Women in Neurosurgery (WINS) welcomed the New Year with thoughts of accomplishments from 1999 and goals for the new millennium. Our celebration, however, started a little earlier than most with a joyous 10-year anniversary reception in Boston.

Over the years, our reputation has enabled us to obtain excellent speakers at our semi-annual national meetings. At our most recent meeting, we had the pleasure of having Mary McGrath, Director of the Division of Plastic Surgery at George Washington University and member of the American College of Surgeon’s Board of Regents, as our guest lecturer. She delivered a very thought provoking presentation titled, “Dealing with Emerging Surgical Technologies,” where she discussed the neurosurgeon’s role in assessing new technologies. She said, “We are facing a pressing and societal need to address the subject of emerging technologies. As physicians, you must rise to the challenge. More important, as neurosurgeons, you must come to the plate and play a proper role in the surgical care of your patients.”

This year, we have arranged for another top-notch speaker—Jayne Thorson, PhD, Assistant Dean of Faculty Affairs at the University of Michigan Medical School. Dr. Thorson will address WINS members at our spring meeting, which will take place Tuesday, April 11, at the AANS Annual Meeting in San Francisco. There, she will discuss career and management opportunities for the female professional.

Your Organization at Work
Over the years, WINS has taken part in many activities and, as such, achieved tremendous success. We saw the idea of a Web site (www.neurosurgeryWINS.org) turn into a reality. In fact, the expertise and hard work of Sherry L. Apple, MD, MS, turned our site into one that has caught the attention of many, including NEUROSURGERY://ON-CALL®, which has recently established a link to our site.

We are pleased to announce that our corporate contributions have increased over $10,000, the most we have ever had in one year. It was so wonderful to receive these contributions, but even more gratifying to hear our contributors’ words of support for WINS. All were glad to contribute to “such a worthy organization.”

We were given the honor of speaking before the Congress of Neurological Surgeons at their recent meeting regarding our organization and our many achievements over the past 10 years. This experience was a great opportunity to increase awareness of WINS with our fellow colleagues. This year was also the year for board member invitations to several prestigious organizations. WINS was invited to have representation on the boards of neurosurgery’s Political Action Committee, and the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies. In addition, WINS has been invited to serve as an editorial contributor on such worthy publications as the AANS Bulletin and CNS Neurosurgery News. We have graciously accepted every offer presented to us, and look forward to representing WINS and its members.

Clearly, we have accomplished much over the past year and look forward to much more in the new millennium. We hope to expand our presence in Japan, where Yoko Kato, MD, is the President of the 4th Asian Women's Neurosurgical Association (AWNA) Conference and 3rd Asian Congress of Neurological Surgeons (ACNS) Conference. Dr. Kato is hard at work trying to position the AWNA on an equal level within the ACNS. We have all the confidence in the world that this will become a reality in the very near

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Spotlight on WINS Members at the 2000 AANS Annual Meeting

Deborah L. Benzil, MD, Panelist
Breakfast Seminar 122, Sympathectomy: Patient Selection, Contemporary Techniques and Outcomes

Alexa Irene Canady, MD, Panelist
Breakfast Seminar 118, Pediatric Head Injury

Jill W. Donaldson, MD, Faculty
Scientific Session 739, Moderate Closed Head Injury in Childhood: Incidence and Outcome

Ann-Christine Duhaime, MD, Faculty
Practical Clinic 025, Pediatric Trauma; Panelist, Breakfast Seminar 118, Pediatric Head Injury

Nancy Epstein, MD, Panelist
Breakfast Seminar 207, Diagnosis and Management of Foraminal and Far Lateral Lumbar Disc Herniations; Panelist, Breakfast Seminar 408, Degenerative Spondylolisthesis: Controversies in Management

Ann Marie Flannery, MD, Panelist
Breakfast Seminar 118, Pediatric Head Injury; Panelist, Breakfast Seminar 305, Ethical Issues of Managed Care in Neurosurgery

Linda L. Sternau, MD, Panelist
Breakfast Seminar 201, Management of Acute Cerebral Ischemia

Vivian S. Tabar, MD, Faculty
Scientific Session 718, Generation of CNS Stem Cell Derived Neurons: Multifold Expansion and Transplantation in a Huntington's Model

Beverly C. Walters, MD, Panelist
Breakfast Seminar 317, Trauma Guidelines for the Management of Severe Head Injury; Faculty, Scientific Session 777, Self-Assessed Quality of Life in Patients Undergoing Major Cranial Surgery

future, and hope to mirror her efforts by better positioning WINS within the AANS and CNS.

As Elizabeth Blackwell, MD, the first woman in the United States to become a physician, said, “For what is done or learned by one class of women becomes, by virtue of their common womanhood, the property of all women.”

Focused on the Future

Many continue to strive for achievement within our organization. The leadership, strength, and support of those, such as Isabelle M. Germano, MD; Karin M. Muraszko, MD; Gail L. Rosseau, MD; Ann Marie Flannery, MD; Deborah L. Benzil, MD; Kym Lynette Chandler, MD; Diane L. Abson-Kraemer, MD; Lucy Carole Love, MD; and Emily D. Friedman, MD, have brought WINS into the 21st century. We look forward to much success in this new millennium and will continue to strive for leadership within our profession as women, but most importantly as neurosurgeons.
Congratulations Are in Order for WINS

By Daria D. Schooler, MD

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, I would like to share with you some of the well wishes that we have received from across the globe.

Yoko Kato, MD (Japan)
President, Asian Women’s Neurosurgical Association

“Congratulations on the 10th anniversary of WINS. I would like to pay my respects to the person who had the forethought and courage to establish this organization and to the others who played a role in developing it into an internationally-recognized organization.

To head a group, one needs to have 1) tolerance, 2) honesty, and 3) the capacity to understand and give guidance. In addition to the above qualities, you have to have the ability to absorb different opinions, set an example, and be a power for tomorrow. I hope that friendship and mutual interaction of WINS with the Women’s Neurosurgical Association (WNA) and Asian Women’s Neurosurgical Association (AWNA) will continue into the new century.”

Prithika Chary, MD (India)

“It is a pleasure to think that women neurosurgeons all over the world have united for each other’s welfare and for the sake of the Women’s Neurosurgical Association, under the able leadership of Yoko Kato, MD. She has taken small but significant strides in clearing the status of women neurosurgeons in countries like Japan, China, Mongolia, Thailand, India and Pakistan. The affiliation of this to the parent body is indeed an honor. I wish Women in Neurosurgery (WINS) many more laurels in the new millennium.”

Peiyu Pu, MD (China)

“As a member of the AWNA, I would like to express my congratulations on the 10th anniversary of Women in Neurosurgery and extend my sincere wishes on every success of the symposium. I hope that the symposium will provide future directions and strengthen interactions among women in neurosurgery, as we move toward the next century.

“With the development of the national economy in Asian countries, rapid progress has also been made in the neurosurgical field. Although women neurosurgeons are still a small group in these countries, we have organized under the guidance of Yoko Kato, MD, the President of AWNA. Since 1996, AWNA conferences have been held twice in Pakistan and Japan. These meetings offered us a unique opportunity to get to know each other, to discuss the common problems we were concerned with and to exchange our experience and share our ideas. These will be greatly beneficial to us and encourage us to be self-confident in our future academic careers. We hope that more and more women join the ranks of neurosurgeons in the 21st century. We should make consistent efforts to master new technologies and strengthen the friendship and academic exchange with the women neurosurgeons around the world.”

Miyuki Abe, MD (Japan)

“I always see you play an active part in neurosurgery in the U.S. and through your newsletter. I would like to join your meetings if I have the opportunity, but before that, I think I need to study English.”

Asha Ajay, MD (India)

“First of all let me congratulate WINS for having completed 10 years. I wish each and every member of WINS the very best in the future. Coming from India, I have had the opportunity to interact mainly with Asian women neurosurgeons. In the new millennium, I hope to meet more female neurosurgeons from all over the world and share their experiences both professionally and personally.

“I would like to recognize the efforts of Yoko Kato, MD, President of the AWNA, in getting together female neurosurgeons from all over Asia. I hope, as a team, WINS will be able to lend a helping hand to all female surgeons who need advice and help in different areas, especially with regards to training in various international centers. We must work to form a regular exchange program between various countries in order to expose every one of us to the various presentations of neurosurgical diseases and their management in different countries.

“One of the main aims of WINS should be to put a female neurosurgeon in the seat of the President of the World Federation of Neurosurgeons, and I am sure that this is just a matter of time. Looking forward to more from WINS, I would like to sign off by quoting the now very famous saying of Nike ‘Just do it.’”

Uma Bannur, MD (India)

“Congratulations on your 10th anniversary. I have been made aware of your activities through the AWNA only recently, and I am impressed with what has been achieved in such a short time. With its experience of a decade, WINS can act as a guide and help in the development of similar organizations in other countries. I think WINS has a great role to play in the coming century.”

Tan Tze Ching, MD (Taiwan)

“It is a privilege and an honor to salute Women in Neurosurgery (WINS) on its 10th anniversary. While women doctors are increasing in numbers, we still form the minority in the surgical specialties. Membership in societies such as the AWNA and WINS has deepened the bonds of friendship and camaraderie among women neurosurgeons, who have to juggle family and professional responsibilities. I look forward to the future where excellence in neurosurgery will be an attainable goal for young neurosurgeons, without the restrictions of race or gender.”

Keiko Irie, MD (Japan)

“Wishing all the members of WINS further developments in research and clinical work over the next century.”

Junko Matsuyama, MD (Japan)

“I’m always encouraged by your fine work and I hope you all have a good Christmas and New Year.”

Hideko Okazaki, MD (Japan)

“Let’s walk together in search of a new role as a neurosurgeon in a new century.”

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Congratulations Are in Order
(continued from page 3)

Ochi Satoko, MD (Japan)
“Congratulations on your 10th anniversary. It is wonderful to find many talented colleagues winning success in their fields. The social, cultural, or economical backgrounds are different over the Pacific. However, it is encouraging to know each side, just as having new friends. I hope that you will enjoy health and happiness, along with a long lasting friendship between us.”

Yasuko Shimosegawa, MD (Japan)
“We, the members of the Women’s Neurosurgical Association of Japan, are always encouraged by the positive attitude towards neurosurgery from the members of WINS. We wish you further development.”

Taeko Tajika, MD (Japan)
“Female neurosurgeons are not conspicuous anymore in Japan. I am not sure if the traditional type of neurosurgeons will exist or not, but there is direction to which neurosurgeons should go. I found stepping into a new way is more interesting than the way already made. In this regard, we are doing a most interesting job.”

Chio Yamanaka, MD (Japan)
“Congratulations on your 10th anniversary. We hope our good relationship will continue forever. Women medical students have been increasing by 40 percent in Japan, but after graduation they have many problems, especially in the surgical department. We would like to get married and have babies, so we should educate our partners, (colleagues and/or husbands). Please continue your active work in the area of neurological surgery.”

Nobuko Yanagawa, MD (Japan)
“Congratulations on your 10th anniversary. It is interesting to learn the inside of neurosurgery in the U.S. through your newsletter and conferences. These mediums offer a more useful way to get knowledge than reading books. I hope I can continue to communicate with people on the basis of personal relationship. Wishing you further development.”

A unique educational opportunity waits WINS members at the Association of American Medical College’s Professional Development Seminar for Junior Women Faculty, slated to take place April 1-4, 2000, at the Hyatt Regency Reston Hotel in Virginia.

This seminar is tailored for women early in their first faculty appointment who are aiming for a position of leadership in academic medicine (associate professors are not eligible). It is targeted primarily to physicians, but is also pertinent for PhD scientists. The number of participants is limited to 120 to keep workshops small. Highlights from this year’s program include workshops on conflict management, time management, meeting the challenges of an academic career, making the most of mentors and professional networks, becoming an effective public health advocate, and more.

Individuals wishing to attend the seminar should submit a supporting letter from her dean, section or department head describing how her goals for attending the seminar relate to her work and professional aspirations. The objectives of the seminar include: 1) assist each participant in creating an agenda for working toward her professional development goals; 2) provide participants with insights into the realities of building a career in academic medicine, into key ways in which academic medicine is changing, and into leadership qualities demanded by these realities and changes; 3) help participants to expand their network of colleagues and role models and bring new energy to their networking; and 4) assist participants in identifying the skill areas on which they most need to work and give them a start in developing them.

The registration fee for the seminar is $700, and includes three continental breakfasts, two receptions, one lunch, one dinner, coffee breaks, meeting materials and supplies. The Optional Pre-Conference Conflict Management Workshop will require separate registration and payment of an additional $80. For more information on the seminar, or to register, contact Valarie Clark at (202) 828-0586 or via e-mail at vclark@aamc.org.

AANS Demonstrates its Commitment to Female Neurosurgeons

As part of a larger effort to better integrate female neurosurgeons into the American Association of Neurological Surgeons’ (AANS) leadership, the AANS has appointed Barbara Morrison, PhD, CAE, AANS Associate Executive Director of Administration, as liaison to Women in Neurosurgery (WINS). “The AANS is working harder than ever to incorporate young neurosurgeons and female neurosurgeons into the programmatic efforts of the AANS,” said Stewart B. Dunsker, MD, President-Elect of the AANS. “In fact, over the past year, the AANS leadership has made a deliberate effort to reach out to its female constituency, proactively encouraging members at every level of the association to participate in AANS activities.” Recently, the AANS appointed Gail L. Rosseau, MD, and Diane L. Abson-Kraemer, MD, to Co-Chair the AANS Membership Committee, thereby enhancing female representation within the organization. The AANS has also invited WINS representatives to serve as frequent contributors to the AANS’ membership magazine, the Bulletin. “As we look to the future, we would like to continue to embrace the volunteer efforts of our female members into the AANS’ committee structure,” said Dr. Dunsker. “That involvement starts with you, WINS members.”

If you are interested in volunteering to serve on a AANS committee or task force, such as Industry Relations, Marketing, Public Relations, Professional Liability, Education, Publications, and more, contact the AANS WINS staff liaison, Barbara Morrison, PhD, CAE, at (847) 518-2514, via fax at (847) 518-2614 or by e-mail at: blm@aans.org.
Some of the happiest, most empowered and most productive women in neurosurgery are in two-women private practices. I interviewed partners in two such west coast practices and asked why they chose to work in an all female neurosurgery group. For the senior partner, getting established was not always easy, but all agree that recruiting their female associate has created a very unique and rewarding working relationship.

Neurosurgeons:
Dominique G. Engel, MD, and Sherry L. Taylor, MD

Q. Where is your practice located?
A. “Our practice is in Marysville, California”

Q. How many neurosurgeons do you have on staff?
A. “At present, it is just the two of us.”

Q. How long have you been in practice together?
A. “We have been in practice together for six months, but we have known each other for more than 10 years.”

Q. In your opinion, what are the greatest benefits of working in an all-female practice?
A. “Women tend to work together with a more co-operative team approach, rather than a traditional hierarchical approach to organization favored by male surgeons. Women who enter the field of neurosurgery tend to be extremely independent with personalities that do not easily accept being dominated in their working relationships. In our practice, we pride ourselves on our ‘no ego’ attitude and solid work ethics. It is these characteristics that have made us a success.”

Q. What made you choose an all-female practice?
A. “Our practice is in a rural environment that traditionally has had difficulty in attracting quality neurosurgical care. We bring a sense of excellence to our practice that, by all reports, is highly appreciated by both the local professional community and our patients. Additionally, we chose such a practice because of the non-competitive, cooperative style that neither of us had experienced in male-dominated practices.”

Q. Would you recommend an all-female practice to fellow WINS members?
A. “Yes, because it makes for a pleasant working environment.”

Q. Do you have any parting words for your fellow WINS members?
A. “In our experience, the traditional neurosurgical practice, both in academic and private practice, commonly centers on one to two older, male neurosurgeons who ‘make the rules’ and define how the practice is run. The woman is always expected to follow orders. In our unique practice environment, we have the opportunity to define a new practice style, which allows for a more cooperative relationship based on mutual respect for each other and our patients. We would recommend this working relationship and relaxed environment to every female neurosurgeon.”

Neurosurgeons:
Catherine J. Gallo, MD, and Kasia Van Pett, MD

Q. Where is your practice located?
A. “We practice in Eugene, Oregon.”

Q. How many neurosurgeons do you have on staff?
A. “Two, and we are in the process of recruiting a third female neurosurgeon to join our staff.”

Q. How many years have you been in practice together?
A. “We have been in practice together for more than two years.”

Q. In your opinion, what are the greatest benefits of working in an all-female practice?
A. “The benefits of working in an all-female practice are numerous. First, we enjoy our working environment because it is not competitive, nor male-dominated. Rather, it is a stress-free workplace built on a team-building attitude and a dedication to the field of neurosurgery. Second, we appreciate the support that we receive from one another as professionals, medical partners and friends. We support one another to the fullest and promote each other’s professional growth. Neither of us has experienced this type of support when practicing in a typical male-dominated environment.”

Q. Why did you choose an all-female practice?
A. “We both had a very tough time starting off in neurosurgical practice and making a name for ourselves. This was, in large part, due to the negative, all-male environment we were forced to practice in. This environment was, at times, extremely hostile and discouraged our professional growth. By breaking the mold and venturing into practice together, we were able to vastly improve our working environment and get down to what is important - the practice of neurosurgery.”

Q. Would you recommend an all-female practice to fellow WINS members?
A. “Yes, an all-female practice makes for a less stressful working environment, where there is less emphasis on competition and more emphasis on personal happiness and satisfaction.”

Q. Do you have any parting words for your fellow WINS members?
A. “Neurosurgey may be your means to making a good living, but it should not be your whole life. Keep things in perspective. Find your own personal goals and work hard to achieve them. By doing so, you will find happiness in your personal and professional life.”
Examining the Role of the Female Neurosurgeon in the 21st Century

By Gail L. Rosseau, MD

Theodore Roosevelt said, “far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.” The opportunity to practice neurosurgery may be considered such a prize, particularly from our vantage point of straddling the end of the 20th century and the dawn of a new millennium. One could say that there is no other time in history that better illustrates the axiom that working hard at the practice of neurological surgery is considered “work worth doing.”

A meaningful look forward usually includes an enlightened understanding of the past. Over the last century, several leaders have paved the way for women in neurosurgery - from Ruth Kerr Jacoby, MD, the first woman certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery in 1961, to other female neurosurgical pioneers including Merylee Werthan, MD; Carole Ann Miller, MD; Joan Venes, MD; and Frances K. Conley, MD.

Their hard work and determination set a precedent in the medical community and promoted the professional growth and development of many female physicians.

Their example led to an increase in the number of women entering our specialty. The next development was the creation of Women in Neurosurgery (WINS) — a non-profit, incorporated organization started by eight women at a national neurosurgical meeting in 1989. WINS now includes more than 300 female neurosurgeons from five continents. This look back demonstrates that women and men alike increasingly view neurosurgery as an appropriate career choice for women.

Over the next 25 years, the role of women in neurosurgery is likely to parallel the role of women in other branches of medicine. Since 1989, the number of women physicians has increased by more than 50 percent, now representing 21.3 percent of all physicians. In the same time period, female membership in the American Association of Neurological Surgeons has grown at an even faster rate.

Currently, there are 166 female neurosurgeons who are members of the AANS, representing 3 percent of the total membership. One would expect that the absolute number, as well as the percentage of women in the profession, to continue to grow. With the increasing number of women enrolling in medical schools and the growing number of women entering into practice, the appearance of women in leadership positions within the profession should be expected as well. By 2025, I anticipate that a female neurosurgeon will be at the helm of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, and female chairs of academic neurosurgery training programs will no longer be “news.”

In today’s culture, when problems arise, the lack of opportunity usually represents an error of omission, rather than commission. Political issues threaten both the job satisfaction and security of every neurosurgeon. These include the cost of medical malpractice insurance and declining reimbursements, reductions in research funding, and the erosion of public confidence in physicians. Overcoming these obstacles will require the efforts of neurosurgery’s best and brightest. The challenge for organized neurosurgery in the new millennium is to create an atmosphere whereby the best neurosurgeons are allowed to excel in our profession, including women and minorities.

This article was originally published in the Fall 1999/Winter 2000 issue of the AANS Bulletin. To view this article in its entirety, visit the Library on NEUROSURGERY://ON-CALL® (www.neurosurgery.org).

Wanted: WINS Members

By Isabelle M. Germano, MD

The Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Executive Committee recognizes the need to encourage involvement in committee and leadership activities of the CNS, particularly on the part of young neurosurgeons. The committee acknowledges that current avenues available to “get involved” in the CNS are varied and not always easily found. Additionally, it is important to recognize and develop future leadership potential in members already involved in organized CNS activities.

Therefore, the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) was formed. I was asked by the Executive Committee to Chair the LDC. The charge of the Leadership Development Committee is to catalogue and quickly respond to every neurosurgeon’s inquiry in a particular area of interest. In addition, the Leadership Development Committee will report each year to the Nominating Committee, giving reports on member participation in each committee. It is hoped that this will streamline the process for membership inquiries and solicitation regarding entry positions into the structure of the CNS.

The Leadership Development Committee continues to place neurosurgeons that wish to help in the committee structure of the CNS. It is the goal of this committee to facilitate participation by women neurosurgeons who historically have been less represented.

If you want to be an active part of the CNS we need to hear from you! If you have a particular area of interest or expertise or are interested in serving on a specific committee, please contact me at:

Isabelle M. Germano, MD
Department of Neurosurgery-Box 1136
Mount Sinai Medical Center
1 Gustave Levy Place
New York, NY 10029
Phone: (212) 241-9638 • Fax: (212) 831-3324
E-mail: igermano@mssm.edu
Membership Dues Statement - Second Notice

Sponsoring Member - $50  New Member - $50  Resident Member - Free Membership
Additional contributions are welcome.

All members: Please return this form with your updated demographics.

Business Address: ____________________________________________________________
Phone: ________________________________________________________________
Fax: ________________________________________________________________
E-mail: ________________________________________________________________

Home Address: ____________________________________________________________
Phone: ________________________________________________________________
Fax: ________________________________________________________________
E-mail: ________________________________________________________________

I prefer to be contacted at: ___________________________________________________

Please make check payable to Women in Neurosurgery.

Mail to:
Sherry L. Apple, MD, MS
Neurosurgical Associates
415 Morris Street, Suite 400
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Mark Your Calendars!

Who: Women in Neurosurgery
What: WINS Spring Meeting and Reception
When: Tuesday, April 11, 2000, 6:30-8 p.m.
Where: San Francisco Marriott
Why: Gather with your friends and colleagues to celebrate the spirit of WINS and listen to Jayne Thorson, PhD, Assistant Dean of Faculty Affairs at the University of Michigan Medical School, who will discuss career and management opportunities for the female professional.

Complimentary hors d’oeuvres and beverages will be served.

Golden Gate Bridge. SFCVB photo by Phil Coblentz.
Election of Officers

At the fall WINS meeting in Boston, the 2000-2001 officers were elected. They will assume their positions in April 2000.

**President**
Edie E. Zusman, MD
Phone: (916) 734-3658
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**President-Elect**
Sherry L. Apple, MD, MS
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Fax: (304) 344-9128

**Secretary/Treasurer**
D. Roxanne Todor, MD
Phone: (718) 270-4335
Fax: (718) 270-3922

Update From the Treasurer

By Sherry L. Apple, MD, MS

The year 1999 has been an outstanding one for corporate sponsorship of WINS, thanks to the efforts of Daria D. Schooler, MD. She sought sponsorship and recognition for WINS throughout the year and although some of our “old friends and companies” have merged, she has maintained relationships that have been financially supportive of WINS. Corporate sponsors include: Global Business Development-Anspach, Gliatech, Blackstone and Medtronic. In addition, Dr. Schooler pioneered the “Hats off to WINS members” by supplying us with 10th Anniversary of WINS caps and mugs. Her tenure will not be forgotten.