Dedication to E. Bruce Hendrick

You lose and you lose often . . .
But when you win, you’re king for a day!

Bruce Hendrick expressed this neurosurgical credo to me in early 1965. No doubt it was a sentiment felt by many neurosurgeons of that time. Armed with the arteriograph-ic, myelographic or ventricular puncture needle, our heroes did the best which they could with inferential investigative data obtained in patients who were desperately ill. How spoiled we are with the intimidating wonders of computed tomography, enhanced three-dimensional reconstructed magnetic resonance imaging and the microscope, laser, ultrasonic aspirator and solid state monitoring devices. A vein of Galen malformation may still resemble a ‘basket of quivering serpents’ as Bruce once described it but now it is likely to shrivel into oblivion with neuro-interventional treatment.

The famous homilies of the man always brought us back to fundamental principals of neurosurgical practice. In his earlier editorial in this journal – ‘Whatever mother says’ – Bruce in three words summed up a lifetime of practice urging us to pay attention to the importance of history gathering [1]. How many of us recall these fatherly words of wisdom dispersed at random while he sat fielding phone calls and recreating the battle of the Boyne?

Bruce was somewhat more restrained in his publications. As he authored in excess of 80 papers and has served as the first Editor-in-Chief of this journal, originally known as Pediatric Neurosience, the editorial board has asked me to put together this tribute issue to Canada’s
first pediatric neurosurgeon. We invited all former neurosurgical residents and fellows of The Hospital for Sick Children to contribute a paper. Within a week of mailing my letter to the 125 or so men and women I was delighted to hear back of their acceptance, from several of them (see list which follows). Many regret that they are unable to contribute because of the non-pediatric nature of their practices, whereas some others have tailored their reported adult experience to the children’s setting.
The final selection of the papers contained in this special issue was a difficult one for me. There was a need to address intrinsic scientific merit and relevance to pediatric neurosurgery, and at the same time capture the spirit which Bruce might have provoked in the author, many years ago. Obviously, we could only publish a limited number of the many manuscripts which were received, and thus we have focused on areas of particular interest to Bruce – hydrocephalus, spinal dysraphism, trauma, and tumor control. To those authors whose papers are not found herein, I can assure you that they will appear in sub-
sequent issues. I believe that the presentations contained in this journal have been a labour of love for the authors. It certainly has been for me.

Robin P. Humphreys Toronto (Canada)

Reference


The following men and women have contributed manuscripts for this issue of Pediatric Neurosurgery. Unfortunately some papers could not be included and they will appear at a later date.

Brien G. Benoit, Ottawa, Canada
Mark Bernstein, Toronto, Canada
Michael Beazer, Sydney, Australia
D. Douglas Cochrane, Vancouver, Canada
Kerry R. Cowie, Cincinnati, USA
Michael D. Cusimano, Toronto, Canada
Marcia da Silva, Toronto, Canada
James M. Devic, Toronto, Canada
Michael P. Feibel, Ft Lauderdale, USA
Liliana Goumerova, Boston, USA
Fred Gorn, Toronto, Canada
Abhijit Guha, Boston, USA
Derek C. Harwood-Nash, Toronto, Canada
Dan S. Hoffer, Chicago, USA
Anthony D. Hockley, Birmingham, UK
Harold J. Hoffman, Toronto, Canada
William J. Howes, Halifax, Canada
Robin P. Humphreys, Toronto, Canada
Roberto Jaimovich, Buenos Aires, Argentina