

NEWSLETTER

CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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Dedicated to Neurosurgical Education

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1992 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting Committee has planned an exceptional experience for those attending this year's Annual Meeting in Washington D.C., held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. This is an excellent facility that is ideally suited for our meeting and, along with the adjacent Omni Shoreham Hotel, will provide ample room for an expanded and memorable program.

The purpose of the 1992 Annual Meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons is to provide continuing medical education for practicing neurosurgeons, neurosurgical residents, and fellows in the form of didactic lectures, practical (hands-on) courses demonstrating neurosurgical techniques, small group sessions to provide in depth coverage of selected topics, and posters to provide the latest information regarding clinical and laboratory advances in neurological surgery.

General Scientific Session I will cover contemporary concepts in cerebrovascular surgery, including the natural applications of aneurysms and AVMs, vasospasm, endovascular applications, carotid endarterectomy, aneurysm surgery, and AVM surgery. General Scientific Session II will concern current concepts in pain medicine, pain surgery techniques for general neurosurgical practice, and pain surgery techniques for specialty practice. In addition, the following socioeconomic issues will be discussed by neurosurgical experts: health care policy, insurance reform, professional liability, tort reform, and the resource based professional liability, tort reform, and the resource based relative value system. In General Scientific Session III, the participants will be introduced to decision making in spinal instrumentation, craniocervical instrumentation, anterior cervical instrumentation, posterior cervical instrumentation, as well as the treatment of spondylolysis/spondylolisthesis and thoracolumbar trauma. In General Scientific Session IV, the participants will be introduced to the principles of radiosurgery, as well as the specifics of radiosurgical treatment of AVMs, benign tumors, and malignant tumors.

A record number of Practical Courses will be held on Sunday morning and afternoon. Twelve Practical Courses will be offered:

1. Skull base surgery—anterior approaches



2. Skull base surgery—lateral and infratemporal approaches
3. Thoracolumbar instrumentation
4. Cervical spine instrumentation
5. Endovascular/interventional neurosurgery
6. Computer assisted neurosurgery
7. Surgical anatomy of the brachial plexus
8. Instrumentation for pain control
9. Microsurgery for aneurysms
10. Radiosurgery
11. Stereotactic systems
12. Surgical management of acoustic schwannomas

These courses are designed to provide "hands-on" practical experience in the management of these subjects. The experiences include cadaveric dissection, computer simulations, and small tutorial sessions using models.

The following afternoon Special Courses will be offered: Pituitary Surgery, History of Neurosurgery, and Skull Base Surgery. Concurrent afternoon Workshops are planned by the Cerebrovascular, Spine, Trauma, Stereotactic, Tumor, and Pediatric Sections.

Nearly 200 speakers will participate in a wide variety of Luncheon Seminars, including multiple video sessions. The Open Scientific Session committee has evaluated a record number (>500) of submitted abstracts for both slide presentation and the Poster Session. The Poster Session will feature a record number (200) of

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WASHINGTON UPDATE

by Katherine O'Meara Orrico

Congressional Visits

Because the CNS is meeting in Washington, D.C. this fall, we thought it would be an ideal opportunity for you to visit with your Member of Congress or his/her staff to discuss a topic of vital concern to organized neurosurgery. The Washington Committee has identified professional liability reform as one of its highest priorities. Currently there are over 20 liability reform bills and numerous health insurance reform bills (many with provisions for liability reform) pending before the Congress, so the issue is ripe for discussion. You may recall that the AANS and CNS paper on professional liability, "A Plan for Medical Liability Reform," was printed in the Summer issue of the *AANS Bulletin*. This will assist you in preparing for your discussion with your Congressional Office.

When contacting your Member of Congress you should keep the following in mind¹:

DO

- Do identify clearly the subject or subjects in which you are interested, not just House and Senate bill numbers.
- Do state why you are concerned about an issue or issues. Your own personal experience, particularly as a member of the medical community, is excellent supporting evidence. Explain how you think an issue will affect patients, the medical profession, your community or family.
- Do put thoughts in your own words.

DON'T

- Don't ever, ever threaten. Don't ever hint "I'll never vote for you unless you do what I want." Present the best arguments in favor of your position and ask for their consideration.

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¹Excerpts taken from "A Guide to Communicating with Members of Congress," reprinted with permission from AMA/AMPAC in the AANS/CNS Public Policy Handbook.