This is a wonderful time to be involved with stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. Activity is at an all-time high. Technological advances are proceeding at a record pace. More and more neurosurgeons are entering the field. There has been an increasing number of membership applications for the AANS/CNS Section for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery/ASSFN. Why has this all come about?

When the founders of the various stereotactic societies reorganized in 1973, they made a prescient decision about the names of these new organizations. Prior to that time, there were the various continental branches of the International Society for Research in Stereoecephalotomy, a name that never really caught on. From that was formed the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (WSSFN) and with it the American Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ASSFN) and European Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ESSFN). The Japanese, Asian, and South American societies would come later.

Even at that time, they recognized that there was a difference between “stereotactic” and “functional” neurosurgery, which has had increasing implications during the past few years.

Functional neurosurgery is that science that involves surgery to change the function of the nervous system—to lessen the impact of a brain that is malfunctioning, as in movement disorder surgery, or to diminish the function of a nervous system that is responding to an abnormal stimulus, as in cancer pain.

Stereotactic surgery is that science that involves precise targeting of a structure within the brain, whether it be an anatomical target or a brain tumor. Based on three-dimensional constructs, it allows the surgeon to place a probe, an electrode, radiation therapy beam or resection instrument, exactly where the x-ray or imaging study indicates.

Functional neurosurgery involves diseases seen more often by neurologists than neurosurgeons and demands specialized knowledge in the pathophysiology of such maladies and applied neurophysiological techniques.

Stereotactic neurosurgery involves techniques that every neurosurgeon should know. Image guidance can enhance many procedures to the benefit of both patient and surgeon. Every neurosurgeon should know what can be treated by stereotactic radiosurgery or conformal stereotactic radiotherapy to make the best decisions for the type of treatment and how aggressive to be in the operating room.

Consequently, every neurosurgeon is invited to join the AANS/CNS Section for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery/ASSFN. Not only will it enhance your ability to perform image-guided neurosurgery, but it will improve surgical judgment in general. We urge you to get involved.

Philip L. Gildenberg, MD, PhD, is President, American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery.
Membership in the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ASSFN) and the AANS/CNS Section for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery continues to grow with the resurgence of surgery for movement disorders and the widespread application of image-guided technology to all branches of neurosurgery. In 2000, there were more than 300 members, and new member certificates have been sent to 16 applicants this year so far.

Two members of the Board of Directors have terms that will expire this year. Nominations for new directors should be sent to myself or Phil Gildenberg, MD. New directors will be voted in at the annual business meeting to be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, 2001, at the AANS 69th Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The meeting immediately follows the AANS/CNS Section on Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery/ASSFN Scientific Session.

The ASSFN has a new Web site (http://www.assfn.org), thanks to Andres Lozano, MD, who led this effort. He was assisted by Joel MacDonald, MD, who has tremendous experience in this area. The site will serve as the perfect forum for communication among members and other interested individuals. It will have links to other appropriate sites and to NEUROSURGERY://ON-CALL®. The World Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery also has a sister Web site at http://www.wssfn.org. Any comments or suggestions to improve either site should be sent to Dr. Lozano or myself.

In order to facilitate communication among its members, the AANS and CNS are compiling a complete list of e-mail addresses of member neurosurgeons. This list will be used by the leadership of the AANS/CNS and the Sections to reach neurosurgeons on key issues and disseminate information electronically. Please contact the AANS office if you have a new e-mail address or if it has changed recently.

The finances of the ASSFN remain healthy, thanks in large part to the very successful and profitable meeting arrangements of Peter Heilbrun, MD, for the 1999 Quadrennial ASSFN Meeting in Utah. Ongoing expenses will increase with administration and maintenance of our new Web site and I encourage all members with unpaid dues to submit them forthwith.

The work of the ASSFN and the Section would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of the many volunteers who willingly give of their valuable time to promote our society’s interests and represent stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. We owe a special thanks to the members below:

Michael Schulder, MD—Membership Drive Committee
Patrick J. Kelly, MD—Host of the ASSFN Meeting, New York, 2003
Richard D. Bucholz, MD—AANS Committee on Fellowships
Kim J. Burchiel, MD, and Samuel J. Hassenbusch, MD—Representatives to the CPT, RUC Committees and other coding reimbursement issues

Ali R. Rezai, MD—AANS Committee on Resident’s Paper on Brain Tumors
Andres Lozano, MD, and L. Dade Lunsford, MD—CNS Education Committee
Lucia Zamorano, MD—Stereotactic neurosurgery representative to the Outcomes Committee
G. Rees Cosgrove, MD—Editor, Neurosurgical Focus, Stereotactic and Functional
David W. Roberts, MD—Neurosurgical News
Philip L. Gildenberg, MD—Stereotactic neurosurgery representative to the Editorial Board of the AANS Bulletin
Philip L. Gildenberg, MD—Stereotactic neurosurgery representative to the Neurosurgical Devices Forum
Andres Lozano, MD, and G. Rees Cosgrove, MD—CNS 2001 Meeting, Scientific Program representatives
Philip L. Gildenberg, MD, Andres Lozano, MD, Douglas Kondziolka, MD, G. Rees Cosgrove, MD, David Roberts, MD—Stereotactic neurosurgery reviewers for the CNS 2001 meeting

All the members of the Executive Council join me in encouraging your participation and involvement in our society. We look forward to seeing you in Toronto!

G. Rees Cosgrove, MD, FRCS(C) is Secretary/Treasurer, American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery.

ASSFN Mission Statement

The mission of the American Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery is to foster the use of stereotactic and functional neurological methods for the treatment of diseases of the nervous system and to advance stereotactic and functional neurosurgery and related sciences to improve patient care, to support meaningful basic and clinical research, to provide leadership in undergraduate and graduate education and continuing education, and to provide administrative facilities necessary to meet these goals.

Further, the Society will provide a forum for the review of the basic form and function of the human nervous system toward the improvement of stereotactic and/or functional neurosurgical procedures that alleviate human disease and suffering through diagnosis or treatment of the function of the nervous system and to establish minimum standards for the performance of stereotactic surgery.
Section Session at the AANS Annual Meeting in Toronto

**Wednesday, April 25**

**2:45–5:30 PM**

**AANS/CNS Section on Stereotactic and Functional Surgery**

Learning Objective: Attendees should be able to discuss the role of stereotactic surgery in brain surgery in brain tumor management and apply these principles to their practice.

**2:45–3:30 PM**

**The Present Status of Surgery for Psychiatric Disorders**

Moderator: Philip L. Gildenberg

Speakers: G. Rees Cosgrove, Helen Mayberg

**3:30–3:45 PM**

**Resident Award**

**Acute Effects of Stereotactic Proton Beam Irradiation on the Rat Hippocampus**

Jonathan L. Brisman, to be presented by Philip L. Gildenberg

**3:45–5:30 PM**

**Scientific Session**

Moderators: Philip L. Gildenberg, Douglas S. Kondziolka

**Early-Onset Generalized Dystonia: Neurosurgical Treatment By Continuous Bilateral Stimulation of the Internal Globus Pallidus in 23 Patients**

Philippe Coubes, Nathalie Vaysiere, Laura Cif, Maher Mansour, Simone Hemm, Nina Diakonova, Sylvie Tuffery, Bernard Echenne, Philippe Frerebeau

**Characteristics and Somatotopic Organization of Kinesthetic Cells in the Globus Pallidus Interna of Parkinson's Disease Patients**

Ali T. Zirh, Melsen Tunca, Hale Saybasili, Fahir Ozer, Ali Cetin Sarioglu

**Capsulotomy Induces Localized Orbitofrontal and Subcortical Metabolic Changes in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder**

Bomin Sun, Yihui Guan, Liqing Lang, Haiyin Zhang, Li Pan, Kangyong Liu, Lianfu Zhou

**Cerebral Peduncle and Subthalamic Nucleus Changes Following Posteroventral Pallidotomy**

Robert P. Iacono, Erik K. Helseth, Jonathan D. Carlson, Yoshinori Higuchi

**Multiple Subpial Transection for Seizure Disorder**

Arun-Angelo Patil, Rich Andrews, Matt Johnson, Dan Tomes, Jeff Lewine

**Acute Effects of Stereotactic Proton Beam Irradiation on the Rat Hippocampus**


**Hardware-Related Complications of Deep Brain Stimulation in 100 Consecutive Electrodes**

Michael Y. Oh, Seong H. Kim, Andres M. Lozano

**AANS/CNS Section on Stereotactic and Functional Surgery Business Meeting**

**5:30–6 PM**

**Officers Slated for ASSFN/Joint Section**

The following is the nomination slate for officers of the ASSFN and the AANS/CNS Section of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery.

**Chairman:** Douglas Kondziolka, MD

**Past-Chairman:** Philip L. Gildenberg, MD

**Vice Chairman:** G. Rees Cosgrove, MD

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Andres Lozano, MD
**Award Winner Selected**

Jonathan Brisman MD, a PG-Y 6 neurosurgery resident at the Massachusetts General Hospital, is this year’s winner of the AANS/CNS Section for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Residents Award. His work focused on characterizing the behavioral, radiologic, physiologic and histologic changes that accompany radiosurgery in the rat hippocampus. A summary of his research along with an award certificate and $500 check will be presented at the AANS Annual Meeting in Toronto.

**Proposed Changes to ASSFN Bylaws**

**Current Bylaws**

The members elected to this Society shall be divided into four types: (a) Active; (b) Associate; (c) Honorary and (d) International. 

(a) Active members shall be medical doctors who are members of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons or the Congress of Neurological Surgeons who have engaged in active participation in the field of stereotactic or functional neurosurgery. Only active members shall be entitled to hold office.

(b) Associate members shall be MDs or PhDs or holders of an equivalent degree, physicists, engineers, or individuals of other collateral or related fields who are active in this area of research, but are not members of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons or the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. No individual shall be elected to Associate Membership unless he has been certified by the board of certification in the field of his or her primary activity, if such a board exists, or eligible for such certification. They may participate in any and all scientific activities of this Society and may vote. They may not hold office. They may be active dues paying members of the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery.

(c) Honorary Members: The officers may grant honorary membership to such qualified physicians or scientists who, in their opinion, merit such recognition. They shall not be required to pay dues and shall not have the privilege of voting or holding office. They may serve on committees, but shall not be required to attend meetings.

(d) International Members shall reside beyond the limits of the United States of America and Canada, and they shall be chosen because of their devotion and contributions to stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. They shall not be required to pay dues and shall not have the privilege of voting or holding office. However, they may serve as members of special committees. They shall not be required to attend meetings and need not be corresponding members of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons or the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

**Proposed Changes**

It is proposed to add the following membership categories to encourage interested neurosurgeons to become members while still residents and to correspond more closely to the membership categories of the AANS and CNS:

(e) Resident Members shall be neurosurgeons who are residents in a training program approved by the American Board of Neurological Surgeons who express an interest in the field of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. They shall pay a one-time membership fee and will have the option of subscribing to the journal *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery* at a reduced price. Upon completion of their residency or within five years, whichever comes first, they will no longer be eligible for Resident Membership status. Resident Members will not be eligible to vote or hold elected office.

(f) Senior Membership shall be granted to any person 65 years of age or older who is an Active Member in good standing, but no longer in the active practice of neurosurgery. Senior Members shall be exempt from payment of annual dues, but may subscribe to the journal *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery* at a reduced price. Senior Members may attend meetings of the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery at the member registration fee.

It is proposed to alter the following membership category, to correspond more closely with the membership categories of the AANS and CNS:

(d) International Members shall be neurosurgeons who practice neurosurgery outside the United States or Canada and are members of the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery and wish to have a close affiliation with the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. They will pay the same dues and journal subscription as Active Members, may attend meetings of the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery at the member registration fee but may not vote or hold elected office.
Membership Drive Under Way

By Mike Schulder, MD

The ASSFN, through the AANS/CNS Section on Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, is actively looking for new members. At a time when interest in stereotactic techniques has never been higher, we believe that many more neurosurgeons could benefit from active membership in the Section and the Association. Thanks to the incorporation of frame-based and frameless image guidance into routine training and practice, many more of our colleagues perform some sort of stereotactic surgery (whether they realize it or not) than might have been the case only a decade ago. This would include stereotactic radiosurgery, performed in many centers using gamma knife or Linac technology. Most of these procedures are most likely done today by neurosurgeons without specialized advanced training. As non-ablative surgery for movement disorders and other conditions becomes more commonplace, functional neurosurgery will also become less of an esoteric art.

By encouraging neurosurgeons who are using stereotactic technology and/or performing functional neurosurgery to join our organizations, the benefits will flow both ways. New members will be exposed via meetings and the association’s journal Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery to ideas and knowledge not available in general neurosurgical publications. At the same time the organization should benefit from the input of colleagues who can bring a fresh perspective to the practice of stereotaxis.

An online application process is being prepared and should be ready soon. In the meantime, prospective members may use the application form on the bottom of this page. If you have a neurosurgical colleague who does stereotactic biopsies with a frame, uses a frameless image-guided stereotactic system, performs radiosurgery, inserts intrathecal morphine pumps, or places thalamic electrodes for tremor control, we would like him or her to join the ASSFN.

Mike Schulder, MD, is Chairman of the Membership Drive Committee.

Membership Application

American Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

Name: _________________________________________________________________________________________________
Office Address: __________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
Phone: _____________________________________________ Fax: _______________________________________________
E-mail: _________________________________________________________________________________________________
Residency Training: ___________________________ Years: _______________________
Medical School: __________________________________________________________________________________________
AANS Member:  □ Yes  □ No  CNS Member:  □ Yes  □ No

Interests in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery: (please check)
□ Movement disorders  □ Pain  □ Tumors  □ Imaging
□ Epilepsy  □ Computers  □ Radiosurgery  □ Basic Science

Annual membership dues are $325 per year, which includes membership in the Joint Section on Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, and a subscription (including shipping) to the journal Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery.

Please attach your current curriculum vitae and mail to:
G. Rees Cosgrove, MD, FRCS(C)
Secretary/Treasurer, ASSFN
Massachusetts General Hospital
15 Parkman St., Suite #331, Boston, MA 02114-2696
FAX: (617) 726-7546 • E-mail: cosgrove@helix.mgh.harvard.edu
Calendar of Events
To Jay  Company AANS

Date March 14, 2001  Job No. 01-049

Job Description Stereotactic and Functional Newsletter

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