Editorial

T.G.	Thomas G.	Luerssen
B.B.	Bruce	Storrs
J.H.	Jeffrey	Wisoff

In 1978, a, small group, of, neurosurgeons neurosurgery founded the American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery. Thewho, were, dedicated to, pediatric, annual meetings of this new organization would last for a week, and every attendee, member and guest, was required to present a paper. Because of the small size of the society, the presentations were extensive as was the subsequent discussion. Furthermore, it was required that each paper presented at the meeting be submitted for publication. These papers, which represented the scientific record of each annual meeting, were published in a monograph format entitled Concepts in Pediatric Neurosurgery. Eleven volumes of this popular series have been published to date.

Over the years, the society has grown in numbers and has expanded its mission. Now known as the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons (ASPN), the group has grown from less than 20 to over 60 members in both the United States and Canada and includes several corresponding members from around the world. The growth of the society has required not only that the annual meeting format be changed (it is now more ‘conventional’) but also that the society seek a new organ for the dissemination of scientific information related to pediatric neurosurgery. The journal you are now reading has recently become the official journal of the ASPN. This past year, while the membership of the ASPN embraced the necessary changes for the future of the speciality and the society that now represents it, it also sought a mechanism of recognizing the scientific contributions that appeared in Concepts. Ultimately, the Education Committee was charged with the task of reviewing all of the original Concepts for the purpose of selecting those articles that best reflected the character of those first meetings. This occasional series of articles is initiated in this issue of Pediatric Neurosurgery. The papers presented should not necessarily be considered ‘classical’ or ‘historical’ although some of them will arguably be so. Instead, they should be read as an indication of the broad variety of interests and expertise of the pediatric neurosurgeons who were part and parcel of the development of pediatric neurosurgery during that time. Each article is followed by a comment from the senior author, which should serve to place the paper in perspective.

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