Editorial Comment

As we examined over the past year ways in which this journal might best serve its readership, an often repeated request was to incorporate a number of special features. Topic reviews, equipment critiques, case reports, a calendar, and socio-economic reports all bring highly practical, timely, and expert information together in an organized and familiar format. The type of feature perhaps most sought was that of a Technique review, a 'How to' contribution by a recognized authority on a given procedure.

In this issue, the first such feature is introduced. No new procedure in stereotaxy is more appropriate a subject than deep brain stimulator implantation, and we are fortunate to have Philip Starr, MD, PhD, of the University of California San Francisco, bring his experience and expertise to the cause. There will always be many ways to accomplish a surgical task, and the effective strategies, tricks, and nuances each neurosurgeon employs are recognizably many. In the current piece, Dr. Starr shares his. For those less experienced or familiar with electrode implantation as well as for many with years of experience, it is an instruction that should serve all very well.

The recent meeting of the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery in New York (May 18–21, 2003) was generally agreed upon to have been outstanding in all respects but surely most for its scientific innovation and excitement. It broke new ground in a number of areas, particularly in the neurophysiology of both normal and pathological conditions and most provocatively in its exploration of the brain-machine interface. In addition to opening new territory in functional neurosurgery, the meeting brought an abundance of new faces, and if the quality of their work is any indicator of the health of our field, we are truly in great shape. There will be no dearth of respected experts ready and able to be featured in the journal.

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Editor-in-Chief