

3 SPECIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD
FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL
SOCIETIES

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3.1 PUBLICATIONS OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES

H. AUGUST VAN ALPHEN

From the early days, it has been an ardent desire of the World Federation to have its own medium of communication to facilitate the dissemination of information between the Administrative Council and the membership and between the members themselves, and as a scientific platform. Over the years, various forms of bulletins, newsletters and publications in the field of neurosurgical science have been established and utilized for varying periods of time. In almost all cases, the production of these issues on a large scale and the worldwide distribution appeared to be a major problem and too great a financial burden for the Federation. With a single exception, therefore, these productions were short-lived. In recent years, electronic mail and the internet have proven to be very effective means for disseminating information - also for the World Federation; the problems of the past seem to have been solved.

In this chapter, we will review the various publications of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies one by one.

Bulletin of the World Federation Neurosurgical Societies

In 1963, on the recommendation of the President of the World Federation, Dr. E. Busch (Denmark), the Administrative Council decided to start a News Bulletin in which announcements about neurosurgical affairs and items of interest would be published. Dr. W.B. Scoville (USA) was appointed Editor with the president and two secretaries as an advisory editorial board. This Bulletin, initially financed from Federation funds, was to be sent to all individual members of the member societies of the Federation. The secretaries of all neurosurgical societies throughout the world had tendered a list of officers, delegates and membership. This list was kept by the secretary as well as by the Bulletin. It was agreed that the individual societies would distribute the Bulletin to its members with the hope that other means might be found to defray the expenses.

The following introduction written by President Busch appeared in the first issue published in May 1963.

It is a great pleasure to me to open the first number of our Bulletin of the wfns. International friendship has played an important role in our specialty throughout the world. In the old days neurosurgeons were few and far between; consequently our few informal gatherings had a special warm personal feeling - we knew each other and our families, and news of work going on in different places was easy to obtain.

Times have changed and the number of neurosurgeons has increased enormously. In spite of this the atmosphere of the magnificent Congress in Washington showed that the old spirit of neurosurgery is unchanged and I know that many friendships between neurosurgeons of very different backgrounds, nationalities, and creeds, were cemented during those days.

The aim of this Bulletin, under an editor who has done more than most to foster good will in international neurosurgery, is to let us keep in touch between meetings and to be a form of discussion. We hope that the various societies making up the wfns will use it to bring up questions of importance and will bring news of their activities and of important work going on in their different regions.

Conditions for work in neurosurgery vary considerably in different countries. Still, our aim is identical – perhaps best expressed by the president of the first little Section of Neurosurgery at the International Congress of Neurology in Copenhagen just before the war, Geoffrey Jefferson: ‘A thoughtful and vigorous pursuit of neurosurgery’.

Good luck to all of you, to this new venture of ours, and we’ll meet in Copenhagen in 1965!

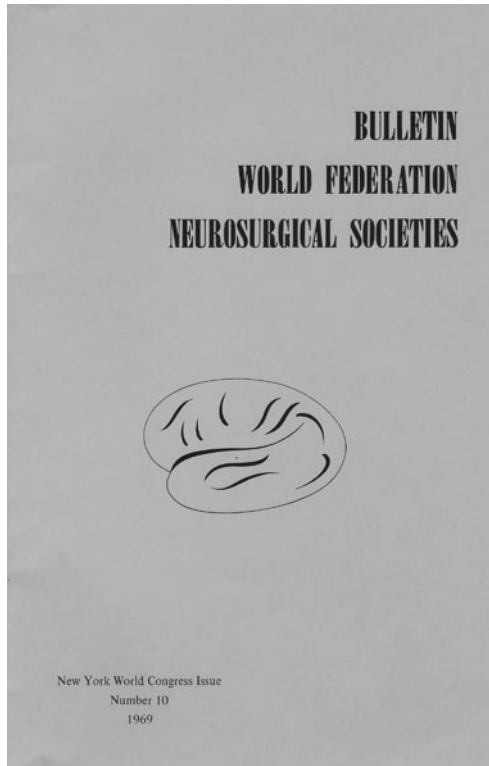
The Bulletin was published twice a year.

Over the years, the regular features of the Bulletin were the President’s page, Secretaries’ pages, Editor’s page, list of new officers and Administrative Council of the Federation, obituaries of the Federation officers, programme and scientific reports of the International Congress of Neurological Surgery, announcements and reports of national and international meetings and courses, historical notes of member societies, and updated listing of the neurosurgical member societies and their officers. Many articles were illustrated by photographs.

From the beginning, the costs of production and mailing of the Bulletin were a tremendous worry to the Editor despite the fact that the secretarial expenses were zero. In the late sixties two issues a year were published and distributed to thirty-nine national societies. The costs ranged between US \$ 1,200 and \$ 1,800 per issue. Savings of US \$ 500 to \$ 900 were made due to receipts from advertising and US \$ 300 to \$ 400 through the courtesy of free air freight to Europe and South America provided by Scandinavian Airlines and Varig Airlines, respectively. Thus the total costs per issue were between US \$ 800 and \$ 1,000.

At the Interim Meeting in Madrid 1967, Dr. Scoville asked the Executive Committee for an annual allocation of US \$ 1,500 for the next two years; this was approved.

In New York two years later the Editor brought up the question of



Cover of Bulletin of the WFNS 1963-1981

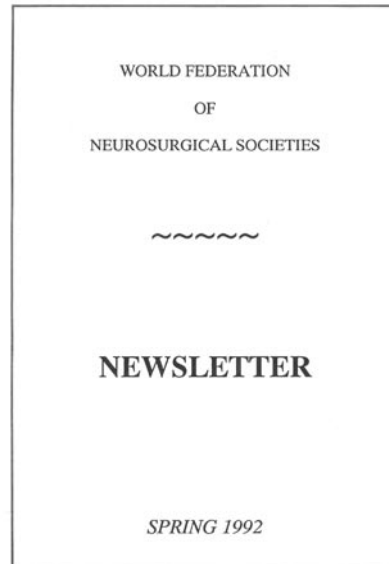
expanding the Bulletin to include scientific material in some form which would not directly compete with national scientific journals. The additional pages would contain news of recent material presented at the principal neurosurgical meetings of the world, collected from local secretaries or programme chairmen. The twenty-five percent increase in cost might be realized from advertising revenues.

In 1973, the costs of the Bulletin had increased to US \$ 1,000 per issue. To ensure continuation of the publication, it was felt necessary to establish a permanent secretariat and to increase the budget to US \$ 1,200 for each number. Four years later, however, the treasurer of the Federation decided it would not be wise to sponsor the Bulletin any further, because it was gradually becoming too great a financial burden. The costs of a single issue had risen to US \$ 5,000. Three alternatives were considered: continuing and enlarging the current Bulletin, creating a world journal which would hopefully pay for itself through advertisements, and, as a compromise, teaming up with an existing journal. A committee was formed, chaired by Dr. A.E. Walker (USA), President of the World Federation, to review the situation and come up with a solution.

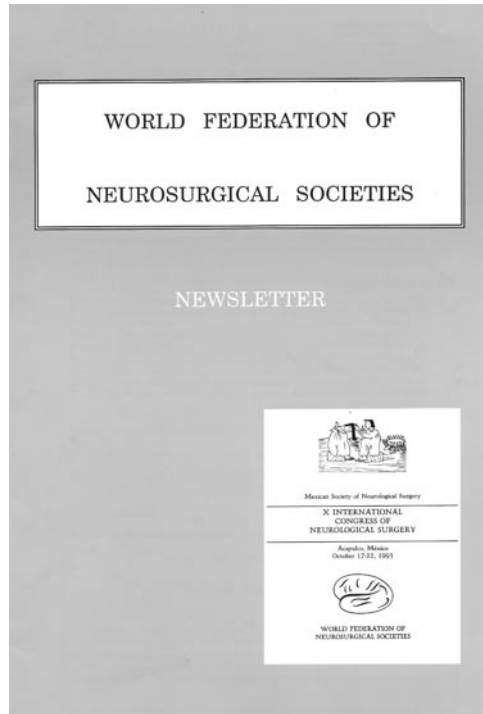
Two years later Dr. Walker reported on the conclusions of the committee. It was considered inadvisable to edit a new Federation Neurosurgical Journal, not only because of the costs but also because several new neurosurgical journals had been formed recently and, as a consequence, a lack of high quality papers was anticipated. Attempts to acquire Surgical Neurology as the official Federation Journal proved unsatisfactory. Finally, as no sound solution had been found to continue the Bulletin, it had to be discontinued after eighteen years and twenty-one issues. By the end of 1980, the last issue had been sent to approximately seven thousand, five hundred members worldwide. The Editor was empowered to explore the possibility of taking two pages per issue of international neurosurgical journals for Federation news and announcements. Several journals, including Surgical Neurology, Acta Neurochirurgica, the French journal: Neurochirurgie, the Japanese Neurosurgical Journal, and the Russian Neurosurgical Journal, agreed to publish the Federation news without charge. It was the Editor's task to collect the Federation news and circulate it to the various journals. The second vice-presidents were asked to collect interesting news in their respective areas and send it to the Editor.

News Circulars and Newsletters

In order to keep the members of the Administrative Council and other officers of the Federation, including the Honorary Presidents, up-to-date on actual points to be considered and other news, a typed News Circular or later Newsletter was distributed by the Editor of Federation News beginning in July 1982. These



Cover of Newsletter of the WFNS



Newsletter, special edition



Federation News

World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies

Volume 1 Number 1 Spring 1995

Cover heading Federation News

circulars were to be sent out twice a year. In the beginning they were also mailed to each member society but in 1983 Dr. Scoville informed the Executive Committee that the costs of these mailings, US \$ 5,000 a year, were too high. He recommended that the news be published in condensed form in the principal journals which were willing to do so. In 1987, it was decided that the Secretary of the Federation should send one copy of the Newsletter to the Secretaries of all member societies so that they might use it in their newsletters.

On 25th February 1984, Dr. Scoville, Editor of Federation News since 1963, suddenly passed away. He was succeeded by Dr. W.H. Mosberg (USA) who acted as the Editor until 1989. Thereafter, the office was subsequently filled by Dr. J. Pickard (UK, 1989-1997), Dr. E. Karol (Argentina, 1997-2001) and Dr. A. Kaye (Australia, 2001-2005).

In 1993, following an initiative of the Editor, J. Pickard, a special issue of the Newsletter, printed by Cambridge University Press, was published on the occasion

of the International Congress in Acapulco. This issue included a short historical review of the Federation by the Historian, Dr. W. Luyendijk (The Netherlands), and the Secretary, Dr. S. Mullan (USA), an explanation of the organization of the World Federation by Dr. Mullan and Perspectives from the five Continental Associations and from Beijing, People's Republic of China by different authors from their respective areas. The intention was to circulate the Newsletter to all registrants in Acapulco but sadly it did not arrive at the Conference Centre due to a mistake by DHL Worldwide Express. The company paid for reprinting of the Newsletter, together with distribution via its Worldmail Service free of charge.

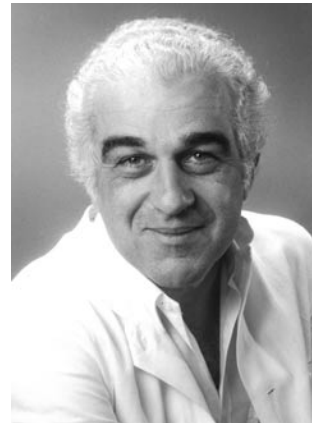
The News Circulars and Newsletters continued to be published until 1994. In all, twenty-two issues of these News Circulars and Newsletters were published.

Spring 1995 saw the emergence of a new printed publication: Federation News, Official Newsletter of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies. It was published by Forefront Publishing Group, Wilton, Connecticut, USA and was made possible by the WFNS Liaison and Public Relations Committee with financial support from Bayer AG, Leverkusen, Germany and NOMOS Corporation, Sewickley, Pennsylvania, USA. It intended to provide a worldwide means of communication for all neurosurgeons. In addition to a Message from the President, News from around the globe, announcements and committee reports, scientific notes were also published in some issues. The first volume of Federation News in 1995 consisted of three numbers; the following three volumes each had one issue. After spring 1998 the publication again had to be stopped due to lack of sufficient finances.

In addition to the various forms of News Circulars and the publication of Federation News in condensed form in the principal neurosurgical journals, since 1982 letters from the Secretary and later from the President, reporting new developments and events within the Federation and announcing meetings or elections, have regularly been sent to the members of the Administrative Council and other officers of the Federation. In recent years e-mail has greatly facilitated such communications.

Modern Neurosurgery

In 1981, the Editor of Congress Publications, Dr. M. Brock (Germany), had agreed with Springer-Verlag in Berlin that this company would start publishing a new series, entitled *Modern Neurosurgery*. The volumes would appear at four-year intervals and contain some fifty papers, selected from the several hundred submitted to the corresponding International Congress of Neurological Surgery. The Editor of the Congress Publications should be the Editor of this series. The aim of *Modern Neurosurgery* was to provide a precise and broad overview of the state of the art of Neurosurgery by international authorities, in the hope that it would become a reference volume, which should enable future generations to evaluate the progress of neurosurgery, rather than being a mere chronicle. The Administrative Council approved that copies of the volumes were to be donated by the World Federation to two hundred libraries of medical schools in selected countries worldwide, so that Neurosurgery as practiced at the time could be introduced to medical students



Mario Brock
Editor of several WFNS
publications

in those countries. The first volume was published in 1982 and contained papers selected from the more than eight hundred presented at the Seventh International Congress in Munich, one year previously. The German Society of Neurosurgery bought four hundred copies and distributed them among its members. This helped to reduce the price of a volume, which was about US \$ 20. The intention was to repeat the same procedure at the International Congress in Toronto in 1985. After this congress, however, it took longer than expected to edit volume 2 of Modern Neurosurgery. Furthermore, the publication of the book, including forty-five selected papers, had to be postponed because of financial difficulties. Finally, it was decided to abandon the publication of the papers from the Toronto Congress. A second volume of Modern Neurosurgery was compiled from papers selected from the Congress in New Delhi in 1989. Towards the end of 1991 it was published under the auspices of the World Federation and printed in Trivandrum, India, financed by the WFNS India Trust. As a result of the difficulties with the publication of two successive volumes of Modern Neurosurgery, questions continued to be raised about the wisdom and desirability of publishing papers that would appear more than two years after their presentation. In 1991, therefore, it was decided that publishing papers from International Congresses be abandoned.

Critical Reviews in Neurosurgery

From the mid-seventies there were regular discussions within the Administrative Council and Executive Committee about whether it would be desirable and practicable to have an official journal of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies. On several occasions, this idea was rejected after ample discussion because of the multitude of neurosurgical journals, an expected lack of high quality papers or the financial risks. In 1995, this issue was revived. During the European Congress of Neurosurgery in Berlin, the then President and Secretary of the World Federation, Drs. A. Basso (Argentina) and E. Laws (USA), entered into negotiations with the editorial assistant of Springer-Verlag from Heidelberg, Germany, to explore the possibilities of the World Federation adopting the already existing neurosurgical journal *Critical Reviews in Neurosurgery*. This journal was founded by Dr. A.J. Raimondi (USA) in 1991 and had been run by him ever since. The aim was to publish informative, analytical and synthetic critiques of the most recent publications directly related to neurosurgery. These were written for those for whom it is important to know the content and value of clinical and investigative papers, but who do not have the time to read everything pertinent to neurosurgery. Written by experienced reviewers who were leaders in their fields, the critiques intended to provide the reader with the details in selected communications, followed by well-articulated views which put into perspective the true value of what had been written. Each critical review provided detailed information regarding the content of four to six recently published articles, followed by an objective analysis of



Anthony J. Raimondi
Founder and Editor of
*Critical Reviews in
Neurosurgery*

their value and scientific methodology. In a synthesis, the reviewer freely expressed his perspectives, weaving the cumulative messages of the individual publications into a meaningful, positive critique. For the review, almost forty internationally well-known journals were scanned, including the most important neurosurgical journals from Europe and USA. An annual volume contained six issues each consisting of sixty-four pages. In addition, four pages per issue would be made available for World Federation news and business, along with regional news and calendars. The publisher was willing to take the total financial risk for the journal and would defray the expenses for promotion should the joint venture take off. A problem, however, was that in 1995, the journal was still in the red due to too few subscriptions. The publisher, therefore, wanted to establish the condition that, if the journal proved stationary in the next few years and was likely only to produce losses in the future, the publisher had the right to withdraw and to close the journal. On this basis, *Critical Reviews in Neurosurgery* became the 'Official publication of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies' as of Volume 6, Number 1, 1996. Dr. Raimondi became the Co-ordinating Editor. A number of Editors were invited as reviewers. With the aim of increasing the journal's visibility, starting with Volume 7, Number 1 (1997), Springer-Verlag installed a homepage on the Internet offering journal information on *Critical Reviews in Neurosurgery* and the table of contents of each issue free of charge to all Internet users. Subscribers to the journal were entitled to view the entire journal on the Internet free of charge after having received a password from the publisher. Also in 1997, *Critical Review in Neurosurgery* was listed in the Neuroscience Citation Index and in Research Alert. This was considered to be excellent exposure for the journal. In 1998, the first step was taken towards publishing a series of 'Profiles on the Honorary Presidents', to which purpose a committee was established. In 1996, 1997 and 1998, six issues of *Critical Reviews in Neurosurgery* were published annually. The number of subscriptions, however, fell short of expectations and, as a consequence, the financial position remained worrisome. This was the reason for the publisher to discontinue the publication of the journal in 1999.

REVIEWS IN NEUROSURGERY

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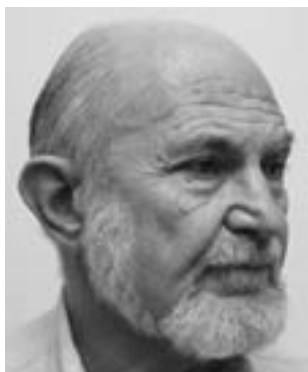


Official publication of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies

Electronic version of *Reviews in Neurosurgery*

Since the editorial formula of *Critical Reviews in Neurosurgery* was still considered to be very attractive, in particular for young neurosurgeons, in 2001 the Administrative Council decided to further advance the former objectives by presenting a quarterly publication of the journal, now under the name of: *Reviews in Neurosurgery*, on the World Wide Web free of charge, thereby also rendering a well deserved honour to the former Editor, Dr. A. Raimondi, who had passed away

shortly before. A new Editorial Committee was established, Dr. A. Basso being the Chairman and Dr. K. Takakura (Japan), the Vice-President. The publication was financially supported by Elekta Instrument A.G. from Sweden. The first number was published electronically in September 2001, followed by another five numbers to date.



Eduardo Karol
Editor of WFNS web



Website logo of the WFNS

WFNS Website

Initially stimulated by Dr. J. Martin-Rodriguez (Spain), in 1997 Drs. Laws (USA) and P. Kelly (USA) formally established a website through the server at New York University in New York City. The address of this website was: www.wfns.med.nyu.edu. At first, the site showed some general information about the World Federation. It was managed by the Editor of Federation News, Dr. E. Karol. Thanks to his admirable efforts, the communication could be improved and the information offered could be extended within a short time. Since 2000, the World Federation possesses its own website with the address: www.wfns.org. In 2001, Dr. Karol was appointed Editor of Federation Web. Over the past few years, the content of the web has changed and improved continuously. The official Federation Journal: *Reviews in Neurosurgery* was published on it, as was much other scientific information and 'A short review on the history of the Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (1955-2000)' by the then Historian, H.A. Walder (The Netherlands).

Currently, the following features can be found on the Federation Web:

- What is the WFNS?
- Federation News Update
- President's Welcome Page
- WFNS Authorities
- Internet Editorial Board
- From the Office of the Historian
- Member Societies of the WFNS
- Officers, Committees and Bylaws
- Neurosurgical Links
- Neurosurgery Journals
- Book Reviews
- Reviews in Neurosurgery
- Continuing Education
- Young Neurosurgeons
- World Congress
- Courses, Conferences and Meetings

- WFNS Foundation: Certificates
- Basic Set of Neurosurgical Instruments
- Neurosurgical Training
- Self-Assessment Course
- Worldwide List of Neurological Surgeons
- Obituaries Registration

Meanwhile, the World Wide Web has become an essential medium with inexhaustible possibilities in the fields of communication and education. It has solved many past problems for the Federation.

3.2 NEUROSURGICAL EDUCATION AND THE WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES

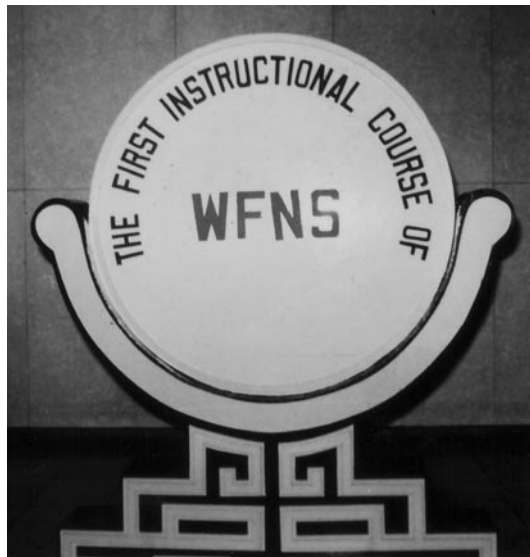
ARMANDO BASSO AND H. AUGUST VAN ALPHEN

After the Interim Meeting of the Executive Committee in Prague in 1971, the Administrative Council of the World Federation thought it desirable that a Committee for Neurosurgical Education be nominated with a view to collecting data on neurosurgical training in the world as well as making recommendations and providing information about neurosurgical education. From the start, the intention was to cooperate closely with the Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery, Inc., created in the USA in 1969. The aim of this foundation was that the beneficiaries should primarily, though not entirely, be developing countries with an 'exchange of knowledge and techniques between neurological surgeons throughout the world'. Drs. A. Asenjo, H. Svien and K. Kristiansen were prepared to be the initial members of this committee. Dr. Asenjo was appointed Interim Chairman. The committee sent out a questionnaire to two hundred and ten professors in neurosurgery worldwide. At the International Congress in Tokyo two years later, Dr. Asenjo presented a survey of the resulting information with the title: 'Undergraduate and graduate teaching of neurosurgery'. He made the following recommendation: 'It is further recommended that the aforementioned committee be charged with compiling a list of countries in which the national certifying board or agency meets criteria which would automatically entitle the neurosurgeon certified by that national board to receive a diploma from the WFNS indicating international certification. Neurosurgeons trained in other countries not meeting these criteria may, only if they so desire, sit for an examination given by an appropriate agency of the WFNS. Upon successful completion of this examination the neurosurgeon shall receive the same diploma indicating international certification. Any applicant who has taken and filed an examination given by the certifying board or agency of one of the countries in which the certifying board meets the approval of the WFNS shall not be eligible to take the examination for international certification.'

In Tokyo, the Executive Committee approved the establishment of the ad hoc committee. Dr. W. Mosberg was specially proposed to be a member of the Committee as he was the Secretary of the Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery, Inc. Other members to be appointed were Drs. A. Asenjo, K. Kristiansen, T.A.R. Dinning, K. Schürmann, C.A. Acevedo, B. Ramamurthi, R. Castillo and D. Gonzalez. When Dr. Asenjo, being a friend of President Allende of Chile, became embroiled in political controversy in his country in 1974 and had to flee to Panama, Dr. Mosberg took over the presidency of the Committee. There was disagreement in the Executive Committee as to the need for and the feasibility of international certification. The Education Committee was asked to send a questionnaire to the secretaries of all national member societies and to compile a list of countries in which there was a certifying mechanism but there was little response. In the Bulletin of the WFNS 16, 1976, a plea was extended to all national societies to complete the questionnaire. This did not, however, produce a satisfactory result.



First WFNS educational course in Taipei, 1987.
In the front row the teachers Drs. Samii, Pertuiset, Brihaye,
Hung (host) and De Tribolet



Model of the logo of the course

In São Paulo in 1977, Dr. Asenjo's place was taken by Dr. H.W. Pia. Dr. Mosberg repeated that it was desirable to obtain all the information, to finally have a WFNS certificate and to provide countries with consistent information, if they wanted to set up a good training programme. The situation was compared with the harmonization of medical education in the so-called Common Market of Europe of the time. This concept of harmonization had been thought about since 1964 but had still not been realized. The Training Committee of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies needed six years to acquire sufficient information so that a report could be published. Dr. Mosberg recommended that the new committee continued to attempt to obtain the data. Finally, in Munich in 1981, the committee was able to present its extensive report entitled 'Worldwide Survey of neurosurgical training requirements and certifying mechanism', which was published in the journal 'Neurosurgery' one year later. Although this report has never resulted in international certification, it certainly did mean the start of an international education programme of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies. For a long time, several members of the Executive Committee had felt that the best approach to training neurosurgeons in developing countries was not to allow them to go to developed countries fresh out of medical school, in order to follow a complete neurosurgical training, but rather to encourage the trainee to complete his training in his own country, be assured of a position as a neurosurgeon in the future, and then go to a developed country for a period of six to twenty-four months to top off his training. This basic idea raised two main points. How could young doctors be properly trained in a country where there were no or only very few neurosurgeons and where know-how and medical facilities were scarce. How could residencies and fellowships in developed countries, to which those young neurosurgeons from developing countries might go, be made available and be identified? It appeared that several countries, including the USA, Australia and Germany, were able to offer appointments for postgraduate neurosurgical training to a varying degree. In Munich in 1981, under the presidency of Dr. Ch. Drake, the Long-Range Planning Committee chaired by Dr. B. Ramamurthi made the recommendation that a central office of information for young neurosurgeons be established for this purpose. Meanwhile, the Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery in the United States, with Drs. Mosberg, Thompson and others, would serve as an information office. This recommendation was finally realized in 1992, when the WFNS Central Office was opened in Geneva, as described in Chapter 2.10.

The question of training neurosurgical residents and young neurosurgeons in developing countries was elaborated upon by the Education Committee. In the beginning, progress was hesitant; many problems had to be solved including the development of teaching programmes, attracting lecturers, covering the costs for travel and accommodation in the host country. In Toronto in 1985, plans were presented for the first two postgraduate educational courses to be held in Taiwan and South Korea in 1987 and 1988, respectively, and to be worked out in collaboration with the WFNS Liaison and Public Relations Committee. Both recipient countries had accepted the plans and bore the costs. In subsequent years, however, it appeared that most developing countries, which would have profited from a programme of training courses given by a faculty consisting of prominent figures in International Neurosurgery, were not able to afford the travel and accommodation expenses involved.

In 1989, Dr. Mosberg resigned as Chairman of the Education Committee having served in this capacity for sixteen years. In the period 1989-1993, under the presidency of Dr. L. Symon, clear norms concerning the financing of the continu-



James I. Ausman
Chairman Education
Committee 1993-1997

ous education programme of the World Federation were established. The basic concept was to reduce the costs to a minimum which was made possible by the generous collaboration of several colleagues who were willing to take care of their own travel expenses, irrespective of the distances they had to travel, leaving the accommodation expenses to the host country. Under these conditions, educational courses were organized in Buenos Aires, Argentina (1991), directed by Dr. A. Basso, in Morocco (1991) under the leadership of Dr. Ph. Perot and hosted by Dr. A. El Khamlichi, in Lahore Pakistan (1993) by Dr. I.A. Raja and in Recife, Brazil (1993). During the same period, additional courses were offered in cooperation with Dr. M. Samii's biennial courses in Hannover, Germany. Several other committees of the WFNS became motivated to organize specialized courses in the same spirit, with the Education Committee as supervisor. In India, courses sponsored by the WFNS India Trust (Chapter 2.9) were held on the

following subjects: acoustic tumours, skull-base surgery, percutaneous discectomy, paediatric neurosurgery and neurotraumatology. Approximately two hundred fellowships were awarded to trainees from India to attend these courses and also several courses abroad. In addition, a handbook of tropical neurosurgery was in production and further courses were planned, including symposia on neurosurgical education and liability issues in neurosurgery.

In Acapulco in 1993, Dr. J. Ausman (USA) was appointed as Chairman of the Education Committee. Through the remarkable efforts of the Education Committee, he organized an amazing number of worldwide courses for continuing training without precedent in the history of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Society. These were presented to over two thousand neurosurgeons and neurosurgical

Meetings sponsored by the WFNS Education Committee

1992	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Neurooncology
1993	Casablanca, Morocco	
1994	Bangkok, Thailand	
	Taipei, Taiwan	Neurooncology
	Brisbane, Australia	Neurotrauma
1995	Chicago, USA	WFNS, Univ. of Illinois, Japan
	Santorini, Greece	WFNS, EANS, Neurooncology
	Cochin, India	WFNS India Trust
	Thessaloniki, Greece	WFNS Neurotrauma
	Sapporo, Japan	WFNS, Japan Neurosurgeons
1996	Buenos Aires, Argentina	WFNS Neurooncology
	Bali, Indonesia	WFNS Neurooncology
	Beijing, China	WFNS, France, Japan, China
	Santiago, Chile	WFNS, Univ. Chile, Flanc
1997	Volga River, Russia	WFNS Neurotrauma



Jacques Brotchi
Chairman Education
Committee 1997-2001



Maurice Choux
Chairman Education
Committee 2001-2005

residents in developing areas of the world. All major public health neurosurgical problems were addressed in a systematic fashion with particular emphasis on neurotrauma, cerebrovascular disease and stroke, and infectious disease. Furthermore, he developed 'Guidelines for Neurosurgical Resident Education and Graduate Training Programs from the WFNS Education Committee' and 'Guidelines for the Development of Departments of Neurosurgery and National Neurosurgical Societies', which were publicized throughout the world. The Executive Committee considered these guidelines of such importance for the development of neurosurgery

**Courses of the WFNS Education Committee under the Chairmanship of
Drs. J. Ausman, J. Brotchi and M. Choux**

1994	Istanbul, Turkey	2001	Singapore
1995	Lima, Peru		San Jose, Costa Rica
1996	São Paulo, Brazil		Cordoba, Argentina
	South Africa		Belen, Brazil
	Bucharest, Romania		Chennai, India
	Bangkok, Thailand	2002	Bucharest, Romania
	Beijing, China		Abidjan, Ivory Coast
1997	Santiago, Chile	2003	Dacca, Bangladesh
1998	Rasht, Iran		San Salvador, Salvador
1999	Tegucigalpa, Honduras		Recife, Brazil
	Harare, Zimbabwe	2004	Jakarta, Indonesia
	Istanbul, Turkey		Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
	Moscow, Russia		Shanghai, China
	Gramado, Brazil		Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2000	Blantyre, Malawi		Bali, Indonesia
	Amman, Jordan		

throughout the world that it decided to add these as appendices to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Federation. Dr. Ausman also initiated a programme which was an adaptation of the 'Think First' programme established in the United States for prevention of head and spinal cord injury. This programme was translated into various languages and made available to encourage the individual member societies to consider using the strategy of the Think First programme to engage suitable public health activities in their own countries.

Dr. Ausman was succeeded as Chairman of the Education Committee by Dr. J. Brotchi (Belgium) for the period of 1997-2001 and Dr. M. Choux (France) until 2005. Both continued the extraordinary task of disseminating up-to-date information on neurosurgery to the farthest corners of the world with enthusiasm and great dedication. And so the continuation of neurosurgical education has become the real *raison d'être* of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies.

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3.3 COMMITTEES OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES

JACQUES BROTCHE AND H. AUGUST VAN ALPHEN

The World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies was born in Brussels in 1955. During the inaugural meeting on 4th September 1955, three ad hoc committees were appointed and given the following assignments: to formulate a constitution, to organize a programme for the first Congress and serve as a liaison committee, and to nominate officers. The Constitution Committee, chaired by Dr. P. Bucy, was instructed to draft a constitution and bylaws to be submitted to the constituent societies for consideration and to be presented at the first meeting of the Executive Committee on Saturday, 20th July 1957. In the Constitution, which was then adopted, six committees were included in addition to the Executive Committee and the Administrative Council. These were:

- Committee on Constitution and Bylaws to be elected by the Executive Committee and consisting of four members in addition to any ex officio members;
- Programme and Liaison Committee, which should consist of the President, the Secretary-General (Chairman), the Honorary Vice-President from the country in which the Congress was to be held, and three members elected by the Administrative Council;
- Finance Committee with two members elected by the Executive Committee, and the President, Secretary-General and Treasurer ex officio, the latter serving as Chairman;
- Nominating Committee consisting of five members elected by the Executive Committee;
- Membership Committee (the Administrative Council would fulfil this function);
- Committee on Local Arrangements for the International Neurosurgical Congress selected by the local Honorary Vice-President.

Initially, with the exception of the Finance Committee, these were ad hoc committees. In 1961, the Programme and Liaison Committee was split in two separate committees because their functions became too disparate. In 1981, the Liaison Committee was extended to Liaison and Public Relations Committee. In 1989, two new Standing Committees were established, namely the Audit Committee and the Federation News Committee, later the Editorial and Federation News Committee. These nine committees are currently still the WFNS Standing Committees. The Chairpersons of the Constitution and Bylaws, Liaison and Public Relations and Audit Committees, chosen from the elected committee members, are designated by the President. The Nominating Committee elects its own Chairperson while the Chairpersons of the other standing committees are chosen ex officio.

Since the 1960s, many scientific and ad hoc committees have been established.

In 1963, it became clear that the WFNS needed its own bulletin and so an Editorial Board was created consisting of the Editor, the President and two Secretaries of the Federation. This was the precursor of the Editorial Advisory Committee and the subsequent Editorial and Federation News Committee. Also in 1963, President Busch appointed an ad hoc committee to continue studies in the field of head injury, which adopted the name Committee on Neurotraumatology in Prague in 1971. This committee is still one of the most active. The Committee on International Affairs was created in 1965, to undertake international coordination of training for international qualifications in the practice of neurosurgery and to institute a world registry for the exchange of information on available training options, research and teaching facilities throughout the world. This was followed in 1971 by the Committee on Neurosurgical Education, to explore the requirements for licensing neurosurgical candidates in different nations of the world (see Chapter 3.2). An extensive report by this committee was published by Dr. W.H. Mosberg in 1982. Later in the 1970s, the Committees on Material and Devices, the World Directory, Long-Range Planning and the Medal of Honour Committee were established.

In the eighties, again several committees were created including the Young Neurosurgeons' Award Committee and the Committee on Ethics and Medical-Legal Affairs. In New Delhi in 1989, it was decided to rearrange the Education Committee with a new philosophical approach in order to facilitate high level neurosurgical education in developing countries at low cost. Thus the World Federation embarked on a new challenge. This committee can be considered to be the WFNS' window on the world. Since 1991, a large number of courses have been organized worldwide as described in Chapter 3.2.

In 1991, two new ad hoc committees were appointed by the President, Dr. L. Symon: the Neuro-oncology Committee and the Skull Base and Reconstructive Surgery Committee. The number of committees was growing annually, establishing the Paediatric Neurosurgery Committee, Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Committee, etc. In 1993, an ad hoc committee on the spine was created since it was obvious that neurosurgeons would compete with orthopaedic surgeons in this area. As the Long-Range Planning Committee was no longer active, it was replaced by a new ad hoc committee: the Material Aid Committee.

In 1993, the then President, Dr. A. Basso, reactivated the Standardization of Terminology Committee, and in 1994, he appointed ad hoc committees on Radiosurgery, Neurovascular Cerebrovascular Surgery, Peripheral Nerve Surgery and Professional Careers. During his presidency, Dr. M. Samii established a Fund-Raising Committee as well as the Foundation of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies. He also appointed other ad hoc committees: the Rehabilitation Committee, the Young Neurosurgeons Forum and Women in Neurosurgery.

In Sydney in 2001, the position of Coordinator of Committee Activities was created and Dr. J. Brotchi was appointed to this office. The list of committees was extended by Dr. E. Laws who, in 2002, established a Disaster Response Committee with a view

- to educating the neurosurgical community about disaster relief agencies in their area;
- to providing a forum for exchange of experiences and information on disasters;
- to determining the potential need for and propose guidelines for neurosurgical care during disasters; and
- to providing, when possible, medical and neurosurgical support during disasters.

The substantial contribution of all these committees ensure that the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies is represented in all modern aspects of Neurosurgery in the twenty-first century. In general, the task of ad hoc and scientific committees is:

- to provide information on specific matters related to their fields of expertise;
- to try to clarify certain controversies on therapy, drugs, devices, surgical techniques or alternative treatment;
- to send a report to the Administrative Council at least every six months in order to improve and update the information to the membership via the WFNS website by timely dissemination of information on specific committee matters;
- to provide educational activities in coordination with the WFNS Education Committee, either to avoid duplication and overlap or to actively participate in some courses;
- to work towards an outstanding scientific programme at each WFNS Congress.

Committees of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies in 2004

Standing Committees

Coordinator of Committee Activities
Programme Committee
Local Arrangements Committee for the Congress
Nominating Committee
Constitution and Bylaws Committee
Finance Committee
Membership Committee for the Federation and the Congress
Liaison and Public Relations Committee
Editorial and Federation News Committee
Internet Editor
Audit Committee

Scientific Committees

Paediatric Neurosurgery Committee
Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery
Committee
Neurotraumatology Committee
Neuro-oncology Committee

Ad Hoc Committees

Neuro-rehabilitation Committee
Committee on Awards to Young Neurosurgeons
Medals of Honour Committee
Honorary Presidents Committee
Neurosurgical Education Committee
Materials, Drugs and Devices Committee
The William Scoville Award Committee
Skull-Base Surgery Committee
Spine Committee
Peripheral Nerve Surgery Committee
Neurovascular/Cerebrovascular Committee
Radiosurgery Committee
Liaison Committee for WFNS/WHO
Young Neurosurgeons Forum
Women in Neurosurgery Committee
Fund-Raising Committee
Disaster Response Committee
Parliamentarian
