

Notes and Announcements

Constitution and By-laws for the Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences (C.C.N.S.)

For nearly 25 years, the activities of the C.C.N.S. have been organized by representatives of four constituent societies and affiliated groups, who meet twice each year with local organizers and other sub-committees as an informal Liaison Committee. Successive Liaison Committees have increasingly recognized the financial implications of their role as the guardians of the two main C.C.N.S. responsibilities — the annual Congress meetings and the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences. Recognizing these responsibilities, it became clear that the C.C.N.S. required a more formal basis on which to carry on its assignments. Thus, after obtaining legal and other expert opinions, the Liaison Committee agreed in 1988 that the C.C.N.S. should become incorporated.

At their January 1989 meeting, members of the current Liaison Committee considered a constitution and set of by-laws that had been drafted by Dr. C.W. McCormick (Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Neurological Society and current Secretary-Treasurer of the Liaison Committee). Subsequent revisions of this document have been reviewed by the executives of the constituent societies.

The proposed *Constitution*: identifies the four constituent societies as the Canadian Neurological Society, the Canadian Neurosurgical Society, the Canadian Society of Clinical Neurophysiologists, and the Canadian Association for Child Neurology; recognizes the Canadian Association of Neuroscience Nurses as an affiliate society of the Congress; and outlines objectives for the Congress that are primarily advanced through the annual scientific meeting and publication of the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences. The *By-laws*: define the membership of the Liaison Committee, designate an executive that will alternate between the Canadian Neurological Society and the Canadian Neurosurgical Society; outline the role of the Congress Secretariat; list the functions of the twice-yearly meetings of the Liaison Committee; define specific committees; indicate procedures for financial accounting and reporting; and, describe a procedure for amendments.

During the June, 1989 Congress meeting in Ottawa, the proposed *Constitution and By-laws* of the C.C.N.S. will be presented to the members of the constituent societies at their Annual General Meetings. Members are encouraged to participate in these deliberations. If approved, the Liaison Committee will then take the legal steps necessary to become incorporated.

Canadian Neurological Society Newsletter

The Council and Executive of the Canadian Neurological Society thank the Editor and staff of the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences for this opportunity to advise members of several matters that will be important issues when the Society meets in Ottawa at the 24th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences.

The *Education and Manpower Committee*, chaired by Dr. Neelan Pillay, is undoubtedly the most active committee of the

Canadian Neurological Society. Recognizing the changing needs of neurological education, this committee met in Ottawa on 3 March, 1989 with the Royal College Neurology Committee, chaired by Dr. W.F. Logan, to plan revisions of the content of Neurology residency programs.

A "*Maintenance of Competence*" System for Specialists On 21 November, 1988, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada held a workshop on the topic of "Maintenance of Competence". The Royal College, which recognizes the sensitive nature of this issue, decided to assume responsibility for the development and application of an assessment system for specialists and has proposed a series of *essential* and *flexible choice* methods to achieve this objective. *Essential* components include written examinations, skills assessment, and review of records; *flexible choice* is suggested for courses, meetings, literature searches, scholarly activities, self-assessment schemes, clinical traineeships, and self-directed learning projects. Further information concerning the implementation of this scheme for the assessment of competence should be available at our Annual General Meeting in June, 1989.

Animals in Research Most of us take for granted the importance of animal research in the development of significant advances in medical knowledge, including diagnostic procedures and treatments. However, animal research is under attack by vocal groups of activists who want to prevent the use of animals in all medical research. Two organizations have requested our help in countering the opponents of medical progress. *Partners in Research* (P.O. Box 192, Station B, London, Ontario, N6A 4V6) is an organization of concerned Canadians whose motto is "Medical Research *Must Continue*"; this group deserves our support as they try to alert the public to the need for sound medical research.

Dr. David H. Hubel, President of the Society for Neuroscience, has also requested the assistance of Canadian neurologists in his efforts to mobilize support for animal research. Dr. Hubel reminds us that we can have a meaningful impact by discussing the importance of animal research with patients, medical colleagues, non-medical friends, and politicians.

World Congress of Neurology The XIVth meeting of this group will be held in New Delhi, India from 22-27 October, 1989. "Conference Travel of Canada Inc." (102 Bloor Street West, Suite 620, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1M8) is the Canadian travel coordinator for this meeting.

C.C.N.S. Annual Meeting, Ottawa, 14-17 June, 1989 Through their scientific program and innovative social events, the organizers of the Ottawa Congress have aimed to continue the fine tradition of multidisciplinary collegiality that was so evident at the highly successful meeting last year in Quebec City. If you have not received information about the meeting, please contact the Congress Secretariat at 116C, 1330 - 15 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T3C 3N6.

Membership Encourage your colleagues who are not members of the C.N.S. to join by writing Dr. C.W. McCormick, Secretary-Treasurer, Box 2148, Dickson Centre, Victoria General Hospital, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 2Y9. Neurology residents can become junior members.