

Notes and Announcements

ALS SOCIETY AWARDS RESEARCH GRANTS

The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society of Canada has announced the names of the recipients of over \$371,000 in research grants at its Annual General Meeting in Toronto on May 15, 1994. The grants will be used to help find the cause of and cure for ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease as it is often called.

"The funds for these grants are raised by our volunteers and supporters across Canada," said Bill Fraser, President of the ALS Society of Canada. "Without their effort, it would not be possible for the ALS Society to support the excellent work of these fine researchers. Finding the cause and developing a cure for ALS is at the core of what we do, and every advance, be it large or small, renews our energy."

Dr. Alan Marcus, Chair of the Research Policy Committee of the ALS Society announced the names of the medical research scientists who will receive the awards. Gabrielle Boulianne will receive one year funding of \$38,000 for her work on a study of 'A Genetic Model to Study the role of Cu/Zn SOD in the Nervous System'. Claude Gravel will receive total funding of \$95,000 over two years for his study of 'Viral vectors for somatic gene therapy of motor neuron diseases'. Charles Krieger and Christopher Shaw will receive \$92,250 over a two year period for their project 'Protein kinase C in ALS'. John Roder has been granted a one year \$40,000 award to investigate 'new strategies to rescue motoneurons in animal models of ALS'. Michael Strong will receive \$106,000 over two years for his study of 'Characteristics of protein kinase activities and domain-specific neurofilament phosphorylation in aluminum-induced motor neuron degeneration'.

"At the review meeting, the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee indicated that all grant applications had been of a high order, and that the five that were given awards were of exceptional quality," said Dr. Marcus.

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) includes basic and clinical research scientists from across Canada who represent the fields of biochemistry, basic and clinical neurosciences, molecular biology and genetics.

All funds granted for research by the ALS Society of Canada must be approved by the SAC.

Recently breakthroughs have been made in the battle against ALS. Last March, researchers at Montreal's McGill University (funded largely by the ALS Society of Canada) were among the international team of scientists who discovered one of the genes that causes familial ALS. Later in the year, another Canadian research team at the University of British Columbia announced the results of a study that pointed to an abnormal enzyme being responsible for damaging the molecular receptors that assist in the communications between nerve cells.

The ALS Society of Canada, established in 1977, is the only not-for-profit charitable health organization dedicated to finding a cure for ALS. The National office focuses on research policy and funding, national fundraising, education and public awareness.

Anyone interested in obtaining additional information on the recipients' research projects and on ALS and any of the Society's programs should contact the Society by calling 1-800-267-4ALS.

WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES, NEWSLETTER SPRING 1994

I. From the President – Professor Dr. Armando Basso

Last October, I was honoured with the Presidency of the WFNS. On such an occasion, I stressed that the WFNS would not just be an institution for the organization of Congresses but would be transformed into an organ of expression for all the problems that the performance of our speciality shows us worldwide. To put this project into practice, we agreed that the essential ideas that we wanted to work with, would be the following:

1. Constitute a solid working team to co-ordinate the work of all Committees;
2. Promote frequent meetings of the Administrative Council and the members of other Committees in different parts of the world;
3. Designate more responsibility to the continental Vice-Presidents so that they become actively involved in the problems of their region;
4. Open Ad-Hoc Committees for all neurosurgeons who can contribute new ideas to improve the performance of the Federation;
5. Continue the work that our last President, Lindsay Symon started concerning Education, promoting the achievement of minimum standards and the certifications necessary to practice neurosurgery in different areas of the Federation;
6. Promote, through our Central Office in Geneva, the relations with International Health Institutions so that, with our co-operation, more information of our speciality can reach the general public, for instance, campaigns to prevent Craniospinal trauma, Cerebrovascular accidents and many others; and
7. Work together with all the National and Continental Society members, as well as those of the Federation in order to establish standards in subjects such as neuronal transplantation, prosthesis utilization, health costs, etc., which should become items to be discussed by the different Committees and supervised by the Administrative Council.

We are already fully concentrating on all of these items, however, it is necessary that all the members of the Societies of the Federation feel that they too, are participating in this Programme and that they can reach us directly or through our Central Office in Geneva, in order that the WFNS, which is everybody's Federation, can really have a permanent feed-back of ideas and so that we may work together to solve the problems, we neurosurgeons around the world, have in common.

II. Acapulco Congress

The 10th International Congress of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies took place in Acapulco, Mexico and was a resounding success. It was outstanding with regard to its scientific content, the number of attendees (which set a new record of 3,154: 1,654 participants, 228 residents, 497 accompanying persons, 482 exhibitors and 293 staff) and the superb social events arranged by the host Society. Sincere congratulations and a great deal of appreciation go to the Mexican Neurosurgical Society, the organizers of this Congress, and

everyone who worked so hard to make it such a memorable event in the world of Neurosurgery. The Congress was also financially sound, returning more than \$150,000 to the Treasury of the World Federation. These monies are essential for the continuing activities of the Federation, particularly in planning educational courses which will occur during the period before the next Congress.

III. The 11th International Congress of the WFNS in Amsterdam – July 6-11 1997.

The Netherlands Society of Neurosurgeons is very pleased to announce that the XI International Congress of Neurological Surgery will take place under the High Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands in the Amsterdam RAI International Exhibition and Congress Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands from 6-11 July 1997.

An outline of the Scientific programme will be included in the Congress First Announcement which will be mailed at the end of 1994. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact the Congress Secretariat. Technical exhibits will run in parallel to the Congress. Companies and organizations wishing to participate should contact the Congress Secretariat for more information.

Amsterdam

The Congress Centre is located within the city of Amsterdam at a short distance from Schipol International Airport. Amsterdam is famous for its historical inner city, criss-crossed by an extensive network of canals lined with picturesque 17th century buildings. The city boasts a wealth of museums and has gained a world-wide reputation as a cultural centre for orchestral music, classical and modern ballet and opera. Not surprisingly, the colourful life-style of the Dutch capital attracts visitors from all over the world.

The Officers of the Congress

President	H August M van Alphen
Honorary Vice-President	Cees WM van Veelen
Vice-President	D Andries Bosch
Secretary	Ralph TWM Thomeer
Assistant Secretary	Douwe Wijnalda
Treasurer	Geert HJJ Spincemaille
Assistant Treasurer	Rob EH van Acker
Scientific Program Director	Cees JJ Avezaat

The Congress Secretariat

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 The Netherlands
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IV. Results of Elections at the Acapulco Congress

a. The officers elected by the Executive Committee of the WFNS at the recent Acapulco Congress consist of the following:

President	Armando Basso (Argentina)
Honorary Presidents	Mauro Loyo-Varela (Mexico)
	Shozo Ishii (Japan)
	Sean Mullan (USA)
	Lindsay Symon (United Kingdom)

First Vice-President	Kintomo Takakura (Japan)
Second Vice-Presidents	Giampaolo Cantore (Europe)
	Kil Soo Choi (Asia-Australasia)
	Sayed El-Gindi (Middle East-Africa)
	Gilberto de Almeida (Latin America)
	Harold Hoffman (North America)
	Alexander Konovalov (at large)
	Peter Jannetta (at large)
Secretary	Edward Laws (USA)
Treasurer	Jacques Brotchi (Belgium)
Assistant Secretary	Maurice Choux (France)
Assistant Treasurer	Madjid Samii (Germany)
Editor of Federation Publications	John Pickard (United Kingdom)
Historian	Alphons Walder (Netherlands)
President, XI International Congress	August van Alphen (Netherlands)

V. Call for Nominations

The Nominating Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Fabian Isamat of Barcelona, Spain, is listed above. In the Constitution and Bylaws, each Member Society has the privilege of submitting suggested names to be considered for officers to be elected at the 1997 Congress in Amsterdam. These suggestions must be in the hands of the Nominating Committee before its final deliberations, which must be completed one year prior to the election. For that reason, member societies are encouraged to consider suggestions for the offices listed below and to submit them in a timely fashion to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee or to the Central Office of the WFNS in Geneva.

The **absolute** deadline for Nominations is May 6, 1995.

Suggestions are in order and are requested for the following offices:

- President
- 1st Vice-President
- 2 (at large) 2nd Vice-Presidents
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- Assistant Treasurer
- Editor of Federation Publications
- Historian
- Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- Liaison and Public Relations Committee.

In addition, each of the five continental organizations, namely the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies, the Asian-Australasian Society of Neurological Surgeons, the Pan-African Neurosurgical Society, the Federacion Latino Americana de Neurocirurgia, and the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, is asked to submit two nominees from each Continental Society for the position of 2nd Vice-President.

VI. WFNS Liaison Office in Geneva

The Liaison Office for the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies is located at the World Health Organization and has been run in a most efficient fashion since its inception two years ago by the Executive Secretary, Mrs. Jan Joseph. The mailing address for this office, its fax and phone numbers are as follows:

Mrs. Jan Joseph, Executive Secretary
 WFNS Liaison Office with WHO
 Central Office, Room 309
 Division of Mental Health – World Health Organization
 CH 1211 Geneva, 27 Switzerland
 Tel: 41-22-791-3604 Fax: 41-22-788-4329.

Copies of the Minutes of the Executive Committee and Administrative Council Meetings are available on request from the Central Office, as are reports from the various Committees and of the Acapulco WFNS Newsletter.

VII. Request for Proposals for the Site of the 12th International Neurosurgical Congress to be held in 2001

The selection of the site for the next Congress is an important factor, not only for the planning of WFNS activities, but also with regard to candidacies for President of the Federation. As the number of Neurosurgeons world-wide increases, the size and scope of the meeting will increase as well. Therefore, proposals from various member societies to host the 12th International Congress should be carefully considered and planned. The

Executive Committee will formally vote on a site for the Congress at the Interim Meeting to be held in Berlin, Germany in conjunction with the meeting of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies in May, 1995. Proposals from Member Societies need to be submitted in a timely fashion, preferably at least one year in advance of the Berlin Executive Committee Meeting. Examples of previous proposals can be obtained from the Central Office of the Federation in Geneva, and Member Societies can use these as guidelines for constructing their own proposals. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Joseph in this regard. We look forward to receiving a number of exciting proposals for the site of this important World Congress.

VIII. Interim Meeting of the WFNS Executive Committee

The Interim Meeting of the WFNS Executive Committee will take place in Berlin, Germany. It is hosted by the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies with Mario Brock as President. The dates are May 6-12, 1995. All delegates and Committee members should plan to attend.