

Notes & Announcements**Neuro-ophthalmology Societies Merge**

At the 18th annual Meeting of the North American Neuro-ophthalmologist Society held in San Diego in 1992, members voted to merge with the Frank B. Walsh Neuro-ophthalmology Society. At its 1992 meeting in Los Angeles, the Frank B. Walsh Neuro-ophthalmology Society voted to merge with the North American Neuro-ophthalmology Society. The two societies have come together under the name of The North American Neuro-ophthalmology Society. The merger was legally completed in November 1992. The Society will continue to hold two annual meetings, one featuring scientific symposia and presentations of papers; the other will be the Frank B. Walsh Meeting featuring Neuro-ophthalmic Pathology. The North American Neuro-ophthalmology Society is the official academic, political, and practice voice of Neuro-Ophthalmology in the United States and Canada.

Dr. James A. Sharpe elected president of the North American Neuro-ophthalmology Society

At its 1992 annual meeting in San Diego, Dr. J.A. Sharpe of Toronto became the first president of the merged North American Neuro-ophthalmology and Frank B. Walsh Societies. Dr. Steven Feldon of Los Angeles became president-elect, Dr. James Corbett of Jackson, Mississippi, is Vice-president. Dr. Joseph Rizzo of Boston was elected treasurer and Dr. Michael Wall of Iowa City became secretary. Dr. Thomas Carlow of Albuquerque is chairman of the Board of Directors.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, Leukemia and Growth Hormone Therapy

In 1985, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease was reported in young adults who had received pituitary-derived growth hormone during childhood. To date, there have been more than 30 cases reported worldwide, 7 in the U.S.A., 6 in Great Britain, 1 in New Zealand, 1 in Brazil and a recent cluster of more than 18 cases in France (Science 258:1571, 1992). No cases have been detected in Japan, Australia or Canada. A direct association between Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease and pituitary growth hormone is strongly suggested by the epidemiological data but has not been proven in laboratory animals yet. The continued occurrence of cases worldwide requires continued vigilance by all physicians in reporting unusual neurological deterioration in any person who has received growth hormone.

Since 1988, there have been more than 20 cases of leukemia reported worldwide in children and young adults with GH deficiency, including one from Canada. It is not clear yet whether the risk of leukemia is increased in the growth hormone-treated population.

Physicians who note any unexplained neurological signs or hematological changes in persons previously treated with GH are requested to notify Dr. H. Dean, Chairperson of the Canadian Growth Hormone Advisory Committee, at (204) 787-4553 or (204) 787-7435.