



NEWSLETTER

Editor: Michael Oh

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President's Message



Andres M. Lozano, WSSFN President

It is a great honor to be elected as President of the WSSFN. Our field of work is amongst the most exciting in medicine and science. Our society is vibrant and in a period of growth and prosperity.

This spirit was captured at the WSSFN quadrennial meeting held in Rome, June 13-17, 2005 under President Brian Brophy and with Mario Meglio serving as the principal meeting organizer. Approximately 400 WSSFN members and guests participated in a program that highlighted innovations in surgery for psychiatric disorders, movement disorders, epilepsy and pain. These were complemented by important presentations on advances in basic sciences related to imaging and cellular neurophysiology. There were over 100 oral presentations and 150 poster presentations with over two dozens plenary lectures. The Spiegel and Wycis awards were presented to two luminaries in our field, Alim-Louis Benabid and Patrick Kelly. They join a long and distinguished list of pioneers who have previously been so-recognized. Two talented fellows, Drs Temel Yasin and Talamoni Fonoff were recognized and received awards for their outstanding papers. It is wonderful to know that there are so many talented young neurosurgeons in our field that are active in our society.

One of the strengths of our international society is the ability to interact with our colleagues throughout the world. The problems facing our patients are similar. However, the approaches in Asia, South America, Europe and North America can be quite different. This contributes to the richness and diversity of our society. The convening power of our society and the forum it provides for interactions and exchange serves as one of the important drivers for innovation in the field of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery.

As we move forward during my term as President, our society will work in four distinct areas:

1. Internal Organization and Governance and Communication

The new executive officers of the WSSFN including the President, Vice-President (Joachim Krauss) the Secretary Treasurer (Taka Taira) and the assistant secretary Treasurer (Michael Schulder) are holding periodic conference calls to plan strategy and direction for our society. These individuals are complemented by important representation from all disciplines in our field from diverse geographic locations on the WSSFN Board. I am thrilled to be working with such talented individuals.

With the advent of the electronic age, our society will use this medium, particularly our web site under the direction of Michael Kaplitt to promote communication and interactions. We will set up online services including registration, membership application, payment of membership dues, registration for meetings and abstract submissions. Our intention is to also initiate an online search engine so that we may be able to find each other and communicate better. We have an agreement with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons to serve as our secretariat and will contract with them to provide the services our society requires.

WSSFN Rome Conference Report

The 14th meeting of the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery took place in Rome in mid-June of 2005.

The superb scientific program consisted of 50 invited lectures, more than 100 open papers and over 120 poster presentations. Separate sessions were dedicated to movement disorders, psychiatric neurosurgery, pain, spasticity, epilepsy, basic science, neuro-oncology and neuronavigation, and radiosurgery. Special symposia included such topics as neuromodulation of cerebral blood flow, functional stereotaxy for movement disorders: lessons from the past and directions for the future, and even a separate symposium on effective practice management, dedicated to practical use of outcome data and real life integration of information technology.

New data on cortical stimulation for pain control, post-stroke recovery and treatment of movement disorders were discussed at general sessions. A large European experience with motor cortex stimulation for neuropathic pain was presented by several clinical groups – the indications for this procedure and exact surgical details remain subject of intense discussions. In the field of movement disorder surgery, the targeting approach, value of microelectrode recording, and outcome assessment were actively discussed.

Recently completed and ongoing studies involving surgery for psychiatric disorders were presented in detail: a Toronto study of subgenual cingulate stimulation for treatment of depression, a multi-center study of capsular stimulation for obsessive-compulsive disorder, two series of DBS for Tourette's syndrome from the Netherlands and Italy, and cingulotomy for refractory OCD from Korea. The discussion ended with a note of caution from Dr. Meyerson warning young neurosurgeons about risks associated with embarking on complex field psychiatric neurosurgery and the need for appropriate psychiatric support.

Another session gave an update on treatment of epilepsy – that included application of neurostimulation



From Left to Right. Spiegel and Wycis award winners Alim-Louis Benabid and Patrick Kelly with WSSFN President Andres Lozano and ex-President Brian Brophy, enjoying a moment at the WSSFN meeting in Rome.

to various cranial targets and recent results of radiosurgical treatment. Some aspects of vagal nerve stimulation were also covered.

Two awards were presented – the Spiegel and Wycis awards were given to Dr. Alim Benabid of Grenoble, France, and Dr. Patrick Kelly of New York, USA. Both awardees dedicated their life and professional work to clinical work, research and education, and greatly advanced the field of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery, becoming excellent role models for younger generations in our specialty. Their acceptance speeches both reflected their grace, generosity and experience. Young investigator awards were given to Dr. Temel from the Netherlands for his analysis of the psychological effects of bilateral DBS of subthalamic nucleus and Dr. Fonoff from Brazil for his study of anti-nociceptive effects of motor cortex stimulation in rats.

The attendees and guests enjoyed modern facilities at the meeting venue in the Catholic University of Rome and superb social program thoughtfully arranged by the organizing committee. Dr. Andres Lozano, president of the ASSFN, was elected President of WSSFN for the next four years. The next meeting of WSSFN will take place in Toronto in 2009.

Konstantin Slavin
Chicago, IL



Four Past WSSFN Presidents. From Left to Right, Chihiro Ohye (1988-1993), Phil Gildenberg (1993-1997), Brian Brophy (2001-2005) and Andres Lozano (2005-2009).

Upcoming Meetings

World Parkinson's Congress

February 22-26, 2006
Washington, D.C., USA

American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Bi-Annual Meeting

June 1-4, 2006
Boston, Massachusetts
for information, registration and abstract submission see www.assfn.org website

Fifth IASP Research Symposium

June 6-9, 2006
Toronto, Canada

10th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders

October 29 - November 2, 2006
Kyoto, Japan,

WSSFN Regional Conference



At the recent meeting in Rome, the WSSFN board approved a plan to help sponsor regional conferences during the intervening years between quadrennial society meetings. These meetings will emphasize education and will provide an opportunity for outreach to different regions in the world which may be underrepresented at our larger meetings.

The first of these meetings will take place July 7 and 8th, 2006 in Shanghai, China. Board member and local organizer, Dr. Bomin Sun, has worked with the society leadership to create an exciting and diverse academic and social program. More information regarding meeting registration, housing and other details will be available soon.



New Scientific Society

A new scientific society, the International Society of Intraoperative Neurophysiology (ISIN), will soon be registered. The ISIN will be an international multidisciplinary independent scientific society with the purpose of "the pursuit of the advancement of excellence in intra- and peri-operative neurophysiology. For more information, please email: bcioni@rm.unicatt.it

President's Message (cont.)

In a further effort to help communication, we have appointed an editor of the WSSFN newsletter, and I am very pleased that Dr. Michael Oh has taken on this important role. Michael has done an excellent job in organizing the newsletter which is available on the web site. Please communicate with him for possible contributions and ideas.

2. Membership. The membership is vital to our Society. To this end, we are facilitating membership application and including allied health specialties as well as fellows and residents in our membership categories thanks to a change in our bylaws. Indeed we can now allow residents and fellows to join for a one-time fee of \$25.00, and are providing access to the journal at reduced fees for residents and allied health professionals. We need to keep our membership list and contact information current and will form a membership committee with a chair to facilitate this process. This membership committee's mandate will be to add value to WSSFN membership.

3. Meetings. The WSSFN will continue to have quadrennial meetings as we have had since 1961. The next meeting will be held in 2009 in Toronto. More details will follow as the time nears. I encourage all members to write me with their comments and suggestions on the organization and content of this meeting.

Because of the international flavor of our Society and because the meetings are only every four years, we will initiate smaller regional meetings on a yearly or biennial basis to increase outreach in education in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery in areas that may be under-serviced. There was a successful meeting in Riyadh in December of 2003, the first such regional meeting, and I am pleased to announce that the second regional meeting will be held in Shanghai from July 7-8, 2006. Dr. Bomin Sun from Shanghai will be the organizer of this meeting, and further details will be posted on the web. The objective of this meeting will be outreach in education in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery in this region. I would invite the membership to propose other sites for this type of regional meetings in subsequent years.

4. The Journal. The journal of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery is one of the main means of communication under the excellent leadership of Dr. David Roberts. The journal is flourishing in its quality and in the breadth of the materials published. All members are encouraged to use the journal as a way of disseminating their scientific work. The publisher of our Journal, Karger has agreed to allow free online access to WSSFN members. More details are and will be available at www.wssfn.org

We thus have 4 pillars in our Society: our outstanding membership, our meetings, our journal and our mission to increase education and research in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. The strengths and success of our society will be a function of the involvement of our talented members and those we can persuade to our ideals and our cause as we push forward the frontiers of science in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery and help our patients.

I very much look forward to serving as your President and moving forward with you.

Yours sincerely,

Andres M. Lozano
President

WSSFN

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Membership

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