



NEWSLETTER

Editor: Michael Y. Oh, MD

Fall 2009

Greetings from the New President



Dear Colleagues and Friends:

It is a great honor to be elected as President of the WSSFN. Looking back the long history of our Society, I feel we have inherited the valuable legacy of the great neurosurgeons and neuroscientists who were devoted to the field of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. We also have to remember that many techniques and devices used in general neurosurgical practice today came from the activities of our Society. Gamma knife, Cyber knife, navigation surgery, intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring and mapping, awake surgery, neuroendoscopy, and even intraoperative MRI were born in our Society.

During the past presidency of Professor Andres Lozano, our Society has progressed dramatically, and the Quadrennial Meeting in Toronto was very successful. We have seen that we are facing an innovation breakthrough and we are ready for that. Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery is progressing at a tremendous pace, and now it is one of the most important subspecialties in neurosurgery. Many young brilliant neurosurgeons are joining this field and it is the Society's responsibility to guide and educate them to establish leaders for the next generation.

We also have to remember that there are still many areas in the world where modern stereotactic and functional neurosurgery is not readily available. I have visited such areas many times and have realized that demands for stereotactic and functional neurosurgeons are enormous even in such areas. Resection surgery for epilepsy, thalamotomy or pallidotomy for Parkinson's disease, open cordotomy, DREZotomy or cingulotomy for pain, and neurotomy or dorsal rhizotomy for cerebral palsy are much cheaper, more affordable, and more realistic treatments for people in such areas rather than chronic medical treatment. Therefore, we have to preserve our traditional knowledge and skills that are diminishing in developed countries in order to make the best of it on a global scale. I hope our new outreach program organized by the tremendous effort of Dr Jason Schwalb will aid in this effort. I would like to encourage our members to hold local meetings or training courses under the joint auspices of the WSSFN. The leaders of the WSSFN are ready to collaborate with you.

The new officers (Takaomi Taira, Joachim Krauss, Michael Schulder, Jin Woo Chang) and the 15 members of the board of directors have already started new activities. Dr Osvaldo Vilela Filho chairs Psychiatric Surgery Committee in which they discuss future direction of this old but new area. We have simplified the method of membership application through online to encourage more people to join our Society. Ms Melody Dian, a new administrator of our Society, is doing excellent job for us. Dr Michael Oh is preparing for newsletter issued twice a year, and Dr Joseph Neimat is editing and updating our website (www.wssfn.org). I owe these staff very much. President and other leaders of our Society exist not for prestigious purpose but to serve actively for the members and to develop this exciting field of neurosurgery. If you have any suggestions or proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me via E-mail (ttaira@nij.twmu.ac.jp).

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

Yours sincerely,

President
Takaomi Taira, M.D., Ph.D.

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WSSFN Toronto Conference Report

Attendees at the 15th Quadrennial Meeting of the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery held May 23-27, 2009 in Toronto, Ontario indicated that the meeting was a tremendous success!

The past president Andres Lozano was joined by Michael Schulder, scientific program chairman, Mojgan Hodaie, local chairwoman, and Joseph Neimat, industry relations chairman in developing an outstanding program.

Despite the economic downturn and some travel concerns with the flu pandemic, attendance was excellent. Nearly 500 individuals were in attendance which included 98 faculty members. Over 40 countries were represented at the meeting.

The call for abstracts was exceptionally successful. Sixty three oral presentations were selected by the peer review committee. Because of the high response to the call for abstracts, the committee determined that poster presentations should be divided into two different sessions allowing 132 posters to be displayed.

Our corporate partners were also an integral part of the meeting. Fourteen companies provided exhibits and their corporate representatives were available to offer valuable information to the attendees. Sponsorship funding was record breaking at over \$250,000!

The main scientific sessions included a full day optional workshop on microelectrode recording and intraoperative electrophysiology which was very well attended. It was organized by Jonathan Dostrovsky, Bill Hutchison and Jay Shils.

The scientific sessions provided a variety of formats including daily workshops, plenary sessions and debates. Daily morning workshop sessions were dedicated to a range of topics including: pain, intraoperative imaging, and global standards for neurosurgery. Other topics covered were functional neurosurgery, psychiatric disorders, DBS for epilepsy, surgical treatment of NPH and spasticity. Plenary sessions were broken into main categories such as pain, epilepsy, neuronavigation and movement disorders and interspersed with lively debates. Lunch speakers included Phillip Gildenberg who gave a very interesting talk on the history of the society indicating its growth and focus over the years and Marwan Hariz gave an informative and entertaining talk on his personal reflections on functional neurosurgery. With so much development in various aspects of this field, the sessions were both instructive and thought provoking

In keeping with an honored tradition, the Spiegel -Wycis Awards were presented to two neurosurgeons who have greatly contributed to the advancement of the field of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. Dr. Marc Sindou from Lyon, France and Dr. Takashi Tsubokawa from Tokyo, Japan were the awardees. Both have shown a dedication to neurosurgery, research and education throughout their remarkable careers.

The Resident Fellow Awards were presented for the best clinical and basic science oral presentations. Dr. Dianyou Li received

the Clinical Award for “Deep Brain Stimulation in the Nucleus Accumbens for Refractory Anorexia Nervosa,” and Dr. Scellig Stone received the Basic Science Award for “Augmenting Hippocampal Neurogenesis Using Targeted Brain Stimulation: Implications for Memory Networks. Congratulations to these two for their excellent work.

Awards were also presented to the best two poster presentations. Ellen Air was selected for her work, “Electrophysiologic Monitoring for Placement of Laminectomy Leads for Spinal Cord Stimulation Under General Anesthesia,” and Ludvic Zrinzo for his work, “Avoiding the Ventricle Improves Anatomical Targeting Accuracy in DBS: a Multicentre Study.” Congratulations to these two for their efforts!

Toronto proved to be an excellent location for the meeting. The city provided all the amenities that helped to make the attendee’s experience memorable. The social highlight was a gala reception and dinner at the CN Tower which is one of the highest structures in the world. It was a special evening and provided time for sharing and collegiality with both old and new friends.

The planning committee is to be applauded for their outstanding efforts in making the 15th Quadrennial meeting a tremendous success!



Spiegel and Wycis Awards



Marc Sindou, MD, DSc
Lyon, France

Born in 1943 in Limoges, Marc SINDOU (M.S.) completed in parallel his medical and scientific studies, at Universities of Limoges, Bordeaux and Paris. He obtained his M.D. degree in 1972. After a five-year training in Lyon, he benefited from two fellowships: the first with Professor William SWEET at M.G.H. in Boston, especially for pain surgery, the second with Professor Gazi YASARGIL at Kantonspital in Zurich for training in Micro-Neurosurgery. He was appointed Associate Professor in 1982 and became full Professor in Neurosurgery and Chairman of Department in 1986.

His research was directed to two different fields. He developed neurophysiological investigations and surgery in the DREZ target for spinal deafferentation pain and focalized spasticity. In the fields of vascular surgery he worked in the lab on intracranial venous reconstruction which was then applied to patients harbouring meningiomas. Surgical personal experience amounts to more than 20,000 operations, which gave source to 549 publications.

Marc SINDOU has been: Founding-member of the International Association for the Study of Pain [IASP] in 1975, President (1998 – 2001) of the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, Vice-President of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies [EANS] (1999-2003). He is presently the President de la Société de Neuro-Chirurgie de Langue Française [SNCLF] (2007-2009). He is honorary member of the Japanese Neurosurgical Society.

He is member of the Editorial Board of a number of prestigious international journals, and has 135 Editorials or Comments published. He is a “Teacher” in the EANS Training program, and was awarded the prestigious “European Lecture” in 2007. He has been honoured by 16 Visiting – professorships and by 196 Invited –lectures in 49 different foreign countries



Takashi Tsubokawa, MD, PhD
Tokyo, Japan

Professor Takashi Tsubokawa was born in 1930. He graduated from the Medical School of Nihon University receiving his medical degree in 1954. He furthered his training by receiving his PhD from Kanazawa University in 1959, and became a lecturer in the Section of Neurosurgery, Department of Neurosurgery at the University. From 1961-1963 he earned a Brown Memorial Fellowship as a research fellow at the Yale University School of medicine where he studied neurobiology. From 1963-1964 he was a visiting professor at Emory University School of Medicine.

From 1969 to 1995, Dr. Tsubokawa found his home at University where he was appointed Assistant Professor Section of Neurosurgery, Department of Surgery, School of Medicine, to Associate Professor, and to Professor and Chairman in 1982 until his retirement in 1995. He still remains active as a Consulting Neurosurgeon of Tokyo White Cross Hospital and University Hospital. He has also been given the title of Honorary Professor of Nihon University and was elected Honorary Member of the Society of Neurological Surgeons.

A prolific writer, he has published more than 400 research papers about neurobiology, neurophysiology and clinical neurosurgery including functional neurosurgery. He has contributed chapters relating to functional neurosurgery in 8 texts and has written or been editor of more than 15 books. His most recent book, “Chronic Brain Stimulation, Its Method, Indication and Results” was published in 2000 by Neuron Publisher. Among his many contributions to stereotactic functional neurosurgery, Professor Tsubokawa discovered the use of motor cortex stimulation for the relief of neuropathic pain

Outreach Program



An exciting pilot program in conjunction with Karger Publications has been organized by Dr. Jason Schwalb. The program offers a complimentary one year membership to the first 50 neurosurgeons from developing countries who apply for WSSFN membership. This includes a

one year online subscription to the journal *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery*. Dr. Taira is particularly interested in providing access to important information on stereotactic and functional neurosurgery to areas of the world that may need education and support in this important field. The program is intended to encourage neurosurgeons in developing countries to join and take advantage of the society's benefits. We hope that you will reach out to those who would most benefit by this tremendous opportunity and provide them with information on the pilot program. Further information on what countries meet the criteria established by the World Bank, and information on how to apply can be found on the web site at www.wssfn.org.

Upcoming Meetings

North American Neuromodulation Society
Las Vegas, NV
December 3-6, 2009
www.neuromodulation.org

American Epilepsy Society
Boston, MA
December 4-8, 2009
www.aesnet.org

WFN World Congress of Parkinson's Disease
and Related Disorders
Miami Beach, Florida
December 13-16, 2009
www.kenes.com/parkinson

European Association of Neurosurgical Societies
Groningen, The Netherlands
March 25-27, 2010
www.kenes.com/eans/registration



Enjoying the social agenda at the 15th Quadrennial Meeting of the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery are from Left to Right: Drs. Andres Lozano, Joachim Krauss, Marwan Hariz, Jean Regis, and Marie Slegre

ISRS in Review



The 9th congress of the International Stereotactic Radiosurgery Society (ISRS) was held on June 7-11 in Seoul, Korea. The ISRS was founded as a worldwide non-profit organization in 1991 and remains the only professional body of its kind. The ISRS encourages interaction among a diverse international community of neurosurgeons, radiation oncologists and medical physicists dedicated to radiosurgery.

The society was created to foster learning and research on radiosurgery and since its inception has held a meeting every two years. The meeting venue rotates among continents to stress its international nature.

Some 350 participants gathered in Seoul for this 4-day event for which more than 350 abstracts were submitted. Invited presentations by experts in the field, theme sessions, consensus building workshops, and Korean-typical social activities highlighted this meeting which was carefully planned and executed by the local organizing committee led by Dr. Dong Gyu Kim and a scientific committee of experts from all continents.

Radiosurgery applied to the brain has come of age and it is firmly entrenched as a mainstream therapeutic modality. Since its popularization occurred mostly in the last 20 years, well into the era of evidence-based medicine, radiosurgery is arguably one of the most widely documented treatment tools in the field of Neurosurgery.

The meeting in Seoul had a wealth of presentations dealing with long-term results of cranial radiosurgery. In addition, in-depth sessions on more recent developments, such as spinal, lung and liver radiosurgery were a convincing demonstration that this ever-expanding field will change the way we physicians relate to pathologies such as lung and liver cancer, much in the same manner that radiosurgery has done for metastatic disease in the brain or base of skull tumors.

Information on the society, its activities, news on the field, and details on the next meeting to be held in Paris, France in May/June 2011 may be obtained at its web site: www.isrsy.org

Roberto Spiegelmann, MD
Past President (2007-2009), ISRS

WSSFN Exhibits at the WFNS Congress

WSSFN had an exhibit booth at the WFNS Congress held in Boston. This was a first time effort for the society with goals of added visibility and increased membership. Brochures that provided information about the society were made available. The Outreach Program was of particular interest to those who stopped by the booth. Judging by the numbers of attendees that took the time to gather information, this effort was very successful!

Anyone who is interested in having a supply of the WSSFN brochures for their own distribution or for handing out at upcoming meetings, please contact Melody at mdian@centurytel.net.

WSSFN Officers

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Takaomi Taira, MD, PhD, Tokyo, Japan

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WSSFN website: www.wssfn.org