



XVI WFNS World Congress of Neurosurgery  
Second Executive Committee Meeting  
August 22, 2017  
Hotel Hilton Bosphorus, Istanbul

1. Call to Order and Welcome: President Yong-Kwang Tu welcomed the EC.
2. Establishing a Quorum: There was no quorum. After a period of waiting, as there were no votes planned, the meeting proceeded.
3. Report of the President: Yong-Kwang Tu:  
Dr. Tu thanked Dr. Ture and his team. Dr. Tu then addressed the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. The amendments approved by the AC and submitted for a vote by the EC at this meeting were reviewed and the process of amending the Constitution and Bylaws was presented. The EC was notified of the proposed changes 6 months in advance of the vote. This included allowing electronic voting. Due to previous concerns about the security of electronic voting, a final decision regarding electronic voting was delayed until the World Congress; the security of the system in place for this meeting has been verified.

The first change is to approve a proposed amendment reducing officer terms from 4 to 2 years. The committee chair assignments will change every 2 years as well. For this amendment to pass, it needs 75% of members present to approve. The second change is to hold a World Congress every 2 years, instead of every 4 years. The third change regards the role of the Nominating Committee, with a proposal that it be called the Qualifying Committee and will be charged with verifying only the eligibility of individuals running for office. The fourth proposal is to give the Nominating/Qualifying Committee the option of meeting on-line instead of in conclave. The fifth proposal is that WFNS budget surpluses over \$1 million be automatically transferred to the WFNS Foundation. The sixth proposal is to provide an optional venue, in

case the location of a World Congress host city has to be changed for reasons of *force majeure*. This proposed amendment would give the city that had received the second highest number of votes in the original voting the right of first refusal to host the Congress. The final proposed change is that the current officers of the hosting national society automatically become officers of the World Congress Organizing Committee.

He urged affirmative vote on all these proposed amendments. There will be time for discussion prior to the vote.

Dr. Tu also addressed restructuring of the WFNS Foundation. He reminded the EC that the Foundation includes a 7- member executive Board: 3 officers, i.e. President, Secretary and Treasurer are *ex officio*, the Chairman is Dr. Miguel Arraez, plus there are 3 members- at- large, appointed by the AC. There is a 25 -member Advisory Board; the term of Executive Board members is 4 years.

Dr. Tu also reported on the Activities of the Foundation, which included: establishment of 3 training centers, with more than 40 residents who have completed training and more than 30 currently in these centers. The Africa 100 Program started in 2014, with a goal of training 100 African neurosurgeons in the next 10 years. The Foundation also works to provide neurosurgeons with basic operative equipment.

Dr. Tu continued his report with discussion of WFNS Finances and fund-raising. He noted that sources of income include dues, congresses and other fund-raising. Expenditures support the Central Office and Foundation. The Central Office has 2 staff members. There are small stipends for President, Secretary and Treasurer. All travel expenses are paid by the officers themselves. A full account of finances appears in WFNS newsletter and on the website.

His personal efforts in fund-raising amount to \$661,000 , including a \$500,000 donation from Dr. Lee (over 5 years; 2 years paid) and \$33,000 from a patient, Ms. Chen. Dr. Tu donated \$20,000 from his personal foundation to Nepal, in addition to \$33,000 in donations from Japanese and Hong Kong Neurosurgical Societies. Dr. Tu said he believes this personal fund-raising to be the largest in history of the Foundation.

Dr. Tu continued by discussing the cancellation of the contract with Elsevier. The AC negotiated and voted on early termination, because of numerous perceived breaches of the contract, which included: WFNS did not receive 50 hard copies of journal plus copies to all officers, Honorary Presidents and Presidents of member societies. The total sum not received was \$236, 987. 90. These expected payments included signing bonus and royalties for the years 2010 and 2011. The amount collected, from royalties in 2013, 2014,

2015, and 2016 was \$100,728.88. Elsevier retains title of *World Neurosurgery* and continues to publish without endorsement of WFNS.

Regarding updating the History of WFNS, Dr. Tu noted that the first edition on the History from 1955-2005 was published in 2005. A 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2005-2015 was planned as part of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the WFNS. Armando Basso is helping Ed Laws with this project, which needs more support from Presidents of continental societies and 2<sup>nd</sup> VPs. Dr. Tu would like to get this published as soon as possible, hopefully, by the end of 2017.

Dr. Tu then reviewed the progress of the WFNS Newsletter. Dr. Kee Park was first appointed Editor-in-Chief in February, 2016. Dr. Russ Andrews became 2<sup>nd</sup> Editor-in-Chief in Oct 2016. This transition in Editors led to a 5- month delay in publication. Multiple newsletters have been sent since January, 2017; most recently every 4 months. He hopes this will transition to a monthly newsletter.

He concluded that it has been a great honor to serve as President. He believes he is leaving a more organized, efficient and transparent WFNS, in a stable financial condition.

#### 4. Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Hildo Azevedo-Filho:

Dr. Azevedo thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and he enjoyed the work. He reviewed his duties, as outlined in the Constitution. He believes we are primarily educators. He started the Recife Reference center in 2007, primarily for 5 Portuguese-speaking countries. The initial plan was for 1 trainee/year; they now train 2/year. This has expanded to residents from non-Portuguese speaking nations. He stated that, in Africa, only 11.8% of neurosurgical demand is being met and an additional 1.3 million operations are needed. There are still 10 African countries with no neurosurgeon. His hospital performs more than 3000 major operations /year, and is able to provide substantial training experience for African trainees. He reviewed each resident in the 5- year training program, both from Africa and from Latin American countries that do not have training programs in neurosurgery. He reviewed the 2011 WFNS Interim meeting in Recife, with participants from 88 countries, and a record attendance of WFNS delegates: 209 of 258 attended. Nearly \$320,000 was raised, of which half went to the Brazilian Neurosurgical Society, as per the rules for an Interim Meeting. He will continue all efforts for WFNS.

#### 5. Report of the President-Elect Franco Servadei:

Dr. Servadei gave a report of his past 2 years and perspectives for the future. He thanked the AC, who all wanted to make structural changes to the WFNS.

He reminded all present that the need for change was articulated in April, 2015, when all continental society presidents signed a letter of requested reforms, including 2- year terms and increased financial transparency. He showed a slide, recommending 2- year terms for President and officers, and noted this means a President and President-elect will need to be elected in Beijing in 2019.

He believes Administrative Council meetings should be limited to members of the AC. Officers should be global. This is done spontaneously; all 5 continents are represented. He anticipates a need for 2 types of meetings: one for discussion and one for voting. He plans to continue the practice of posting WFNS Finances on the website.

Regarding WFNS stipends, Dr. Servadei believes these should go to the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Education Committee Chair; these should, in the future, be reimbursement of expenses. All non-documented stipends will be returned to the Foundation.

Dr. Servadei recognizes a need for change in the committees. He will reorganize them after evaluation of their performance. He sent letters to prior chairmen and society leadership, asking for suggestions.

Regarding the Nominating Committee, he anticipates there will be a role change. The committee will not select official nominees.

For his mandate, in order to understand member society needs; he met officially with the leadership of 28 countries. There was concern regarding the manner in which finances are spent, a desire for more joint courses between societies, more free web access to educational resources, and a desire to re-discuss the issue of a WFNS Journal. He does not feel we need a high impact factor journal but should find a way for all countries to publish. He plans improvements in newsletter and web communications.

He concluded by saying we need an active world -wide society, need member support, and need efficient communication.

6. Report of the Secretary Basant Misra:

Dr. Misra thanked everyone and expressed regret if mistakes were made. He gave a report on the State of Federation: 118 member societies, 5 continental societies and 7 affiliates. At this meeting, a vote will be taken to approve 2 member societies: Mediterranean and Ethiopian Societies, and one affiliate: the Somalian Neurosurgery Society.

Dr. Misra reviewed the process for voting on amendments to Bylaws:

- a. Electronic voting will proceed, with  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote needed to pass constitutional amendments. These were sent out May 2, 2016. The proposed amendments are:
1. All officers elected for 2- year terms and World Congress will occur every 2 years;
  2. The Nominating Committee may meet electronically or in conclave;
  3. The Nominating Committee is an eligibility Committee, and may themselves run for office;
  4. The Voting and Bidding rules for Interim Congresses will be the same as for World Congresses;
  5. WFNS profits in excess of \$1 million will annually be transferred to the Foundation;
  6. Officers of the World Congress host society become *de facto* members of the World Congress Organizing Committee (up to 2 officers);
  7. The Mission statement revision (needs  $\frac{3}{4}$ vote, as is Constitutional change);
  8. The Scoville Award may be awarded to only 1 Neurosurgeon;
  9. The Young Neurosurgeons Award shall be called the Atos de Sousa Award;
  10. In case of absent quorum, the EC can reconvene WITHIN next 24 hours (requires  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote);
  11. If a World Congress venue must be canceled, the bidding society that received the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of votes shall be offered the right of first refusal to host the Congress;
  12. Exceptionally, at the 2019 meeting, there will be a vote for President and President- Elect; there will in this case be 9 members of the AC (requires  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote);
  13. Chairmen of all committees will have 2 -year terms.

Reminders of the voting rules already in the Constitution:

One man, one vote;

Officers are elected by a simple majority;

Honorary Presidents, member societies and amendments to Bylaws must be elected by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority;

Amendments to the Constitution must pass by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority.

He concluded by reminding the EC of the words of Gandhi: "The future depends on what we do in the present."

Next slate of Officers recommended unanimously by the Nominating Committee:

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Chris Loftus

Secretary: Gail Rosseau

Assistant Secretary: Muhammed Mahmud

Treasurer: Amir Samii  
Assistant Treasurer: Eka Wahjoepramono  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP :  
AANS: Anil Nanda  
FLANC: Eduardo Spagnolo  
EANS: Miroslav Vikuc  
CAANS: Graham Fieggen  
AASNS: Basant Misra  
At Large: Eastern Europe: Stefan Florian  
At Large: Middle East: Amr El Shawarbi  
Historian: Maurice Choux  
Audit COMMITTEE (need 3): Tanju Ucar  
Constitution and Bylaws (need 5): Tito Cepeda  
Publication and web (need 2): J. Mura

The nominations from the floor were :  
Secretary: Marco Massini  
Assistant Secretary: Akio Morita  
Assistant Treasurer: Najia El Abbadi  
Audit: Rick Boop  
Constitution and Bylaws: Jacques Morcos, Mohammed El Fiki, Ahmed Ammar, Hari Chandra, Nasser El-Ghandour, Verr Singh Meta  
Publication and Web: Kostas Fountas, Keenan Arnautovic

The details of voting and all candidate files were reviewed by the Central Office and the Nominating Committee.

He urged the EC to take stock, and cited examples of people who have done great work on behalf of the WFNS. He also cited his own contributions, including providing support to attend the International Neurosurgical Update Conference for 300 Neurosurgeons, two editions of controversies and consensus conferences, and support for 2 fellows via the Hinduja Fellowship. He concluded with gratitude for the opportunity to be Secretary.

7. Report of the Assistant Secretary Gail Rosseau : Dr. Rosseau briefly reviewed her role in taking the minutes of all AC and EC meetings, which involves listening to complete audiotapes of every meeting to assure correctness of transcription. She then gave the WFNS Website report. This report was approved by Web manager Merwyn Bagan, who was not able to attend the meeting, but who asked Dr. Rosseau to make the presentation, as she was Web Manager the 8 years prior to his chairmanship. Highlights of the new website include: complete financial disclosures for both WFNS and WFNS Foundation, improved collection of demographics of users, improved multi-task pages and navigability,

improved ease of payment of dues, and higher profile identification of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents and Honorary Presidents. In addition, Dr. Rosseau presented the website analytics. These represent short-term analysis, because the new website was recently launched, but clearly demonstrate that young neurosurgeons and those seeking fellowships are the most frequent unique visitors to the site. She concluded by thanking the EC for the opportunity to serve the WFNS.

8. Report of the Treasurer Chris Loftus: Dr. Loftus reported that the Central Office costs \$300,00 to run, if anything, slightly reduced costs compared to the previous year. The overall sum of profit/loss is down because of reduced dues payment. He mentioned the previously discussed Audit Report and the response of the Audit Committee. He noted the Committee's concern about manner of payments: cash had been the traditional way to pay stipends. Stipend recipients had used the money as they saw fit, including transfer to another designated person (son) or to educational purposes, such as a foundation. He stated this was an Accounting anomaly which had occurred since 2014 and WFNS will not do this going forward. He also cited some Central Office personnel issues mentioned by the Auditor, and he had reconciled these issues to be sure Central Office personnel had received their contracted salaries and benefits.

Dr. Loftus presented the budget for next year, and told EC to expect WFNS to be back on track financially, with \$350,000 anticipated from the World Congress in Istanbul. WFNS will give excess profits to Foundation in future, if possible. He noted that the payment owed to WFNS from SINCh of \$125,000, from the Interim Meeting in Rome, has not yet been received but he feels sure it will be forthcoming.

Treasurer's suggestions: Dues are essential to the financial health of the WFNS, which needs to have better dialog with member societies. He urged the EC to consider other publishing opportunities. There needs to be a uniform and predictable approach to symposium financial guarantees.

Questions were then solicited. Dr. Sbeih, Chairman of the Audit Committee raised the issue of the Auditor's Report, which noted irregular payments of some size and importance, including payments to other family members and cash payments, which are serious transgressions of accounting principles. Dr. Sbeih reported he had consulted the WFNS lawyer, who replied, "I advise further investigation" Dr. Broggi, also a member of the Audit Committee, agrees with Dr. Sbeih and recommendation for investigation. Dr. Servadei said he will take maximal account of this report. Dr. Sbeidh recommends further investigation, which Dr, Servadei said he would do, beginning at first AC meeting of his

mandate. Dr. Loftus said he did not respond to Dr. Sbeih's emails and apologized.

**Motion to approve Treasurer's report passed.**

Break

Additional conversation about the Audit Report invited. Dr. Heros asked for clarifications on Audit Committee Report. More details were provided about how stipends were given. The Auditor had no other financial concerns.

Dr. Servadei was asked if an investigation will be taken; Dr. Servadei responded that it would and asked for this to be stated clearly in Minutes.

Dr. Servadei wished to provide further clarification regarding the \$44,500 in officer stipends. He noted this small amount is not a misuse of money or use of extra money. The problem for any auditor and lawyer is this issue of payment in cash, and/or transfer to another individual's bank account. It is the manner of payment that is in question. There is a history of cash payment of stipends in the WFNS. Going forward, there will be no stipends, but reimbursement of expenses, directly into the bank accounts of officers. Regarding the wish for investigation: the new AC will discuss and decide if an investigation will proceed. WFNS should understand that it is manner of transfer, not the amount, that is in question. Dr. Servadei declared that an investigation will be done by AC and sent to the Audit Committee. Dr. Heros was satisfied. Dr. Tu asked for more comments; wanted to be sure that no one thinks there is financial corruption. He noted that, personally, his stipend did not cover his secretary's translation services. His 3<sup>rd</sup> year stipend was taken by bank transfer. His stipend for 1<sup>st</sup> year was donated to Nepal, 2<sup>nd</sup> was in cash in Taiwan, 3<sup>rd</sup> was in cash in Nyon. Dr. Servadei said, he wishes to have investigation to clear this matter and, if AC approves, he will have investigation and send report.

Dr. Loftus noted downward trend: dues revenue is low; \$125,000 still expected from Rome meeting in 2015, no symposium revenue past 2 years.

9. Report of the Assistant Treasurer Amir Samii:

Dr. A. Samii thanked for EC for opportunity to serve and previous officers for smooth introduction. Status of member societies: 130 member societies; expected 2016 membership fees should be about \$350,000 annually in dues.



There is a large number of non-paying member societies. Variables in anticipated revenues include: number of societies, membership growth of each society, and GDP- ranking of member societies. Dr. A. Samii showed payments of societies and years, and number of members in each society. He noted significant amounts of missing information, and cited the dilemma of multinational- composition societies, with members from both high and low income countries. He advocated a transparent and fair calculation; WFNS needs updates on membership. Membership fees in relation to total revenue: this figure ranges from 42%-92%, 2016 is worst year ever. This year, we have not met our running costs; we depend on revenue from meetings. He noted solid dues payments 2010-2015; usually around \$350,000/year; this year, dues payments were “catastrophic”: only \$149,000. He reported only 24 member societies paid dues in 2015: 19 societies in 2016. He emphasized this is a dramatic drop in payment of dues. Last year, at this time, 46 societies had paid dues. Payments for 2017 by Aug 9 included 32 societies , of which 21 societies were also paying dues for 2016. Already for 2017, more then \$150,000 has been received in dues payments.

Regarding members in arrears: 47 members are at least 2 years in arrears; 60% have demonstrated a significant delay in payments. In past, this delay was only 50%.

The number of dues to be paid is determined by each society for each member. In event of delinquency for 1 year, the Treasurer notifies the society; at 2<sup>nd</sup> year, the Bylaws stipulate change to affiliate membership.

Future tasks include:

Create guidelines and timelines for dues payments; further strengthen the reminder system, annual update of membership; apply the C and B rules in cases of 2 consecutive years of non-payment after full communication with member society; improve visibility of the unique and numerous humanitarian activities in the world of WFNS; compile and publish a complete and standardized annual report.

It was reported that the room now contained more than 120 delegates, so now have quorum.

**Motion for approval of Assistant Treasurer’s Report passed.**

Coffee Break

10. Report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman Anil Nanda: Dr. Nanda reviewed the issues to be voted upon. He began by reading the proposed revision of the Mission Statement. He then mentioned a letter to the WFNS from the continental society presidents and some Honorary Presidents, urging significant changes in the WFNS. He noted that this letter helped to stimulate the proposed amendments, which the AC has approved:

1. All officers terms reduced to 2 years, with a World Congress every 2 years;
2. The Nominating Committee shall have the option to meet online, not in conclave;
3. The Nominating Committee shall establish qualifications of candidates, but not select slate;
4. Bidding and voting for Interim Meetings shall be the same as for World Congresses;
5. WFNS profits in excess of \$1million shall annually be transferred to the WFNS Foundation;
6. There shall be 2 host society officers as *de facto* members of the World Congress Organizing Committee;
7. The referenced change in the WFNS Mission statement;
8. There shall be only one recipient of the Scoville Award;
9. The Young Neurosurgeons Award shall be known as the Atos de Sousa Award;
10. The established of a quorum may occur WITHIN one day of calling an EC meeting;
11. The bidding society with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of votes will have the right of first refusal in the event a World Congress venue needs to be changed in any emergency situation;
12. Exceptionally, if a 2-year term is approved for all officers, a President and President- elect will be selected at the meeting in China in 2019.

Dr. Nanda Called for better transparency, and a code of ethics for officers. He apologized to Francesco Tomasella and Hildo Azevedo for decisions that interfered with their personal opportunities in the WFNS.

Dr. Tito Perillo-Cepeda made a comment that he appreciates improved democracy and improved transparency of the WFNS. He cautioned care regarding bylaws. He posed a question, based on a concern that the Interim Meeting could be transformed into a World Congress. He noted that, in 2019, delegates will need to choose the World Congress site for the 2023 meeting site; this means choosing 4 years in advance, not 6 years in advance, as required in bylaws. Secretary Misra said many revisions need to be done, and the WFNS will need to act with special care in modernizing its Constitution and Bylaws. There will be multiple changes to the Constitution and Bylaws required if these amendments pass. Dr. Misra advised seeking the expertise of a lawyer who is a specialist in such governance issues. Dr. Perillo said he is a candidate for membership on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and feels these are important points.

A question was raised by Dr. Arroya regarding Honorary President expiration dates. He noted they have no voting powers but currently can participate in AC discussions. Dr. Servadei responded that he does plan to continue to invite Honorary Presidents to AC meetings Dr. Nanda expressed support for getting a legal

opinion on this and noted his own dissenting opinion. Dr. Misra noted that not all suggestions have to be followed. The amendment on limitation of terms for Honorary Presidents did not pass AC and was not brought to EC. The custom is for the President to invite individuals to AC meetings and not all meetings include Honorary Presidents.

#### 11. Report of the Foundation Chairman Miguel Arraez:

Dr. Arraez thanked Dr. M. Samii and Dr. Pepe Rodriguez for creation of the Foundation. He reported that all WFNS reference centers are listed on the website, as are criteria to become a center. There are currently more than 30 postgraduate centers. All instrument sets dispatched are listed on the website. He acknowledged many donations from Yoko Kato, for a total in excess of \$100,000. Full training centers are located in Rabat, Recife, Nairobi, Kadka, Algiers, Zimbabwe. Short-term specific fellowships have been approved, following a model in place in Italy and the UK. There is a very high satisfaction rate among trainees. He noted we need more training centers and encouraged applications, which are available online on the website. He presented a strategic plan for the Foundation, including: recruitment of more centers, additional support of Africa 100, and additional donation of neurosurgical equipment.

He summarized Foundation educational activities and he especially singled out Dr. Di Rocco for excellent, geographically -targeted training. Dr. Arraez provided examples of individuals who were fellows at WFNS centers and returned to their countries with both WFNS training and WFNS equipment. He noted there will be WFNS courses held locally in Viet Nam in November. He expressed the need for a communication plan, as this has been a weak point. The choice of plan will be decided at next AC meeting.

He thanked the AC for recommending that excess profit over \$1 million in WFNS account be transferred to Foundation account. He cited the personal donations of multiple individual neurosurgeons, including a fund-raising video produced by Scott Robertson, at his own expense. There is no stipend for any Foundation member and there has never been, including many years of time donated by Dr. Basso. He concluded that this is a time for a new era with improved transparency. Dr. Heros commented that we, as members of WFNS, have much to be proud of and approve. He noted that there are no full WFNS training centers in the US. This has been tried, but U.S. regulations do not allow foreign-trained physicians in the US to do anything but observerships. He noted we are proud of the Foundation and thanked all who have spent so much time and money on its mission. Finally, he referred to the letter from continental society presidents and honorary presidents suggesting fundamental changes, which included no Honorary Presidents at AC meetings. He advocated the principle of "Learn, lead, leave." He would like to see a change in the perception that the WFNS has been dominated by former leaders.

#### 12. Report of the Coordinator of Committee Activities Miguel Arraez:

Dr. Arraez reported that 17/30 WFNS committees are scientific. He reviewed the Bylaws guidelines for WFNS scientific committees, and referred the EC to the specific committee reports being given at this meeting by the committee chairmen. He concluded with gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

The group **approved a motion to break for lunch**, with return at 2:30pm.

13. Report of the President of the XVI World Congress of Neurosurgery Ugur Ture: Dr. Ture welcomed all participants to Istanbul. He noted more than 80,000 unique visitors to the Congress website. He mentioned difficulties in Turkey, largely resolved by meeting with the mayor and governor of Istanbul, who sponsored the Presidential Dinner. The security of all participants was assured. He thanked all officers of the World Congress and Organizing Committee. He reported 2000 participants from 102 countries: US- 93; Pakistan- 84; India-38, even some from Iran. This is, quite literally, a World Congress. He reviewed the work of the Scientific Program Committee, who selected more than 600 faculty. There were 38 company sponsors; their support included smaller numbers and sizes of booths than expected. Audit of the meeting is being done by Deloitte, with transparent finances. Most registration was at hotel, no long waits; good orientation signs. He reviewed events which already occurred this week. All photos will be taken and placed on web; he will send link. Asked us to use guides and visit exhibits. Delegates from the Nigerian Academy of Neurological Sciences had trouble obtaining visas, and at least 2 residents won awards but were unable to attend due to visa problems. Dr. Ture admitted problems with Nigerian and Egyptian colleagues' visas that were unable to be locally resolved. When he became aware of the problem, he contacted Turkish State Department and respective embassies and it appeared the visa issues were resolved the next day.

14. Report of the President of the 2019 WFNS Meeting, Beijing, China Ling Feng: Dr. Feng presented a video of welcome to China. The meeting venue will be the China National Convention Center (CNCC) in downtown Beijing: it is the largest and newest conference center in the city. The Opening Reception will be at the "Bird's Nest Olympic site. Dinner will be at the Aquatic Center; with a music presentation by an orphanage school. Dates for the meeting are Sept 8-12, 2019. There will be an event at the Presidential Museum in National Museum of China on Tiananmen Square; Gala Dinner at Aquatic Center. The Chinese government will give "Belt and Road" award of financial support to participants from 64 countries: Free hotel, registration, flight plus 2- month stay for education They will provide support for 100 young neurosurgeons, with 5 special "Belt and Road" awardees. They will make visa requirements simple and will work through embassies. Dr. Feng also addressed the proposed amendments with possible change to World Congresses every 2 years and the possible change in name to Beijing World Congress. Under this new name, she reported the WFNS Organizing Committee can have more resources and additional sponsorships for young neurosurgeons. Also, she is authorized to increase the financial guarantee to \$320, 000, if the Beijing Meeting becomes a World Congress. She promised to share all resources with Colombia and

will organize a large delegation of Chinese neurosurgeons and Chinese companies, which have “One road, one belt” financial support from the Chinese government. She pledged to “do my best to make the Congress highly profitable and unforgettable.”

15. Report of the President of the 2021 WFNS World Congress, Bogota, Columbia  
Enrique Osorio-Fonseca:

Dr. Osoria wished to say “thank you” for the trust the EC placed in Colombia. He presented the list of officers of the World Congress Organizing Committee. He reported they have an ambitious program, to have additional meetings in Cartagena and Medellin. He noted that getting to Bogota is easy. Visa pre-approval processes will be in place. The meeting will be in a new convention center. Bogota, a 2600-meter high, dazzling city is ready to welcome us all.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP: AANS Jacques Morcos:

Dr. Morcos listed the 9 societies he represents. He went on to summarize the activities of each society. He presented the 3 leaders of the AANS in the past 2 years. He noted that the AANS has had annual meeting partnerships with EANS and CAANS. He reported on membership numbers and benefits, and highlighted the International Symposium, which is held at every AANS Annual Meeting, as well as travel scholarships. The theme for next year’s meeting is service, and all are invited to the International Reception. Andre Grotenhuis won the 2017 International Recognition Award. He concluded that the AANS is proud to be the North American continental society.

The Congress of Neurological Surgeons withdrew from membership in the WFNS.

The American Academy of Neurosurgery has elected Bill Couldwell and Dan Barrow to serve as Presidents since last EC meeting. Their Annual Meeting will be in Santa Barbara; He highlighted their Academy Scholars Program.

The Senior Society has been led by Nick Barbaro and Dan Barrow since the last EC meeting. This group primarily represents residency program directors. They coordinate efforts with ANNS, RRC, AANS, CNS, RUNN to stimulate young neurosurgeons in research. They developed the successful Boot Camps for PGY1 and junior residents.

The Society of University Surgeons (SUN): This group meets every other year, met this year in Capetown. Next meeting will be March in Houston; host is Ian Mc Cutcheon. This is the primary neurosurgical organization for scientific information, policy solutions and trends in training.

The Neurosurgical Society of America (NSA) Presidents have been John Atkinson and Richard Byrne. The NSA has 300 members, of which 145 are active: this is a mix

of academic and private practitioners. Their next meeting is in June, 2018 in Jackson Hole, WY.

The Canadian Neurosurgical Society: Steve Lownei of Toronto is the current President. The group is focused on 5 new initiatives, including a new training schema. There are challenges related to contraction of program sizes. They currently have 308 members.

The World Association of Lebanese Neurosurgeons (WALN): Pascal Jabbour is the current President of the group, which meets every 2 years. They conduct business meetings at AANS and CNS, and offer 2 travel scholarships.

The Caribbean Association of Neurosurgeons. Leadership has included Juan Prieto, but there was no response to requests for an update. The group was founded in 1973.

The Cuban Society of Neurology and Neurosurgery: There was no response to requests for updated information.

Dr. Heros asked Dr. Morcos for his personnel impression of consequences of the concerns expressed to the WFNS from continental leaders and shared by the leaders of American societies. It is worrisome that the CNS withdrew its membership. There is real concern that the North American groups may pull out of the WFNS. It appears there is a chance the CNS would rejoin if the modernizing amendments pass. The new President of the CNS, Sharan Ash, has a history of support for international neurosurgery. The CNS appears to be looking for Improvements in WFNS management over next 6-12 months. A delegate expressed the opinion that the Cuban society should be part of FLANC. They seemed to recalled that, when Cuba was admitted to WFNS in 2011, they needed the support of FLANC. This will be checked at Central Office.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP\_for AASNS Akira Taeramoto was not present, so the presentation was given by Dr. Misra.

Dr. Misra noted that this region is the largest area in world population, and contains the world's 3 oldest civilizations. Dr. Misra presented officers and photos of courses and congresses held in the region in the past 2 years. He presented a survey he did to determine the ratio of neurosurgeons to population. This ratio varies, from Japan, where the ratio is 1:13,000 to Bangladesh, where it is 1:1,200,000. There are 5 countries where training centers must be improved. Subspecialty sections are lacking in 7 countries. He asked about the discrepancy in number of neurosurgeons in China. Ling Feng responded she already addressed this question: There are 15,000 registered neurosurgeons, but those paying fees as members is less, so only 1500 members pay WFNS fees. Dr. Misra was of the opinion this discrepancy is still too much.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP CAANS-Abdeslam El Ouhabi:

Dr. Al Ouhabi presented challenges, opportunities and future changes in African neurosurgery. The situation has improved. He described the creation of the WFNS Reference Center in Rabat. He described the creation and WFNS recognition of CAANS. The first CAANS Congress was held in Algeria in 2014, 2<sup>nd</sup> CAANS Congress in Capetown in 2016; next congress will be in Abuja on June 24-27, 2018. Multiple additional training sites were developed in Algeria, Egypt, South Africa, Nairobi and Senegal. More than 28 trainees have finished WFNS training programs; 18 individuals are in training. He showed a map with distribution of neurosurgeons trained in Rabat. The ratio of neurosurgeons: population has improved from 1:6 million to 1: 1.2 million.

Yoko Kato donated 10 microscopes in Africa. Enormous efforts are ongoing, but many challenges remain. One drawback is that foreign equipment donation discourages local health authorities from acquiring equipment. He showed a map of dispatched WFNS sets ; nearly ½ were purchased by local institutions. He described the role of CAANS and African national neurosurgical societies. There are 7 associations that belong to CAANS; 2 additional societies will join if approved this week. Regarding the future: population growth and urbanization will continue. The goal is to reach a critical mass of neurosurgeons to accelerate the process of increasing neurosurgical care capacity in sub-Saharan Africa. He thanked all African colleagues, especially Dr. El Khamlichi. Dr. Graham Fieggen thanked Dr. El Ouhabi for the role he played in organizing CAANS and assuring that the leadership of Africa's continental society attended the at World Congress.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP EANS Francesco Tomasello:

Dr. Tomasello thanked all for the experience of serving as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. He showed photos of the WFNS Interim meeting in Rome. He noted there were 2028 participants from 105 countries; There were 145 Young Neurosurgeon grants from SINCh. There will be a Global Neurosurgery session in Oct 1-5, 2017 in Venice at the EANS meeting. He mentioned the formation of the Mediterranean Neurosurgical Society. He showed photos demonstrating his participation in Rabat in a conference on simulation. NITns was founded in Milan on Nov 24, 2016. This initiative was born during the Interim meeting in Rome. This organization provides for networking of centers driving innovation.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP FLANC Marco Molina-Martinez:

Dr. Molina presented the history of FLANC. They hold an administrative meeting every 2 years. They represent 600 million people in Latin America. He discussed their bylaws and quarterly virtual magazine. He presented the current officers. The FLANC Foundation was created to develop neurosurgery in each Latin American country. FLANC has a virtual library at [e-flanc.org](http://e-flanc.org)

The academic events of FLANC were summarized; the next meeting is in Santa Cruz, Bolivia in October of 2018. FLANC has a similar committee structure to WFNS. Dr. Molina reviewed the duties of the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; he mentioned the importance of reference centers. He proposed homologous curricula and medical brigades. He listed a number of proposals for additional or future work of the WFNS and FLANC.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP at Large Eastern Europe at large Eugeny Pedachanko:

Dr. Pedachenko reported there are 6 Ukrainian cities that have neurosurgical centers, 3 in Kiev. There are 617 members of the national neurosurgical association. They hosted 1 course in the past 3 years. There were 5 members in WFNS committees and 5 faculty members in WFNS courses. Dr. Pedachanko provided details on the courses offered in his region over past 4 years.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP at large Arab Countries: Sherif Ezzat:

Dr. Ezzat thanked the EC for the opportunity to represent Arab countries these past 4 years. He noted the region includes 22 countries, 422 million population. Half of the population are less than 25 yo. There are 2200 qualified neurosurgeons. Only 14 nations have societies that are members of WFNS. He described multiple annual meetings and courses. There is a new lab in Amman, and they are in the process of establishing a WFNS training center in Cairo. They need more grants and scholarships, more courses, and more information, especially for young neurosurgeons. Training costs are high, in light of the economic situation of many countries in the region.

Announcement of the President: The EC (voting) Meeting will be held on Aug 24. Pres. Tu. will start with the Education Committee report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Rosseau MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail Rosseau, MD  
WFNS Assistant Secretary