

New vistas in neurosurgery: A look to the horizon

For the past 21 years, I have been an academic neurosurgeon at the University of Toronto, with a subspecialty interest in pediatric neurosurgery. In pediatric neurosurgery, I have focused my clinical efforts on pediatric brain tumors, and more recently, pediatric epilepsy surgery. I find both these areas of clinical effort challenging and rewarding. I have been amazed at how quickly the subspecialty fields of neurosurgery have moved ahead in these past two decades. This is perhaps nowhere more true than in spinal neurosurgery, functional neurosurgery, and vascular neurosurgery.

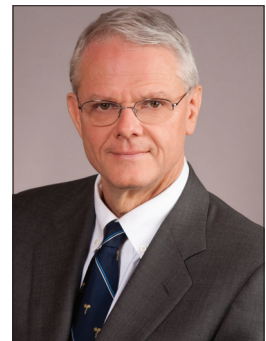
Even as the debate rages on between the advantages of cranial microneurosurgery versus endovascular neurosurgery in the treatment of patients with vascular neurosurgical diseases, it is clear that a new technology has arrived, which is changing the paradigm of treatment for aneurysms and arteriovenous malformations. Subspecialty training is now required to be proficient with these new technologies, and I am delighted that neurosurgeons around the world are being trained in these procedures for the greater good of their patients.

Over the years, I have had the great privilege of traveling to many regions within Asia to attend neurosurgical conferences. Some of the countries I have visited include Japan, China, Taiwan, Singapore, and Korea. I have thoroughly enjoyed the time I have spent with my colleagues in Asia, and I have learned enormously from them. I have appreciated for some time that Asia is home to countless, outstanding technical neurosurgeons, who have been innovative and

pioneering in their approaches to neurosurgical diseases. In 1990, I had the rare privilege of working with Professor Kenichiro Sugita, at the Nagoya University in Japan. I learned from him numerous microneurosurgical techniques that I carry with me into my operating room experience to this day.

I have also had the great benefit of receiving neurosurgical research Fellows who have worked in my brain tumor research laboratory over many years. They have all enjoyed their experience of living in Canada, but not nearly as much as I have enjoyed having them train with me in Toronto.

There are still many more countries I should like to visit in Asia, and I do hope there will be a possibility to do so in future years. I should like to thank Professors testuo Kanno and Yoko Kato for the great work they are doing with the Asian Journal of Neurosurgery. I am pleased to provide a contemporary editorial for the journal at this time.



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