
Foreword

The steadily developing basic science, clinical and technical aspects of pediatric neurosurgery have resulted from the dedication of neurosurgeons to the care of children. They have found that one must familiarize himself fully with the physiology, nutrition, development, and pathology of children in their four ages . . . neonatal, infancy, childhood, adolescence, for these are as different from one another as the four together are from the adult. But more, it has become apparent that neurosurgical anatomy and neurosurgical techniques vary widely from the adult to the pediatric population, that it is inappropriate to apply principals which are neurosurgically sound for the former to the latter, and that the evaluation of results – survival or comfort in the adult, development or quality of survival in the child – is so very different as to demand a complete re-orientation, and dedication to Pediatric Neurosurgery.

The Pediatric Neurosurgeon works, thinks, and lives in a milieu where the pediatrician is the practicing physician, where subspecialization is highly developed, and where the interhuman relationships are not simply doctor – patient . . . , they are doctor – child – family.

It is with the child that medicine, the most humanistic of the sciences, reflects the most human of its qualities, the social nature of mankind.

America has been in the forefront of medicine, of neurosurgery, of Pediatric Neurosurgery. It has accepted the onus and the approbation of leadership. Within its medical framework it has encouraged and assisted the development of specialties. Now, the time has come for Pediatric Neurosurgery to answer its call, to serve the child by organizing its intellectual and technical aspects into a scientific discipline.

With these general responsibilities and goals, a group of Pediatric Neurosurgeons met in Pittsburgh to plan the foundation of the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery and then arranged an organizational meeting. It was early decided that this organization should dedicate itself to further the development and practice of Pediatric Neurosurgery, and that all members should participate in each scientific meeting by presenting a paper.

This special issue of the Child's Brain holds all the papers presented by the members of the ASPN at its first scientific meeting at Oyster Pond, Sint Maarten, in January, 1978. Pediatric Neurosurgery will benefit from the existence of this organization.

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President

American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery