



American Association of Neurological Surgeons



Stewart B. Dunsker, MD **AANS President** **2000 - 2001**

Being president of the AANS, like being president of other organizations, involves a combination of preserving the programs of the past and simultaneously initiating fresh programs to enable the organization to meet new challenges. Most of the big changes are begun slowly and gradually, making progress step-by-step. By the time they are formally acted upon by the Board of Directors they have survived a filtering process that has deleted unsuccessful and unfavorable projects.

When I took office in April 2000, the Executive Director had been there less than one year and he would leave by December of that year, moving to a larger medical organization. The AANS was fortunate to have onboard Mr. Thomas Marshall, who was promoted to Executive Director. His excellence was recognized, and his performance exceeded our expectations.

The AANS was in the process of restructuring. The Congress of Neurological Surgeons decided to hire its own Executive Director and the AANS no longer needed as large a Meeting Services Department. Consequently we started to downsize and restructure the staffing of the organization, and we moved to a new building in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. All of that required major alterations of budgeting and services. To add to our financial challenges, the U.S. economy entered a recession.

In previous years the VanWagenen Fellowship had been funded by annual contributions from Mrs. VanWagenen. At the time of her death, her estate made a significant contribution to establish an endowment for the perpetuation of the fellowship. The endowment was housed at The Rochester Foundation (Rochester, New York). Let me only say that financially structuring the endowment during the economic recession, in order to insure a satisfactory income for the fellowship, required significant negotiations with the Foundation.

The Professional Conduct Program of the AANS, under the able leadership of Dr. Ben Blackett, continued to be very active. We had been waiting for a final judgment from the Court of

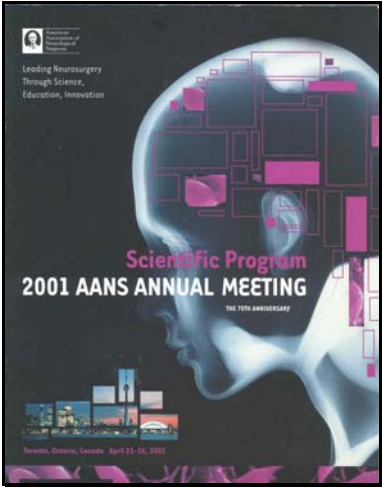
Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. We were pleased when that judgment was rendered in favor of the AANS. The case involved a member of the AANS who had been expelled for violating our professional conduct guidelines by testifying inappropriately in court. The member sued the AANS and alleged that

- He had been deprived of due process,
- The AANS Professional Conduct Program discouraged physicians from testifying for plaintiffs in medical malpractice cases,
- The AANS sullied his reputation, and
- The AANS caused his income to drop

Chief Judge Richard Posner of the Court of Appeals, in writing the opinion for the court, said the AANS Professional Conduct Program was in fact a public service and that this kind of professional self-regulation, "...furthers, rather than impedes, the cause of justice."

From the very beginning of my term I learned what all my predecessors had learned: the quality and dedication of the members of the Board of Directors was superb. To have had the privilege of serving as President of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons is an honor that I truly relished not just because it is a great organization, but primarily because of the wonderful neurosurgeons and members of the AANS staff with whom I had the privilege to work.

August 2006

Vital Statistics	
 <p>The poster features a stylized human head profile in blue and white, with a network of pink and white lines representing neural connections. Text on the poster includes 'Leading Neurosurgery Through Science, Education, Innovation', '2001 AANS ANNUAL MEETING', 'THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY', and 'Toronto, Ontario, Canada, April 11-16, 2001'.</p>	<p>2000-2001 Officers:</p>
	<p>Annual Meeting Location:</p>
	<p>Presidential Address:</p>
	<p>Cushing Orator:</p>
	<p>Awards:</p>
	<p>Lecture:</p>
	<p>Membership:</p>
	<p>Stewart B. Dunsker, President Stan Pelofsky, President Elect John A. Kusske, Vice President Robert A. Ratcheson, Secretary Roberto C. Heros, Treasurer</p> <p>Toronto, ON, Canada</p> <p>Give neurosurgery a place to stand. JNeurosurg 95:927-932-2001.</p> <p>Tom Brokaw, Anchor and managing editor of NBC Nightly News. [Not Published]</p> <p>Cushing Medal - Julian T. Hoff Distinguished Service - Donald H. Stewart, Jr. and Frank P. Smith Humanitarian - Gary D. Vander Ark Schneider – Albert L. Rhoton, Jr.</p> <p>6179</p>