Preface

The 4th Congress of the Asian Society for Stereotactic, Functional and Computer-Assisted Neurosurgery (ASSFCN IV) was successfully held in Beijing from October 29 to November 2, 2000, sponsored by the Chinese Medical Association and Navy General Hospital under the presidency of Professor Wang Chung-cheng. The earlier conferences were held in Singapore (1994), Karuizawa (1996) and Seoul (1999), respectively. The total number of delegates at this conference was listed as 276, and 13 countries and areas were represented. Of the 316 papers presented in the scientific sessions, 245 were from China, 21 from Japan, 13 from Korea, and 37 shared amongst the other countries, notably France, Australia, India, Austria, USA, Italy, Malaysia, Singapore, Germany and Taipei of China. More than 200 young Chinese neurosurgeons participated in this congress and presented many beautiful papers, which reflected on the growing activity of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery in China. A concurrent exhibition of medical equipment was also staged during the congress. Many famous neurosurgical experts were invited to deliver wonderful special lectures and reviews, and the contacts and friendships made during the congress cannot but help to improve cooperation and understanding between countries.

Throughout the conference, oral and poster presentations were held simultaneously in different rooms. The chairmanship was friendly but firm, timekeeping was good and it was unusual to find sessions running out of phase. The major topics addressed included Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorder, Deep Brain Stimulation, Epilepsy, Radiosurgery, Pain, Minimally Invasive Neurosurgery and Endoscopy, New Techniques and others. The conference covered new concepts, developments and achievements in the stereotactic, functional and computer-assisted neurosurgical field in Asia from the last congress held in Seoul on June 13–16, 1999. This conference added rare insights to every participant and newer dimensions to our exciting knowledge and greater awareness of each other's work. Not only did we share our experiences, but we also identified our challenges in the new century. We are sure that all the participants felt that this congress, held in the end of the 20th century, will, no doubt, play an important role in the further development of stereotactic, functional and computer-assisted neurosurgery in China and in Asia.

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