizona Rattlers, our professional indoor football team. We instantly became fans of the team and did attend all home games. The mascot of the team is a Harley Davidson biker named "Fang." I think you get the idea. Lynne always is managing everyone and the household, and continues to be very active in her philanthropic and volunteer work.

I continue to enjoy my work with the patients, residents, fellows and colleagues. The new BNI patient towers should be in full operation this summer.

I hope all is well with you. Looking forward to our stay with all of you in Georgia.

Sincerely,

Volker K.H. Sonntag, M.D.

VKS/dn



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 85013-4496
(602) 406-3489

June 6, 2006

Ralph G. Dacey, Jr., M.D.
WUSM Department of Neurosurgery
660 S. Euclid, Campus Box 8057
St. Louis, MO 63110

Dear Ralph:

It is hard to believe that another letter is due. This is an important watershed year for me personally, as well as professionally. Nancy was diagnosed with breast cancer and is currently undergoing chemotherapy. She qualified for the Boston Marathon in January by doing well in the PF Chang Rock and Roll Marathon in Phoenix, was then diagnosed in March and underwent a lumpectomy, but put her treatment off until after the Boston Marathon. With the support and hospitality of our friends and fellow members Art and Dana Day, and under the supportive gaze of her adoring husband, she finished the race in less than four hours (had hoped to finish in under four/thirty)! She is doing well and has received incredibly heart-warming support.

I entered the 112-mile Tour de Tucson Cycling Race and finished well in the Platinum level, a remarkable 20 minutes behind the winners, which included the likes of Ventura and Landis. More surprising is that I finished 37th overall in the Tour de Phoenix, 5 minutes behind the winners and first in my age group, the fifty and above group. Damn, I am particularly proud of this one because I left behind my entire BNI gang who on average are half my age!

Nancy and I became grandparents again with the birth of our second granddaughter, Charlotte, to David and Kirsten. Their first born, Olivia, is adjusting to her new role in the family, and David and Kirsten are remembering how to survive on 4 hours of sleep a night. Christina and her husband, Andy, have moved back here to the Valley of the Sun where Andy has accepted a job with a law firm and Christina has started working on her BSN.

Professionally we are watching the new BNI tower rise like a Phoenix. This facility has 11 neurosurgery operating rooms with a 3-tesla introp MRI, 64 neuro ICU beds, etc. My colleagues, our staff, and especially our residents and fellows continue to be a source of great pride and support. Again I owe a great deal of appreciation to all who have made this year's success possible. The collegiality that starts with Volker and continues with the friendship between Volker and Lynne and Nancy and I, makes coming to work a continued and constant source of pleasure.

With my best wishes to all, I remain

Sincerely,


Robert F. Spetzler, M.D.

Jim and Joanne Story

2006 Round Robin

Dear Academicians:

If you haven't seen us lately, it's because we're practicing a different speciality i.e. Bulldozing, lake building, and music. After leaving the active practice of Neurosurgery, about a year and a half ago, ranching has become our full-time avocation. Having been raised in a ranching family, it was a natural post-career choice to pursue. One of our first projects was to design, permit, build and stock a 160 acre lake. An interesting feat was to catch and transfer some fish from an existing lake to the new lake. A total of 742 bass were caught which was not only a challenge but a rewarding task.

We've had several Academy guests visit the ranch. Rick and Leeann Boop were first off to spend time with us. Recently, Bill and Christa Buchheit, while being Visiting Professor at the Univ. of Texas Dept. of Neurosurgery, along with Dr. David Jimenez and faculty joined us for a social outing and barbeque. The selection of Dr. Jimenez as Department Chairman was an excellent choice and one that we recommended upon my leaving the University. It is refreshing to see the younger generation carry on the tradition and advance the field.

On the homefront, we stay busy with our four married children's families and 15 grandchildren. This fall, our first granddaughter is going off to college on an academic scholarship in pre-med and needless to say, we are most proud of her achievements.

On the "fun front," we really did have fun attending all the University of Texas football games this past year, including the Rose Bowl which had a happy ending with the Longhorns winning the National Football Championship. In fact, we recently saw Marty and Debbie Weiss at the NSA meeting in Ojai, Calif. where only Marty could be so socially graceful as to join in congratulations while a picture was snapped showing two former University Program Directors both exhibiting the "HOOK-EM-HORNS" sign! At the same meeting, it was a treat to play the trumpet with Michael Scott's Jazz Band along side Don Quest, Phil Weinstein, Jim Rose and Ted Schwartz. And mentioning music, our travels to Vermont for an Adult Jazz Band Camp taught by some of the Jazz greats was an exhilarating experience.

In conclusion, we have been blessed with good health and happiness and hopefully look forward to seeing all at the forthcoming Academy meeting.

Sincerely,
Jim and Joanne Story

June 19, 2006

Dear Academy Friends:

2005 was a great year for all academy members, particularly those who were fortunate to attend to spectacular meeting at Half Moon Bay which was so graciously hosted by Meg Whitman and Griff Harsh. The location and program were unique. We particularly enjoyed the hiking in the Redwoods and kayaking with the seals in the bay.

The highlights of 2006 for our family are headed up by the birth of two new grandchildren: Alexander in March to Neal and Katie who recently moved to Cincinnati; Reese in June to Chris and Margaret of San Francisco (Margaret's 1st child and our 6th grand), We now have four boys & two girls. Susan is overjoyed to have two boys in town where she can teach them golf and clowning.

We had a great bike camp with Connie Carpenter and Davis Phinney in Tuscany in June. Margaret, Chris and Matson joined us to celebrate my birthday and our 40th anniversary. Look at bikecamp.com if you want to take your crew on some special training rides in Tuscany. It was the best ever for us.

Our experience with The Neuroscience Institute continues to prosper with the development of Centers of Excellence in all major fields, recruitment of outstanding clinical and research colleagues and success with fund raising. We remain optimistic and eagerly involved with the process.

Ron Warnick is doing a super job as chairman of The Mayfield Clinic. He and Raj Narayan have developed a very effective partnership and inspire all of us to new levels of commitment. We will soon complete our first Surgical Hospital (ambulatory) which will join The Imaging Center and Brain Tumor Radiation Center as models of excellence and collaboration for the clinic.

Obviously, we have many blessings for which we are thankful. These include continued good health, great colleagues, and friends like you and the opportunity to live and be nurtured in the greatest country in the world. Yes, we do face many political, cultural and healthcare challenges but, as a people, we have never been more prepared to meet them.

All the best to each of you.

Susan and John Tew
June 2006





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QUEEN SQUARE
LONDON WC1N 3BG

Telephone: 020 7829 8750

Fax: 020 7278 7894

email: Neurological.Surgery@ion.ucl.ac.uk

1 July 2006

Dr R G Dacey Jr, M.D.
Schwartz Professor & Chairman of Neurological Surgery
Washington University, Dept of Neurological Surgery
660 S. Euclid Avenue, Box 8057
St. Louis, Missouri 63110, U.S.A.

Dear Fellow Academicians

Re: Round Robin Letter

Greetings from London. Professionally this year, after more than 12 years planning, sees the start of building work at Queen Square on a major collaborative project with Neuroradiology to install a 1.5 T iMRI in the same operating room as an interventional angiogram facility, with a dedicated 4 bed intensive care unit as well as associated 3T and 1.5 for clinical research.

Sadly, I shall not operate in this facility myself as I reach the mandatory retirement age in the University and NHS and will finish operating at Queen Square in September, although I plan to continue to practice at the Wellington Hospital. The Institute of Neurology hosted a Festschrift for me in June which was scientifically very stimulating and socially very enjoyable. Hazel continues to work part-time as research co-ordinator for blood transfusion.

We are grandparents and William and Clare, who moved back from Paris to London this year, have a delightful daughter, Athena, who will be two this month.

We have also downsized, and moved all of 200 yards from a four bedroom apartment on two floors to two bedrooms on one floor. Like many bigger moves this proved stressful, involving 3 months in rented accommodation and 3 months with workmen around 6 days a week. All has gone well and we are very happy with our new home.

With best wishes to you all from Hazel and myself

David

David G T Thomas MA FRCP FRCS
Professor of Neurological Surgery

Dear Fellow Academicians

This has been a year of momentous change in New Orleans on many counts precipitated by Hurricane Katrina. We were very lucky compared to many, although our family was not spared damage and inconvenience. Our home had wind but not flood damage. My parents, however, had 8 feet of water in their lakefront townhouse. Terry's parents' high rise condominium experienced flooding on the ground floor that affected the electrical panels which made their building uninhabitable as well. Therefore our parents were refugees in Houston for a prolonged period after the storm. Our family, like many New Orleanians, will be forever grateful to the wonderful people of Houston.

Only three hospitals in the immediate area remained in continuous operation throughout the storm and its aftermath, and none in Orleans Parish itself. Like other essential medical personnel, my two former associates and I rotated week-long tours of duty staying on the Ochsner campus until our homes once again became livable. Each day New Orleans sees improvements and there is a very positive pulse in the City with new shops and lots of restaurants both old and new. Although large tracts remain unpopulated, the "sliver by the river" (comprising the older settlements on higher land) is booming. Many are hopeful that an economic revitalization, stimulated by the anticipated very generous Federal money grants, is just around the corner.

Our biggest news is that after 23 years I have left Ochsner. I certainly enjoyed my time there working with great colleagues of the past like Ed Connolly. However, the organization has undergone many changes over the years and perhaps the recent stresses stemming from the Hurricane and its consequences have accelerated and exacerbated this transformation. In any event I am fortunate to be able to begin a new phase of my career and yet remain in New Orleans. The area has in general suffered from an exodus of specialty medical care, and neurosurgery at both medical schools as well as in the private sector is in peril. I am pleased that with my new partners we will be able to help stabilize the community situation with respect to neurosurgery. My main regrets, however, relate to the loss of both my participation in training of residents as well as my collaboration with David Kline. I hope this will only be a temporary hiatus and that something can be worked out for the future.

Terry has not returned to work since Katrina, staying busy overseeing our home repairs, "gutting" the ruined townhouse, and renovating a condominium. Our daughter Katherine graduated this spring with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Parson's School of Design, Parisian campus. She was awarded the "golden thimble" which is the first place prize in her field of study. Our son Rand will be starting his final semester at USC where he is a computer engineering major. This summer he is doing grant supported research in the field of robotics.

Warmest Regards,

Rand M. Voorhies, M.D.
June 13, 2006

June 2006

Re: Round Robin News

Dear Friends:

This has been another enlightening year for me. Participation in professional meetings, conferences, and presentations along with the travel involved added to a very hectic agenda. My commitments at the medical school and hospital have continued, with added committee responsibilities which have increased this past year. A few months ago, Dr. Louis Caldera resigned as President of UNM's medical school after being at the helm for two and a half years. In spite of being well liked and respected, apparently, his philosophy did not mesh with the Regents and their mission for the school. This has been followed with additional administrative changes. In general, most faculty, students, and others were caught off guard and taken aback. I was shocked. At this point in time, things have settled down and life goes on.

At the moment, I am attempting to further reduce more of my late husband's personal items and archive collection. This is no easy task and will take more time and effort than I expected. The medical history attached to these pieces is of great significance. It is paramount, therefore, that they be honorably saved for neuroscience posterity.

On family matters, all members continue hail and hardy although my twin-sister had a mild heart attack over the Christmas holidays. It was felt that this was due to her Guillian-Barre syndrome, a result from the flu vaccine she received the previous year. I am feeling well and don't contemplate any major surgery in the near future.

At the moment, New Mexico is experiencing a serious drought. There has not been any appreciable moisture in months and water and fire restrictions have been enacted by our governor as well as numerous mayors throughout the state. Even Native American chanting and singing have not helped thus far. Please send some rain our way!!!!!!

With regret, I won't be able to join you this year at the Academy meeting in Georgia, where you will learn of the latest trends transitioning in neurological surgery. My thoughts will be with all of you and the success of this special gathering.

Best wishes,



Agnes M. Walker
(Mrs. A. Earl Walker)

Church To Hold Novena For Drought

Journal Staff Report

It's about praying for rain.

A nine-week summer Novena has been planned to end the "drought endangering New Mexico and the American Southwest," said Diocese of the Southwest Evangelical Catholic Bishop David Doyle.

The nine-week summer Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary Novena to "Our Lady, Queen of Peace" will start today and conclude Aug. 12.

This Novena will be celebrated at the Church of Christ the King in Albuquerque, 2801 Lomas NE, at 3 p.m., prior the start of Mass at 4 p.m. Doyle will lead the Novena and the celebratory Mass.

For additional information, call 505-237-0665.



Albuquerque Journal June 17, 2006

If we don't get some rain, we'll all be in neurological Hell!

AMW

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OF SAVANNAH, P.C.
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ADMINISTRATOR

ROBERT T. MATHEWS

2006 has been an interesting year. The theme of the Annual Meeting was "Meeting the Challenges of Neurosurgery" and the president's theme for the year was "Meeting the Challenges of the Presidency of the AANS". All told, it was a very interesting and worthwhile year although at times a bit overwhelming. I am working diligently to get my golf game back in playable shape and look forward to taking up hunting again this fall. Everyone in the Wirth household is doing well. We have a wonderful new granddaughter, Kate, born to Leslie and Bill Ponder, Lynn's daughter and her husband who live in Atlanta. Graham, Kate's older brother, is now closing in on 3 with a wonderful personality, the expected enthusiasm from a 3 year old and in every way a delightful grandson. We expect another grandchild at the end of July. My son, Philip, and his wife, Carol, are expecting a boy, which will enliven life for us here in Savannah a great deal since they now live here. Lynn's son, Tripp, and his wife, Ann, continue to live and work in Atlanta. My son, Andrew, is living in Washington and looking for a job as you read this. My daughter, Carolyn, is living in Washington and working in Virginia as a school counselor.

It was great to see most of you, if not all of you, at the AANS meeting in San Francisco. It was a wonderful meeting with an outstanding social program thanks to the efforts of Lynn and Nick and Sue Ellen Barbaro. The meeting and scientific program under the respective directions of Jim Rutka and Mitch Berger were outstanding. If you didn't make that event, you really missed something special.

I hope the past presidency proves to be a little bit like being a grandparent. It is a little too early to tell as a lot of the issues which consumed so much of last year's time and energy have not been resolved as yet and continues to require attention. Lynn and I are looking forward to seeing you at Reynolds Plantation, which is a lovely area with lots of sporting activities available and some lovely historic Georgia towns nearby. We hope to see you this fall.

Best regards,

Phil

