

WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES 1955-2005

A HISTORY



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with contributions from the six continents

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PREFACE

This year, 2005, the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation on 4th September 1955. To mark this occasion it was decided to record the Federation's history in the form of a book. Initially, the intention was to write a sequel to Earl Walker's 'The History of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies' (1985). A search of the archives, however, produced much more interesting data about the early years as described by Walker, thus making it worthwhile to include the entire period of fifty years in this book.

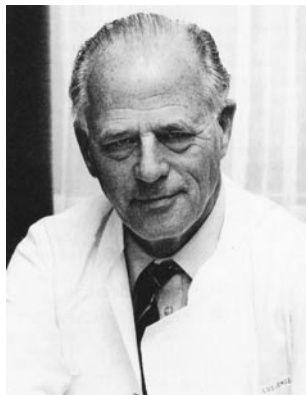
The main part of the book is an account, in chronicle style, of the activities of and the events around the Federation, from world congress to world congress, over the past fifty years. It shows how the Federation grew from a group of a few dozen enterprising and visionary neurosurgeons from America and Europe, who wanted to organize their own world congress, into a professional organization with a vision of providing worldwide education and material aid for societies and individuals requiring help.

The second part of the book incorporates contributions from the six continents, with experts presenting their view of the relationship between the continental neurosurgical organizations and the World Federation. This is a very useful supplement to the history of the Federation and offers an insight in worldwide development of neurosurgery. I am greatly indebted to the authors of these contributions.

It would have been absolutely impossible to write this history had my predecessors as historian of the WFNS: Earl Walker (1973-1985), Willem Luyendijk (1985-1993), and Alphons Walder (1993-2001), not collected a wealth of information



A.E. Walker



W. Luyendijk



H.A. Walder

and maintained the archives meticulously. I was able to embroider on the work already done by them. This book is, therefore, dedicated to them.

The greatest help throughout the process of preparing and writing this book, I received from my secretary, Mrs. Annemiek Heppner-Bollen. Her accuracy, patience and dedication has been a great support. Mrs. Brenda Vollers-King read and re-read the manuscript with the highest alertness, editing the English. Her meticulous corrections and modifications made the text much more readable. Mr. Hans Seijlhouwer, finally, combined the various components into a real and attractive book. He did this with great care and imagination. Mrs. Janette Joseph at the Central Office in Nyon was always prepared to assist in word and deed. For all this help and cooperation I am very grateful.

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