

WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES

Letter from the Editor

In 1994, during the AANS Congress in San Diego, a discussion was raised between the then President of the WFNS, Dr. Armando Basso, and the Chairman of the Liaison and Public Relations Committee, Dr. Manuel Dujovny, about the possibility of printing a bulletin of the WFNS to be called "Federation News". This was to be distributed to all Neurosurgical Societies and their members throughout the world. Codman financially supported and distributed worldwide the initial issue. From 1994 to 1998, several other issues came out through the financial support of Bayer, Liebing, Gliadel and Diversify.

Since then a significant change of the market conditions occurred with the merging of many companies. The Editor, Eduardo A. Karol, the Associate Editor, Manuel Dujovny, and other members of the Editorial Board found it impossible to get further support for the printed version of Federation News without becoming a burden to the quite limited income of the WFNS. The style of communication also changed. It made no sense to receive information once or twice a year when things changed at such a fast pace that almost everyday something needed to be updated.

Thus the electronic version called "Federation News Update" and the Web Pages (<http://wfns.org>) of the WFNS were created and supported by the Editors with the voluntary help of the Webmaster, Dr. Alon Mogilner, and his Chairman Dr. Patrick Kelly (NYU). The Neurosurgical Department of Wayne State University administered clerical support.

As the time passed, massive development of technology, the need of communication, and the handling of multiple new major projects by the WFNS made this the "not chosen choice" a most exciting adventure:

1. Federation News Update brings the latest news from all activities of the WFNS.
2. There is a Presidential Page as well as pages for the Secretary, and Treasurer. Open pages for the Members of every Committee are available to describe all projects and achievements and make their requests to the WFNS community.
3. The objectives of the WFNS are reviewed as well as the Bylaws, including their updates. A listing of Honorary Presidents, Past Presidents and Secretaries will soon be available as well as a listing of all prior Congresses.
4. All the Member Societies, their authorities and addresses are included in the Web Pages.
5. One of the most classical and important activities of the WFNS has always been teaching through International Courses organized by the Education Committee. A detailed account of the Official Courses given every year is included. In addition, a listing of non WFNS meetings, courses and congresses has been started and the WFNS is pleased to help to communicate all the academic activities being carried out throughout the world.
6. There is a listing of Fellowships, Residencies and other training programs, which will become more complete in the future with the help of the societies and program directors.
7. A special section on Book Reviews and a listing of Neurosurgical Journals are available.
8. Major critical issues can be approached through the section entitled Opinions from Our Readers.
9. The most detailed information regarding the 2001 World Meeting in Sydney can be found on its Special Section.
10. We have developed an increasing number of links with Neurosurgical Societies in five continents (click on the map). There are also links listed alphabetically with the World Federation of Neurology, institutes of basic and clinical neurological research and multiple other related institutions which we hope will be of help to all members of the WFNS.

Through the kind help and advice of Dr. Martin Weiss, Dr. Hunt Batjer, Dr. Issam Awad, Dr. Peter Black and many others, stronger ties are being developed with the AANS and the CNS, including Neurosurgery On Call.

We are clearly aware that this is only a beginning, and we need and request your help as well as your criticisms.

It is very important that our page becomes truly interactive. Every Society and every individual member can let us know not only about their need for information, cooperation, and required courses, but also about every issue not yet addressed such as their requests and offers for Neurosurgical training, fellowships and hands on courses. That is why in the past year our principal goal has been to the creation of a World E-mail Neurosurgical Directory.

Some of you have already started to receive a Newsletter, which will bring you, at least four times a year, the latest information from the WFNS. This is being sent to all individual computers using all available e-mail addresses. The task of having a comprehensively organized e-mail directory, listing members within each city and each country, is truly impossible without your help. That is why we ask you to send such information to three e-mail addresses:

wfns6060@yahoo.com
drkarol2000@yahoo.com
mdujovny@yahoo.com

We would also appreciate if the Societies that already have an e-mail directory would send it by Registered Mail in a CD to:

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We are full of gratitude to the very many colleagues from around the world who took this challenge as a personal matter bringing us their help, knowledge and advice. Thank you to all of them.

Our warm regards,
Eduardo Karol, MD
Editor, WFNS

Prof. Manuel Dujovny, MD
Associate Editor, WFNS
Chairman, Liaison and
Public Relations Committee