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**WESTERN NEUROSURGICAL
SOCIETY
AUTUMN NEWSLETTER**

**2013 HALF MOON BAY MEETING
SUMMARY**

The 2013 meeting was most pleasant as usual with excellent food, a smooth running scientific program, a pleasant local night dinner and a

fine banquet. The weather and venue could hardly have been better. The meeting was attended by 76 members, 18 professional guests, 75 spouses and 23 exhibitors. The Society has 119 active and 75 senior members and is in solid financial shape with well over a year's operating expenses in reserve. There were seven new members elected and are noted below.

The new officers elected were Gary Steinberg, President-Elect and Marvin Bergsneider, Vice-President. Secretary-Treasurer Charlie Nussbaum submitted his resignation (after a 4 year stint) effective November 1st and the Executive Committee appointed Deborah Henry to fill the 2 years remaining of his 3 year term. Senior members will be offered a one-time \$350 dues payment which will obviate further payment of dues.

The Executive Committee continued to wrestle with the meeting attendance requirement for active members. Proponents of maintaining the rule of attending 1 meeting in 4 or losing Society membership as consistent with the goals of the Society which are to hold an annual meeting at which good science and good fellowship occur and failure to participate at least every 4 years basically violates our reason to exist. Opponents of the attendance rule point out that we consistently lose members we would like to keep and there can be good reasons for some members to not make meetings particularly when they are young and have children in school which often conflicts with our early September meetings. A suggestion was made that we have a new class of membership called Inactive which would allow those who miss 4 meetings to stay on board, lose their ability to vote, maintain payment of dues and resume active status upon attending a meeting. A straw vote at the business meeting was about equally divided among the three choices and it was decided to kick the can to the By-laws Committee to see if they could come forth with a recommendation and allow the voting membership to decide which way to go.

Meet Your President -- Richard Wohns

We welcome Richard Wohns as the incoming president of the Western Neurosurgical Society. He joined the society in 1988 and served as Chairman of the Bylaws committee from 2009-2011 and Vice President from 2011-2012. Richard is a Magna Cum Laude graduate from Harvard College in Biochemistry, a graduate of the Yale University School of Medicine and he completed his residency in Neurosurgery at the University of Washington in 1983. He is a Board Certified neurosurgeon and an Associate Clinical Professor of Neurological Surgery at the University of Washington, with a private practice in the Puget Sound region. Dr. Wohns received his MBA from the University of Washington in June 1997 and his JD from Seattle University School of Law in May 2011.



During his term, Richard will work to broaden the membership to better represent the entire Western United States and Canada. He wishes to re-invigorate our Society with new or returning members who will get to experience the unique collegiality that our varied membership affords. This hopefully will foster an atmosphere for life-long learning and friendships. To this end, he hopes to see our bylaws changed regarding meeting attendance to make them more accommodating and less exclusionary. Our president is a true renaissance man and his varied skills both within and outside the sphere of neurosurgery will undoubtedly bring a fresh perspective to the Western Neurosurgical Society.

Meet your Secretary/Treasurer -- Deborah Henry



Deborah Henry, M.D., is the 21st person to serve as Secretary-Treasurer of the Western and the first woman to do so. Debbie originally hails from the mid-west but after a peripatetic childhood got her BS from Baylor University in Waco, then her MD and did her internship at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. She completed her neurosurgery residency at SUNY-Syracuse in 1992 then spent 3 years on the faculty of Texas A&M. She then caught the California bug and after a 7 year stint in private practice in Pasadena spent 3 years at Kaiser-Anaheim. She switched to locum tenens work in 2006 (interspersed with a year on the faculty of Loma Linda in 2009/2010) and finally stopped neurosurgical practice in December 2012. Succumbing to a long held interest in teaching, she currently works as an Associate Professor of Anatomy and Physiology at Coastline Community College where she is a full time faculty member at the Newport Beach campus teaching undergraduates.

Dr. Henry joined the Western in 2002 and has been a regular annual meeting attendee often with her son Stephen. She has served on the By-laws Committee and has been identified as the unofficial Secretary-Treasurer Elect for the past couple of years and now assumes that position. As the Western's COO, the buck now stops with her.

The 7 New WNS Members



Aleksandyr Lavery
Redwood City, CA



Justin Brown
UCSD



David Adler
Portland



Joseph Chen
Los Angeles



Andrew Little
Phoenix/BNI

Dr. Little completed his undergraduate work at Yale University and medical school at the University of California, Irvine. He completed his neurosurgery residency at the Barrow Neurological Institute and fellowship training in endoscopic neurosurgery with Dr. Charlie Teo in Sydney, Australia. Currently, he is the Co-Director of the Barrow Interdisciplinary Skull Base Program and the Barrow Pituitary Center. His clinical interests include skull base and pituitary surgery. His research interests include quality of life, resource utilization, and the health economics of endoscopic skull base surgery. Dr. Little and his wife, Susan,



Odette Harris
Stanford

Dr. Harris graduated from Dartmouth College and received her MD degree from Stanford University School of Medicine. She did her internship and residency at Stanford University Medical Center Stanford, California. She also earned a Masters of Public Health, Epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Harris was awarded a VanWagenen Fellowship and completed her research at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, that country having awarded her the National Road Safety Council Award for outstanding contribution in traumatic brain injury. Dr. Harris is an Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at Stanford University



Ciara Harraher Santa Cruz/Stanford

Dr. Harraher graduated from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia with a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience. She received her medical degree from McMaster University School of Medicine. Her neurosurgery residency was at Dalhousie University and she also earned a Masters of Public Health from Harvard University. Following her neurosurgical residency, Dr. Harraher completed fellowship training in vascular neurosurgery and radiosurgery at Stanford University. Currently Dr. Harraher is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at Stanford University School of Medicine and Medical Director of Neurosurgery at Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz, California. In addition to being a member of the AANS and CNS, she is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada in Neurosurgery. She enjoys cycling, yoga and the pursuit of the best California Pinot Noir.

and daughter, Evangeline, live in Phoenix Arizona. In his spare time he enjoys hiking and playing golf.

School of Medicine and Director of Brain Injury for Stanford Medical Center and manages and coordinates the medical and surgical care of all patients suffering from traumatic brain injury who are admitted to the Stanford System.

Words from Wohns

Dear Fellow Western Neurosurgical Society Members:

One of my first tasks as the new President is to formally express a thank you to our outgoing Secretary-Treasurer, Charlie Nussbaum and his wife, Debbie. Charlie did a

superb job not only for his normal term of three years as Secretary-Treasurer, but volunteered for a fourth year. This is an example of the selfless volunteerism that Charlie and Debbie have displayed in so many ways. The Secretary-Treasurer position carries a huge burden throughout the year, although the membership many only see the manifestation of the workload at the annual meeting. Charlie's diligence in his communications, record keeping, and fiduciary tasks was continuously evident and seamless throughout his four-year long term. Our organization has maintained fiscal solvency, high level scientific and clinical standards and warm collegiality - all traditions of the Western Neurosurgical Society. A sincere and heartfelt thank you to Charlie and Debbie Nussbaum!

Rich Wohns
WNS President

From Debbie's Desk

Drs. Rich Wohns and Jeff Rush, Darla Colohan and I made a spectacular site visit to Sun Valley, Idaho. We went in mid October as the Aspens were changing into their dress of gold. The skies were the spacious blue and the famed ice skating rink beckoned even the inexperienced. This will be a fabulous sixtieth anniversary for the Western. We are planning many exciting activities from the traditional golf, tennis, and bike riding to the Sun Valley experiences of fly-fishing and trap/skeet shooting. Rich has asked Ken Yonemura to help with the sporting events and in re-establishing our prizes for the best and worse and whatever else he can come up with.

The scientific program is currently well underway under the direction of Marty Weinand. We are debating a few interesting topics for the mini-symposium. In the years that I have been a member of the Western, I have noticed amazing growth in our scientific program so that I think it is one of if not the best around.

On November 16, I met with Charlie Nussbaum in Seattle and received an updated computer loaded with a new Quickbooks Pro and the ACT database of all our members. It sort of feels like learning spinal instrumentation with a set of new tools to master. But I have had amazing support from our executive committee. One of my goals is to streamline and modernize all the processes of the Secretary-Treasurer. I have created an email address that can stay with the secretary-treasurer and iswnssecr.treas@gmail.com. Please feel free to email me suggestions and how to implement new technology. Let's hope I have more success that our federal government's healthcare rollout.

Please plan on attending the 2014 Western Neurosurgical Society Annual Meeting in Sun Valley, Idaho from August 16-19. It will be a great vacation so you may wish to come early/stay later to partake of all the additional Sun Valley activities such as river-rafting, gondola rides, horseback riding, kayaking, and museum hopping to name a few. Hotel rates are good for 3 days before and after the meeting. Bring your kids this year as they will have their own bowling and pizza party in the Sun Valley Lodge during our formal banquet. I plan on bringing my 12 year old and do it all while he still will go with his Mom.

The **WNS Web site** has more detailed information about the 2014 meeting (westnsurg.org) and there is a link to make room reservations on-line. The Resort is accepting room reservations now and early reservations are always wise.

For those of you who wish to pay your **2014 dues** in December 2013 for tax or other purposes, the 2014 dues statement is on the Web site under the Forms and Documents menu item. Just download the statement, fill it out and fax or snail mail it. Sorry but we can't handle on-line payments.

Dr. Wohns has made the following Committee appointments for the coming year:

Executive Committee

Richard Wohns, Chairman
Gary Steinberg
Marvin Bergsneider
Deborah Henry
Randy Smith
Martin Weinand
John McVicker
David Pitkethly
Moustapha Abou-Samra
Marc Vanefsky
Jeffery Rush

Program Committee

Martin Weinand, Chairman
Deborah Henry
Marco Lee
David Newell
Andrew Little
Joel McDonald

Membership

John McVicker, Chairman
Jeff Chen
Michael McDermott
Ciara Harraher
Mark Hamilton

Awards

Gary Steinberg, Chairman
Larry Shuer
Grant Gauger
Don Prolo

John Kusske

Site Selection

David Pitkethly, Chairman
Charles Nussbaum
Deborah Henry
Marc Belza
Patrick Rhoten

By-Laws

Moustapha Abou-Samra, Chairman
Ben Blackett
Thomas Scully
Michael Lemole
Austin Colohan
Brian Andrews

Audit

Marc Vanefsky, Chairman
Odette Harris
Larry Shuer
Carter Beck

Nominating

Jeffery Rush, Chairman
Jay Morgan
Laligham Sekhar

Local Arrangements

Jeffery Rush & Richard Wohns, Co-Chairmen
Deborah Henry
Austin Colohan
Kenneth Yonemura

CME

Charles Nussbaum & Deborah Henry, Co-Chairmen
Gregory Gerras
Fred Williams

Communications and Website

Randy Smith, Chairman
William Loudon
Ciara Harraher
Richard Chua

WNS Members in Print

JNS—September 2013

Michael Lawton--Temporal lobe arteriovenous malformations: anatomical subtypes, surgical strategy, and outcomes: Clinical article Pages 616-628

Howard Yonas--Lack of functional patency of the lamina terminalis after fenestration following clipping of anterior circulation aneurysms: Clinical article Pages 629-633
Neil Martin--Pure arterial malformation of the posterior cerebral artery: importance of its recognition: Case report Pages 655-660
September 2013, Volume 119, Issue 3 3 Sep

Kim Burchiel--Society of Neurological Surgeons boot camp courses: knowledge retention and relevance of hands-on learning after 6 months of postgraduate year 1 training: Clinical article Pages 796-802

JNS—October 2013

William Couldwell--Combined chronic lymphocytic leukemia and prolactinoma: a rare occurrence in a patient presenting with pituitary apoplexy: Case report Pages 924-928

JNS—November 2013

Mitch Berger-- The impact of smoking on neurosurgical outcomes A review Pages 1323-1330

JNS-Peds October 2013

William Couldwell--Giant echordosis physaliphora in an adolescent girl: Case report
Pages 328-333

JNS-Spine September 2013

Chris Shaffrey & Praveen Mummaneni--A standardized nomenclature for cervical spine soft-tissue release and osteotomy for deformity correction: Clinical article Pages 269-278

Christopher I. Shaffrey--Dysphagia following combined anterior-posterior cervical spine surgeries: Clinical article Pages 279-287

Praveen V. Mummaneni--Proximal junctional kyphosis and clinical outcomes in adult spinal deformity surgery with fusion from the thoracic spine to the sacrum: a comparison of proximal and distal upper instrumented vertebrae: Clinical article Pages 360-369

JNS-Spine October 2013

Chris Shaffrey & Praveen Mummaneni-- The efficacy of lumbar discectomy and single-level fusion for spondylolisthesis: results from the NeuroPoint-SD registry Pages 555-563

Neurosurgery Focus September 2013

Kim J. Burchiel--Introduction: Intractable pain

Steven Giannotta--Editorial: Proposed Surgical Trigeminal Neuralgia Score checklist

Kim J. Burchiel--Percutaneous trigeminal tractotomy--nucleotomy with use of intraoperative computed tomography and general anesthesia: report of 2 cases

AANS Neurosurgeon November 2013

G. Michael Lemole Jr -- Living in the Limelight: When the Media Come Calling

Neurosurgery Journal November 2013

Richard Ellenbogen--National Variability in Intracranial Pressure Monitoring and Craniotomy for Children With Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury PP. 746-752

Neurosurgery Journal December 2013

Praveen Mummaneni--Book Review: The Cervical Spine, 5th Edition

Richard Ellenbogen--Commentary: The Neurosurgeon in Sport: An Update From the 2012 Zurich International Concussion Conference

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