

The Young Neurosurgeons Committee: The Training Ground for the Future Leaders in Organized Neurosurgery

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Introduction

The Young Neurosurgeons Committee (YNC) was founded in 1991 by Dr. Roberto C. Heros. It has grown to become the major voice of young neurosurgeons to the leadership of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS). It has been said that the YNC is “the training ground for the future leaders of organized neurosurgery.” This study follows the leadership involvement of past YNC members in organized neurosurgery.

Methods

We performed a retrospective study of all past members of the YNC compared with similarly aged neurosurgeons who are not YNC members. Current residency program directors, department chairs, and leadership involvement in the AANS, Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), American Board of Neurological Surgeons (ABNS), and Society of Neurological Surgeons (SNS) were considered. Descriptive statistics were utilized to analyze these data.

Results

Of the 170 past members of the YNC, 97 (57.1%) participated in further leadership roles within organized neurosurgery. One presidents of the AANS and 2 presidents of the CNS were former YNC members. Fifteen YNC members have chaired a Joint AANS/CNS Section and 6 have chaired the Women in Neurosurgery Section. Past members of the YNC were significantly more likely to serve as ABNS officers (5.9% vs. 2.4%, $p=0.0002$), residency program directors (5.9% vs. 2.4%, $p=0.006$), department chairs (8.2% vs. 1.8%, $p<0.0001$), and members of the SNS (15.3% vs. 4.8%, $p<0.0001$) compared to a similarly aged general neurosurgery population. Compared to other YNC members, chairs of the YNC are significantly more likely to become members of the SNS (46.7% vs 12.3%, $p=0.0004$), residency program directors (20.0% vs. 4.5%, $p=0.04$), and department chairs (26.7% vs. 6.5%, $p=0.02$).

Conclusions

Former members of the YNC have served in a number of leadership roles throughout organized neurosurgery. Neurosurgery programs interested in generating future leaders in neurosurgery should consider supporting the candidacy of their residents for the YNC.

Learning Objectives

- 1) Be able to describe the history of the YNC.
- 2) Understand the role the YNC has played in developing future leaders within organized/academic neurosurgery.