

NEWSLETTER

CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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Dedicated to Neurosurgical Education

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President's Letter

Neurological surgeons command the respect and admiration of fellow physicians, but also of the general public. We wield an influence in medicine, society, and government beyond our numbers. This respect is engendered perhaps by awe for the substrate with which we work, but more likely is the result of ceaseless endeavor by our predecessors to improve and disseminate neurological care for the good of mankind.

It is incumbent upon us as contemporary neurosurgeons not only to enjoy our inheritance, but to deserve and maintain that esteem and trust by furnishing a level of excellence in our care unexcelled by any other medical discipline. The Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) is intimately involved in the delivery of that care through its multiple educational as well as socio-economic activities.

The primary goal of the CNS has always been excellence through education and the highlight has been its Annual Meeting. The Fortieth Annual Meeting will be held in Los Angeles, California, from October 20 through October 25, 1990. The hotel will be the spectacular Century Plaza in Westwood, which, with its new Towers, provides an ideal meeting venue. Charles B. Wilson, M.D., Professor and Chairman at the University of California San Francisco, will be our Honored Guest; Martin B. Camins, M.D., our Annual Meeting Chairman; and William F. Chandler, M.D., our Scientific Program Chairman.

Other major educational projects, including the journal, *Neurosurgery*, the proceedings of the Annual Meeting in *Clinical Neurosurgery*, and the series, *Concepts in Neurosurgery*, have flourished, and attest to the quality and energy of the organization.

The CNS remains firmly committed to nurturing the young neurosurgical mind and provides multiple forums for development not only of leaders within our specialty, but of contributors to an ever more complex society. The Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (JCSNS), chaired by Dr. Russell Travis, welcomes attendance and involvement. The CNS invites and encourages participation in every tier of its structure: the Head and Spinal Cord Prevention Project, the Decade of the Brain effort, its multiple committees and sections, and its interfaces with other organizations and government.



Hal L. Hankinson, M.D., President of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons

I am honored to serve as your President for 1990, and shall, with the help of the entire organization, assure that we as humans, physicians, and neurosurgeons, continue to have the intellectual and moral tools to meet our collective responsibility.

Hal L. Hankinson, M.D., President

Washington Update

In the last chaotic moments of the Congressional session, the House-Senate Committee resolved the near future reimbursement of physicians under Medicare Part B, and perhaps ultimately even non-Federal reimbursement, when the fiscal year 1990 budget was set. The basic elements are: 1) a fee schedule based upon a resource-based relative value scale (RBRVS), 2) a limitation on the amount a physician can bill a patient above Medicare reimbursement, 3) a fee reduction on certain overpriced procedures, 4) targets for the total Medicare physician reimbursement each year through a Medicare Volume Performance Standard (MVPS), 5) mandatory assignment on Medicare patients whose premiums on co-payments are made by state Medicaid programs, 6) physician filing of all Medicare claims including the non-

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1989 CNS Annual Meeting

Over 3,000 neurosurgeons, residents, allied health personnel, exhibitors and spouses attended this year's Annual Meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Atlanta's weather cooperated delightfully - temperatures ranged in the '70's, and the rain held off until the last day of the meeting. The Atlanta Hilton and Towers Hotel was the headquarters and the housing hotel. The hotel staff's made every effort to accommodate our organization. Southern hospitality was in evidence throughout our stay.

The meeting began on Saturday, October 28, with registration booths and exhibits open from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. There were 85 different technical exhibits demonstrating the latest advances in neurosurgical instrumentation and imaging. The highlight of the institutional exhibits was the "Harm's Way" videotape featured by the National Head and Spinal Cord Injury Prevention Program, a public service effort sponsored by both the CNS and AANS. Over 100 scientific posters were viewed by meeting attendants. A photography display, featuring medical and non-medical works, were instituted this year by Poster Session Chairman, Dr. Charles Branch, Jr.

The Scientific Program was excellent, due to the efforts of Dr. Martin B. Camins and his Scientific Program Committee. Registration for the Practical Courses filled quickly, indicating immense interest in skull base/cavernous sinus surgery and laser surgery. Dr. Lalligham Sekhar organized an excellent International Program with Dr. Madjid Samii of Germany speaking on a philosophical approach to neurosurgical training and practice. All of the General Scientific Sessions were well attended, and extra seating had to be arranged for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday when attendance exceeded 900 people. The Luncheon and Video Luncheon Seminars were very well received with the revised format consisting of 4 speakers. Workshops were held by the cerebrovascular, trauma, tumor, spine, and pediatric sections. The combination of a didactic session in addition to open papers allowed presentation of more of the excellent abstracts submitted for this meeting. The Special Courses on critical care, socioeconomics, orbital tumors, and controversies in extracranial vascular surgery also had excellent attendance.

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