Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to address you in the middle of my presidential term. This year has been quite a remarkable milestone for American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, as we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of our society’s charter. As some of you may recall, ASSFN was chartered in 1963, in Philadelphia, under its original title — the International Society for Research in Stereoecephalotomy (ISRS). Despite having the term “international” in its title, the core of our society was comprised of North American stereotactic and functional neurosurgeons. This characteristic, combined with the fact that Ernest Spiegel, MD; and Henry Wycis, MD, worked at Temple University in Philadelphia, explains the choice of the inaugural meeting venue. The American Branch of ISRS was formally founded five years later in 1968, and the current name of our Society was adopted 40 years ago, in 1973. The subsequent four decades have witnessed ups and downs in our specialty, but one thing has been clear from the beginning — there is a great need to maintain a forum for collegial exchange and collaboration, particularly when one deals with such a unique surgical field as ours. And our society has thrived; the meetings, the journal, the educational initiatives, the international collaboration, the collegial spirit — all of this has kept our field alive and growing.

Today, our society is stronger than ever; we currently have 348 members. This growth is not surprising, as the interest in functional and stereotactic neurosurgery has reached unprecedented levels, with recent developments in the neurosurgical treatment of memory disorders, minimally conscious state, psychiatric conditions, epilepsy and pain. Technological advancements are matched by research and clinical projects, and with this, innovative neurosurgical interventions provide better treatment options for our patients.

With a recent significant reduction in annual dues, membership in ASSFN — the only professional society that unites neurosurgeons who dedicate their practice to functional and stereotactic work — has become more attractive and affordable. Current ASSFN activities include representing our members in the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)/Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Washington Committee, composing the Section scientific sessions at the AANS and CNS Annual Meetings, establishing the stereotactic and functional component of the new national neurosurgery curriculum (as a part of both the Society of Neurological Surgeons [SNS] Matrix and Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education [ACGME]-American Board of Neurological Surgery [ABNS] Milestones projects), developing fellowship accreditation criteria, and publishing this semi-annual informational newsletter, just to name a few.

The most recent initiative of the ASSFN is the development of practice guidelines, an effort that will require input from our members regarding topics to prioritize, as well as volunteers to help compose these guidelines.

The two main ASSFN activities, however, remain as follows: 1) producing our stellar journal, Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, which, under the leadership of David Roberts, MD, FAANS, has moved into the top 15 neurosurgical titles based on the latest impact factor calculations; and 2) hosting the biennial ASSFN Meeting, which will next take place at

continued on page 2
the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C., from May 31-June 3, 2014. With our collective efforts, we will continue to move our journal up in the ranks of the premier neurosurgical publications. We anxiously await receipt of your most pioneering clinical and research submissions to our journal, and we count on your active participation in our society beyond the expected meeting attendance.

The 50 years of our society have been a journey of growth and maturation. In celebration of this remarkable jubilee, I wish us all many more decades of progress and success!

Konstantin Slavin, MD, FAANS

**Update from 2014 ASSFN Meeting Organizers**

Dear Colleagues:

We look forward to having you join us at the ASSFN Biennial meeting in Washington, D.C., from May 31 to June 3, 2014. The scientific planning committee is working hard to provide you with an outstanding program, covering the latest science, research, clinical application, technology advances and innovations in our specialty.

We will begin with pre-meeting workshops on May 31, 2014, encompassing a resident course on the fundamentals of epilepsy surgery, the economics of functional neurosurgery and development of centers of excellence, as well as a technology innovation and investment program. The opening session will take place on Sunday, June 1, 2014. General scientific sessions will focus on movement disorder surgery, the synergy of seizure surgery and stereotaxis, evolving technologies in pain, advances in brain computer interface, as well as functional neurosurgery for neurobehavioral and cognitive disorders. Sessions will include didactic lectures by world leaders, discussions, face-offs and controversies, and will offer ample time for original science and oral and poster presentation opportunities.

Washington, D.C., is beautiful during this time of the year, and is a dynamic and exciting place to connect with friends and colleagues. Plan on joining us in our nation’s capital this coming spring.

Look for updates on our website shortly —
http://www.assfn.org

Sincerely,
Ali Rezai, MD, FAANS
Annual Meeting Chairman

Ashwini Sharan, MD, FAANS
Scientific Program Chairman

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**Neurosurgical Aid Organization Unveiled**

A new philanthropic effort, the Neurosurgical Aid Organization, has launched. The brainchild of former ASSFN board member Chris Honey, MD, the goal of the group is to identify centers with spare older-model stereotactic frames that are still functional (no pun intended), and may be useful to practitioners in locations with great need and limited resources. Dr. Honey has developed a website, www.neurosurgicalaid.org, which offers details on how to donate a frame and/or request a frame. This endeavor has the support of several international societies, including the World and European Societies for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. We encourage all ASSFN members to support this worthy effort.
Roy Bakay, MD, FAANS: A Tribute to an Icon in Functional Neurosurgery

On Sept. 5, 2013, the world lost a great neurosurgical innovator, and the ASSFN lost a pioneer and leader when Roy Bakay, MD, FAANS, passed away after a long struggle with stomach cancer. For many years, a number of us knew Dr. Bakay in a variety of capacities, and were particularly touched but not surprised by the fact that despite great physical challenges, he remained dedicated to his patients, his research and our society until his final days. Although he is and will be memorialized in a variety of settings, Dr. Bakay was one of us, and his life was dedicated to advancing our particular corner of neurosurgery. Therefore, we find it both necessary and comforting to provide our own tribute to this great contributor in our field.

A true Midwesterner, Dr. Bakay was born in Evanston, Ill. in 1949. After graduating from Evanston Township High School, he entered Beloit College in Wisconsin, where he was captain of the varsity football team. Those who knew him best found that his passion for football was perhaps the only thing outside of his family that could match his love of functional neurosurgery. He graduated as valedictorian, and went on to medical school at Northwestern University. In 1981, Dr. Bakay completed a residency in neurosurgery at the University of Washington in Seattle. His research career in neural transplantation, which became his major scientific focus for the next 30 years, began with a fellowship in the area at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) prior to joining the faculty of the neurosurgery department at Emory University in Atlanta. This became the site of many years of productive clinical and research development. His collaborations with Mahlon Delong, MD; and Jerrold Vitek, MD, PhD, were among the most legendary in our field, and led to tremendous advances in our understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the human basal ganglia and to improvements in the techniques of stereotactic neurosurgery. He also began to train fellows during that time, many of whom went on to major leadership positions throughout the country. In 2000, he was recruited back to Chicago to become the A. Watson Armour III and Sarah Armour Presidential Chair in Neurosurgery at Rush University. At Rush, he continued training outstanding fellows, and also was able to expand his long-time collaboration and friendship with Jeffrey Kordower, PhD, the Jean Schwepp-Armour Professor of Neurological Sciences at Rush, leading to even greater advances in translational neural transplantation and gene therapy.

A former president and long-standing board member of the ASSFN, Dr. Bakay also was the recipient of the Philip Gildenberg award, which is the highest honor bestowed for lifetime achievement in advancing the specialty. Because he was such an integral and passionate advocate for our field, a simple recounting of his accomplishments is inadequate. Therefore, we have asked a few of those who knew him best to add their remarks to this tribute. Below are thoughts of two former fellows, past ASSFN president Philip Starr, MD, PhD, FAANS; and current ASSFN board member Julie Pilitsis, MD, PhD, FAANS; as well as his great friend and collaborator, Dr. Kordower.

Dr. Jeffrey Kordower: Dr. Bakay was passionate about translational neuroscience and clinical medicine. He was the principal investigator on a number of NIH-funded RO1’s and other grants, and he vigorously explored the scientific components of new surgical therapies with the ultimate goal of bringing them to patient care. Dr. Bakay was a careful scientist, and was the first to demonstrate the viability of fetal dopamine neurons transplanted into parkinsonian monkeys. He presented this work at a New York Academy of Sciences congress lead by Anders Bjorklund, MD; and Efrian Azmitia. This work is the direct predecessor of similar experiments being performed today, examining the structural and functional efficacy of human embryonic stem cells and induced pluripotent stem cells in parkinsonian monkeys. During his long research and clinical career, Dr. Bakay wrote four books, 56 individual book chapters and published more than 150 peer-reviewed journal articles.

Three years ago, while being examined for a potential intragastric ulcer, Dr. Bakay’s cancer was discovered. His stomach was removed, and even until the very end, he faced numerous rounds of chemotherapy and radiation therapy. Yet, except during the six weeks recovering from his stomach-removal surgery, he never missed a single day of work in the operating room. Numerous friends and colleagues urged him to slow down and enjoy life more fully. He would smile and say, “Maybe,” with all of us leaving the conversation knowing that Dr. Bakay would not slow down; healing the sick and caring for patients was his professional raison d’être, and he loved few things more.

Though he weighed close to 300 pounds, Dr. Bakay was quite the twinkle toes, very light on his feet as he loved to dance. At the annual American Society for Neural Therapy and Repair banquet, the big man was always the first on the dance floor and one of the last to leave. He always enjoyed being larger than life, and would often play Santa at parties — and it did not even have to be Christmas! I know it disturbed him when his illness robbed him of his size.

He was a tremendous friend to many, and few enjoyed a great party as much as Dr. Bakay. To say he was affable is an understatement. He was part of a large group of close friends, including Krzysztof Bankiewicz, MD, PhD; Massimo Fiandaca, MD, MBA, FAANS(L); Lotta Granholm, PhD; and me, who enjoyed being together at meetings both scientifically and personally. We were great friends who shared fun spaces in fun places. Dr. Bakay also was very generous. When I first met him in 1986, he was at Emory, and I was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Rochester Medical Center, making a second-year post-doc salary. During that year’s Society for Neuroscience continued on page 4
meeting in Toronto, a group of neurosurgical residents and fellows were invited to a dinner at a steak restaurant. We ate, drank and were merry to the point where I probably could not afford to eat much for the rest of the week. When the check came, I reached into my pocket to pay my portion. A deep voice came rumbling from the head of the table, “Boys, this one’s on me.” In truth, I think all attendees breathed a sigh of relief as the big man picked up a big check. This was the first of many meals on Dr. Bakay.

Dr. Bakay could be quirky. He always wore a suit when he flew on airplanes, commenting that this was a way to prevent getting his suit creased in his suitcase. After he lost his luggage on one trip to Colorado, it was quite a site to see this bearded behemoth skiing skillfully (or, more accurately, barreling) down Breckenridge Mountain in a three-piece suit with a huge smile on his face. Dr. Bakay also loved scuba-diving, and we often went to beautiful locales to share underwater adventures. Oddly, he remains the only person I can ever remember who went scuba-diving wearing a button down shirt. Indeed, his style of dress during vacations and such were, well, unique. He liked loud prints and bold stripes, often wearing them at the same time. He accessorized such outfits with black socks and sandals. He was also a man of many hats — really, baseball caps. Whenever we saw him, he was a sight for sore eyes, and sometimes he was just a sight! And when commented upon, he would just show off that huge smile.

His last months were difficult, and his decline over the past month was humanely quick. When it became clear that the end was in sight, I sent emails out to numerous colleagues and friends asking them to email me a few sentences for me to read to Dr. Bakay, letting him know what he meant to his many friends and colleagues. I was inundated with the warmest, loving and appreciative emails from all around the world. Since I stated in my request that the messages would remain private between them and Dr. Bakay (with me as a conduit), I am not sharing them in this request that the messages would remain private between them and Dr. Bakay, letting him know what he meant to his many friends and colleagues. I was inundated with the warmest, loving and appreciative emails from all around the world. Since I stated in my request that the messages would remain private between them and Dr. Bakay (with me as a conduit), I am not sharing them in this forum. The words were beautiful and made his final hours more peaceful. After I read him the last email, I said, “You were loved by so many, and made a real difference to so many in this world. Well done, my friend.” He opened his eyes, tilted his head to me and whispered, “That’s good.” We never spoke again. To those who contributed in this way, I am incredibly grateful.

**Dr. Philip Starr:** In March 2013, many of Dr. Bakay’s colleagues and trainees had the chance to enjoy a symposium in his honor. He felt well at that time and greatly enjoyed the event, which included a dinner and a number of talks on functional neurosurgery. Two of his children were present, as was his companion of the last few years, Cheryl Morris. Cheryl is a nurse who loved him and very much helped him with his care, such that he was able to continue to work and perform surgeries up until one month before his passing. It was very important to Dr. Bakay to continue to be productive, and Cheryl helped make this possible for him.

Dr. Bakay was reserved with many people and could be perceived as intimidating. Yet, once he got to know and like someone, he was extremely relaxed, funny and fun-loving. Many of his best friends were colleagues in neurology and neuroscience, and he loved to dine, dance, ski and scuba-dive with those to whom he was close. Several of those close colleagues from Rush were with him constantly in his last days, reading him messages sent from his many trainees and associates.

I did a fellowship with Dr. Bakay in the late 1990s when we were at Emory University. The fellowship was mentored jointly by him, Dr. DeLong, Dr. Vitek, and Tom Wichmann, MD. It was one of the original truly interdisciplinary fellowships. It not only launched my own career, but was one of the most fun and relaxed times of my life, and I am grateful to Dr. Bakay for this.

**Dr. Julie Pilitsis:** In March 2013, I had the pleasure of participating in the first annual Roy Bakay Functional Neurosurgery symposium at Evanston Hospital in Evanston, Ill. Attendees included Dr. Phil Starr; event organizer Shaun O’Leary, MD, PhD, FAANS; Diane Sierens, MD, FAANS; Steve Falowski, MD; former student Sephr Sani, MD, FAANS; and Dr. Bakay’s past and present colleagues Dr. Kordower, Dr. Vitek and Leo Verhagen Mettman, MD, PhD. It gave all of us great pleasure to voice our thoughts on Dr. Bakay and to share our accomplishments with him.

I was amazed by the collective insight and expertise exhibited by Dr. Bakay’s mentees. Though we all are impressed with his accomplishments, we also have to recognize his ability to craft an opinion about a neurosurgical topic. As a fellow, I had an opportunity to see him think and write. His opinions, whether you agreed with them or not, were absolute, founded in science and practicality. He was a shrewd reviewer of literature, and was not afraid to take a stand. His goal was to better the field, to help his colleagues and to further science. Dr. Bakay was a true academic and a formidable pioneer in neurosurgery.

Particularly striking were Dr. Vitek’s words on their work together at Emory. There are few teams in modern neuroscience that were as groundbreaking. Dr. Vitek spoke of Dr. Bakay’s NIH funding and his renewal of NIH funding in CNS grafting for Parkinson. He depicted his pioneering work on brain-computer interface. He shared stories of him and Dr. Bakay spending hours in the operating room mapping out our modern-day understanding of the basal ganglia and its electrophysiology. He depicted a case of Hallewodn Spatz, where on the 16th pass on the second side at 11:30 p.m., he said to Dr. Bakay, “We better call it.” Dr. Vitek said that for the first time ever and the last time since, a neurosurgeon said, “How ’bout one more?” The hours, the dedication, the focus and the passion they developed together made our field what it is today.

Dr. Bakay was a season ticket holder at Soldier Field and loved to talk about fishing. He enjoyed spending time in the north of Wisconsin and traveling the world. Those of us in functional neurosurgery were fortunate to have him at the last WSSFN meeting in Tokyo in June 2013. Dr. Bakay worked until the end. Former fellow Dr. Falowski spoke to him in the final days, and Dr. Bakay’s concern was what would happen to his position and the passion they developed together made our field what it is today.

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American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery
Application for New Membership

Name ________________________________________________________________

Office Address ____________________________________________________________________________________________

City _____________________________________________ State ____________ Country ______________________________

Phone _________________________ Fax _________________________ E-mail ________________________________

Residency training program: ________________________________ Years: ________________________________

Medical School: ______________________________________________________________________________________________

Specialty (circle): Neurosurgery Neurology Other: ________________________________

AANS Member  Yes  No  CNS Member  Yes  No

Interests in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery: (please circle)

Movement Disorders  Pain  Epilepsy  Psychosurgery

Biomedical engineering  Tumors  Radiosurgery  Image guidance

Determine and circle your membership category:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Yearly Fee</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active</td>
<td>$325</td>
<td>For practicing neurosurgeons in the USA or Canada who have completed residency/fellowship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident/fellow</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>One time fee (not yearly). For neurosurgical trainees currently in residency or fellowship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>For neurosurgeons who are retired and over 65 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>For non-neurosurgeons</td>
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</tbody>
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The benefits of active membership include:
- Membership in the AANS/CNS Section on Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery
- Membership in the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery
- Reduced fees for the biennial ASSFN meetings
- Subscription to *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery* (including on-line access)

The benefits of all other membership categories are:
- Membership in the AANS/CNS Section on Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery
- Reduced fees for the biennial ASSFN meetings
- Eligibility to subscribe to *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery* at a reduced rate. If you are joining as a resident/fellow, associate, or senior member and wish to have the journal subscription, the fee is $135. Please check this box:
  - YES I would like to receive the society journal at the reduced rate

There are two ways to become an ASSFN member:
- Apply online at www.MyAANS.org (for Active Member applications only)
- Mail or fax this application form to ASSFN
  c/o Melody Dian
  ASSFN Administrator
  419 Oak Street West
  Frederic, WI 54837
  Fax at 866-362-1101

All applicants will be invoiced through AANS once the application has been approved.

For questions or concerns, contact the ASSFN administrator
Melody Dian mdian@centurytel.net, secretary-treasurer, Aviva Abosch (aabosch@umn.edu), or the membership chairman,
Emad Eskandar, (eeskandar@partners.org).

The application may also be faxed to Melody Dian at (866) 362-1101