

NEWSLETTER

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President's Letter

I am deeply honored to serve as the President of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) for the coming year, and will do my best to complete projects initiated by my predecessors and also to begin new activities. Several events co-sponsored by the CNS and the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) are ongoing and will require involvement of all members for their successful completion.

1) The **Head and Spinal Cord Injury Prevention Program** is one of the most visible and worthwhile volunteer activities in which our profession has ever participated. Under the able direction of co-chairmen Drs. Fletcher E. Eyster and Clark Watts, this program has gained national visibility by both government and business. The program will expand within the next year with the hiring of a national coordinator whose office will be located in Chicago and whose responsibility will be to further develop and expand the programs already initiated. It is hoped that further involvement of members of our neurosurgical societies will carry the message of spinal cord and head injury prevention to every American at risk within the next three years. To realize this goal will require the participation of each CNS member. If you wish information on how to become involved in this project, please contact me.

2) Government and business agencies have become more involved in the practice of medicine. There has been a lack of reliable information impeding our representatives from dealing with these agencies in an effective fashion. The CNS, AANS, and a private organization specializing in medical surveys are now cooperating in a **national survey**, which, when complete, will provide vital information on fundamental demographics such as manpower information, reimbursement data, professional liability, neurosurgical practice patterns, and specialty certification. Responses will be anonymous and strictly confidential. I urge each member to fill out this survey, as it will have more bearing than any other single document on influencing our future practice of neurosurgery. If you have not completed this survey as yet, please do so at once.

3) The **38th Annual Congress Meeting** will be held in Seattle, Washington, from September 25-29, 1988, with the scientific sessions being held in the Washington Convention Center. The meeting's themes will center on socio-economic issues, cerebrovascular disease, and spinal disorders. The honored guest will be Mr. Lindsay Symon of London, England, who is widely recognized for his work on cerebral protection, evoked potential monitoring, and cerebral metabolism. The Annual Meeting Chairman is Dr. Tom G. Saul, the Scientific Program Chairman is Dr. L. Nick



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Hopkins, and the Local Arrangements Chairman is Dr. Kim J. Burchell. Seattle, the "Emerald City" of the Pacific Northwest, is one of the most sought-after convention cities in the United States. In fact, Seattle was recently named by Rand-McNally as the most desirable area in which to vacation. Seattle has much to offer both members and their spouses in social activities; for example, tours to Mount Ranier and a Washington winery, and an evening salmon bake reached by ferry boat.

A post-convention meeting will be held in Victoria, British Columbia, immediately following the Seattle meeting. Victoria is a brief two-hour catamaran ride from Seattle, and plans are being made for the CNS to charter the Victoria Clipper to take all those interested to Victoria. Dr. Brian M. Hunt and his wife, Barbara, will be making the arrangements for the post-convention meeting.

Debbie and I look forward to seeing you in Seattle and Victoria in September.