

NEWSLETTER

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Congress of *Neurological Surgeons*



Message From The President



In vigorated by the great scientific and social program at the 1996 CNS Meeting in Montreal, the CNS now turns its attention to important issues facing neurosurgery for the coming year. Some issues will likely reach a favorable resolution — the amended complaint from the Pedicle Screw Litigation Plaintiff's Liaison Committee no longer includes the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Other issues, most notable the Medicare Practice Expense legislation, may have an immense negative impact upon neurosurgeons.

The Congress of Neurosurgical Surgeons is actively working with the AANS to address these and other important issues. The Joint Officers of the AANS and CNS regularly meet to coordinate these efforts in an effective and cost-efficient manner. Duplicate initiatives between the two organizations have been largely eliminated, and the resulting joint programs are focused responses to better serve the needs of the neurosurgical community. For example, the Joint AANS/CNS Washington Committee directs initiatives related to public policy, including reimbursement, liability, research, legislation and relationships with other public and professional organizations. The AANS/CNS Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies addresses critical socioeconomic and workplace issues impacting neurosurgeons, providing timely input to both organization on priority issues. The AANS/CNS Joint

Sections provide the component infrastructure by which subspecialty issues are coordinated and implemented. Neurosurgery://On-Call (<http://www.aans.org/>), a joint initiative of the AANS and CNS, is moving forward under the leadership of William Friedman to provide an electronic forum for neurosurgeons of the future. The reformulated AANS/CNS Joint Committee on Quality Assessment is addressing important issues related to outcomes, guidelines and regulation of devices under the direction of Robert Florin and Steve Haines. A new joint AANS/CNS Task Force on Public Relations chaired by Edward Laws is designing a program through which neurosurgeons can effectively promote their critical role in patient care.

In summary, the coming year will undoubtedly be important for neurosurgeons in the changing arena of health care delivery and public policy. As always, the Congress of Neurological Surgeons remains dedicated to the mission of education, which is the cornerstone of our profession. In addition, the CNS is priding effective leadership and efficient allocation of resources to represent the needs of practicing neurosurgeons. The success of the programs depends in large part upon the input and volunteer efforts of the CNS membership. I look forward to working with you on these important issues in the coming year.

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CNS Welcomes You

The Congress of Neurological Surgeons welcomes you to the great city of New Orleans for its annual meeting, which takes place from September 27th to October 2nd. The New Orleans Hilton Hotel will serve as the meeting headquarters, providing a spectacular setting on the River, being linked to the Convention Center via the famous Riverwalk. Numerous social events and exciting tours will be available making this a wonderful opportunity to have your family also attend the meeting. The Scientific Program Chairman, Dr. Mark Hadley, has assembled an outstanding scientific program with the help of his planning committee. The open scientific sessions will feature a look into the next century and how one's practice perspective will be changed by integrated global information systems. To this end, several plenary session talks will be available to the subscriber on the Internet through Neurosurgery on Call (NOC). Point-Counterpoint discussions on current and future controversies in *Neurosurgery* will feature experts to provide up to the minute opinions on some of the more controversial issues. The scientific program will also highlight "Brain Attack" and provide the latest management guidelines, thus emphasizing the critical role neurosurgeons should assume in caring for the acute stroke patient. Finally, the integrated approach to brain and spinal cord-injured patients will be outlined with a comprehensive panel of experts.

Special Courses will emphasize the integrated concepts of telecommunications in the present and future practice of the neurosurgeon and provide the paradigms to implement these important pathways to deliver the most advanced care for our patients. Advances in functional imaging in terms of its practical use for current patient