Editorial

David G. McLone
Editorial Comment by Dr. Robin Humphreys, President of the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons
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On January 31st, 1992, David McLone, professor of surgery at the Northwestern University Medical School and chairman, Pediatric Neurosurgery, Children’s Memorial Hospital, Chicago, completed his 2-year term as president of the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons (ASPN). Perhaps, there has been no other time in its history to date when the Society has demanded of its president such articulation of purpose, intense negotiation and plain hard work, as during David’s tenure. It may not be easy to appreciate, even from his presidential address which is found in this issue, just how involved is the process of organizing accreditation and fellowship recognition for those duly qualified in pediatric neurosurgery.
Born in Michigan, David obtained his medical degree from the University of Michigan but thereafter made Illinois his home. He has remained in Chicago except for a 2-year stint with the United States Public Health Service in Atlanta. After establishing his skills as a clinical pediatric neurosurgeon, David also placed himself in the vanguard of scientific neurosurgery when in 1974, he secured his PhD from Northwestern University. That set the stage for his entry into the Laboratory for Oculo-Cerebrospinal Investigation, of which he is now chief. A recent paper from that laboratory and published in this journal documented what he considered his signal work on experimental neurulation and closure defects [1].
His commitment to children with spina bifida and their families is outstanding. Each summer he personally attends the Lake Forest Camp which he founded for children with myelodysplasia. Clearly, David is the national authority on this birth defect, a fact recognized by the many humanitarian awards which he has received including the 1988 Man of the Year Award from the Guardians of Hydrocephalus.
David’s greeting smile and twinkling eyes reflect his love of career and life. His days at the Children’s Memorial Hospital are fully occupied and his teaching accomplishments along with those of his colleagues have established the Children’s Memorial Hospital as one of the flagships of pediatric neurosurgical programs in the United States. He cherishes and indeed is cherished by his family – Noreen, 5 children and now 2 grandchildren. They give him space and no doubt intramural challenge for his running which he sometimes madly pursues across icy, wind-swept lake front parks. North on the Lake Michigan coast in Wisconsin, he realizes his solitude at his cottage where he golfs and fishes.
David has established scientific and clinical credentials as a leading North American pediatric neurosurgeon. He has proven himself inquiring, thoughtful and patient. To these attributes one must add his executive skills of focused dedication and leadership. The ASPN of which he is a founding member is indebted to David for his experience and wisdom.
Reference
1 McLone DG, Knepper PA: The cause of Chiari II malformation: A unified theory. Pediatr Neurosci 1989;15:1–12.