

Broca's Area

The Voice of Texas Neurology

President's Message

J. Douglas Hudson, MD



It has been said that if the only benefit we obtained from the invention of the CT scanner was visualization of ventricular size that Hounsfield would still go down in history as a neurological icon. Those of us who recall observing or performing the most barbaric neurological procedure of the 20th century, the pneumoencephalogram, will understand the significance of this statement. It is mind boggling to think about the advances in our specialty over the past 25 years. Now, only our imagination is the limiting factor to predict how we will practice neurology in 2025.

Possibly, we will have scanners to visualize the dynamic activity of every vessel and every organ leaving spectroscopy to measure every known (many unknown today) chemical or hematological value. Once through this rapid sequence of testing a differential diagnosis will be printed out for another computer's analysis. EMG, EEG and other electrophysiological tests will be done in similar futuristic fashion.

Will this make our job easier or even eliminate our need altogether? Not likely. In concert with the diagnostic testing advances there will be a better understanding of the cause and treatment of diseases we know today only by name. How to keep up with this explosive growth? Read, search the Internet, attend scientific meetings, participate in research protocols, and stay in communication with your colleagues and so on.

The American Academy of Neurology provides us with more information than we can absorb. Many of us select subsections of interest such as movement disorders, epilepsy, etc. Even still we cannot remain insular as we are expected to be knowledgeable about all of neurology if for no other reason to appropriately triage the patient.

On a state level, the Texas Neurological Society, formed in 1975, has grown to be an outstanding organization of which we can all be proud. The AAN can't do it all. The TNS has chosen to take the highlights of advances and present them in an annual Winter Conference. Thanks to program chairman Dr. Gary Tunell and president Dr. Martin Heitzman, our most recent conference was given a five star rating by the attendees. Our new program chairman is Dr. Steven Herzog who welcomes any suggestions you may have for our 4th annual Winter Conference in Austin on February 16-18, 2001. Read more about this conference in this issue of *Broca's Area*.

Beginning this fall, the TNS is presenting two half-day presentations to primary care physicians on the early diagnosis and treatment of Parkinson's disease and epilepsy. This educational series is underwritten with an unrestricted grant by Glaxo Wellcome. This first year we have chosen the cities of Tyler and McAllen for the lectures which we anticipate will not only spread the word of neurology and the TNS but will make our job easier when it comes to treating the more advanced stages of neurological disease.

My goal for the year 2000 is to double the membership in TNS from 333 to 666. Please join me in recruiting those neurologists who are not members. If the \$75 annual dues are too much let us know and we can work something out. Don't be a NON-MEMBER...... JOIN the most dynamic state neurological society. It could be embarrassing if the primary care doctors attending the TNS educational series discover you are not a member of TNS. And heaven forbid if a plaintiff's attorney found out.

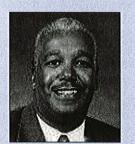
Plan to attend the 2001 Winter Conference. Mark your calendar now. Keep up to date, meet your colleagues, have fun in Austin.

Doug Hudson, M.D. (512) 916-3646, voice mail. Call anytime, or e-mail jdh@texas.net.

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Dr. Heitzman welcomes Dr. Hudson as the incoming TNS president



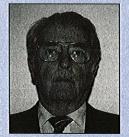
William H. Fleming, III, MD



Eugene C. Lai, MD, PhD



Steven Herzog, MD



William J. Riley, MD, PhD

TNS Officers Elected for 2000-2001

The executive board and the TNS membership approved the 2000-2001 officers for Texas Neurological Society. J. Douglas Hudson, MD, Austin, president, and William H. Fleming, III, MD, Houston, as president-elect. Eugene C. Lai, MD, PhD, Houston, will complete a second term vice president, overseeing the Young Investigator Award. Gary Tunell, MD, Dallas, assumes the office of secretary-treasurer, while his office partner Steven Herzog, MD, takes over as program chair. William J. Riley, MD, PhD, Houston; Susan Blue, MD, Fort Worth; and Preston Harrison, Jr, MD, Tyler continue as members-at-large, each serving a staggered three-year term. Gage Van Horn, III, MD of Houston is the new editor

of *Broca's Area*. Philip J. Leonard, MD, and Edward J. Fox, MD, both in the Austin area, will serve as delegates to the Texas Medical Association's Interspecialty Society Committee (ISC). The ISC is TNS' voice to the TMA House of Delegates.

Many thanks to Martin Heitzman, MD of El Paso for his hard work as 1999-2000 president. *Broca's Area* will introduce you to a few of these new officers in each upcoming issue.

J. Douglas Hudson, MD - President. Dr. Hudson began his private practice of neurology in Austin in 1967 following his residency in Neurology at the University of Iowa. Born in Oklahoma, he graduated from Paschal High School in Fort Worth before attending Texas Tech University on a football scholarship. He followed in his father's footsteps and obtained a Master's in business at Northwestern University. Then on to medical school at the University of Texas in Galveston.

Dr. Hudson is board certified in Neurology, NeuroRehabilitation and Sleep Medicine. In addition to his duties as President of the Texas Neurological Society for 2000 he is the 2001 President-Elect for the Capital Area Division of the American Heart Association. He currently serves as Chairman of the Seton Hospital League House Board and is a member of the board of Shoal Creek Hospital in Austin.

Past activities include serving as neurological consultant to the Women's Athletic Department at the University of Texas in Austin, editorial consultant to the TMA Journal Texas Medicine and as an examiner for the American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry.

William H. Fleming, III, MD - President-Elect. Dr. Fleming received his medical degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine and is in private practice in Houston. He is president of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, and also serves on the board of directors of the Federation of State Medical Boards. Dr. Fleming is a member of American, Texas and Harris County Medical Societies and the Mayo Alumni Association. He was elected Vice-Speaker of the Texas Medical Association's House of Delegates during their annual meeting in May.

Eugene C. Lai, MD, PhD - Vice President. Dr. Lai received his bachelor degree in Biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin and his doctorate degree, also in Biochemistry, from the University of Washington. He then studied Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and completed his Neurology residency training at Baylor Affiliated Hospitals in Houston. He is presently an Associate Professor of Neurology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Dr. Lai is a clinician scientist who has special interests in the causes and treatments of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease (AD), Parkinson's disease (PD), and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). He is the principal investigator or coinvestigator of many clinical research studies. They include studies of the epidemiology of PD in Harris County, improvement of quality of life in ALS patients, surgical treatments of PD, and new drugs for AD. He is an active staff of the Baylor Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and the director of the Movement Disorder Clinic at the Houston VA Medical Center. He has lectured widely on topics in neurodegenerative diseases. He and his wife Yung have two daughters.

Steven Herzog, MD - Program Chair. Steven Herzog, MD is a graduate of Arizona State University and received his medical degree from the University of Arizona College of

Medicine. He completed his neurological training at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas Parkland Memorial Hospital and served as Chief Resident in Neurology in 1988-1989. In 1989 he began private practice at Baylor University Medical Center while continuing as a Clinical Professor at the medical school. Presently, he is Director of Medical Education for the Department of Neurology at Baylor University Medical Center Dallas and Medical Director of The Headache Clinic at Texas Neurology, P.A; which focuses on clinical research and advanced therapies for the treatment of patients with acute and chronic headaches. Dr. Herzog also serves as Chairman of the 2001 Texas Neurological Society Winter Conference and is a frequent lecturer around the state.

Gary L. Tunell, MD - Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Tunell has served the TNS over the past two years as Program Chair for the Winter Conference. During his "spare time," Gary is Chief of Neurology at Baylor University Hospital in Dallas and is a founding partner of "Texas Neurology," an eight-physician group in Dallas at Baylor. In addition, he is a Clinical Professor of Neurology at Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. Dr. Tunell has a general practice of Neurology with interests in neurodegenerative disorders, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease, seizures, headaches, and peripheral neuropathics also occupy much of his day. Gary is a Missouri native, although trained at Southwestern under Dr. Roger Rosenberg in the Neurology Residency Program. Following a brief stint in the US Air Force, he has been at Baylor in Dallas since 1981.

William J. Riley, MD, PhD - Member at Large. Dr. Riley received his medical degree from the Pritzker School of Medicine of the University of Chicago. He has a master of science degree in neuroanatomy, and a PhD in neurology. Dr. Riley is a fellow member of the American Academy of Neurology and the American College of Physicians. He is in private practice in Houston, board certified in both neurology and child neurology. He has greatly contributed to the TNS over the years as chair of the ad hoc bylaws review committee. Dr. Riley is married to Margit Winstrom, MD. He enjoys cattle ranching in central Texas and trying to keep up with his eight kids.

Parkinson's Disease Study Needs Neurologists' Help

Eugene C. Lai, M.D., Ph.D.

Researchers at the Houston VA Medical Center and UT School of Public Health are studying the incidence of Parkinson's disease (PD), a common disorder for which the cause remains largely unknown. The prevalence of PD in the general population is approximately 0.3% (3 cases per 1,000), which increases with age up to 3% (30 cases per 1,000) in the 80-89 year age group. At the present time, crude estimates indicate that over 700,000 individuals in the US have PD, a number likely to increase to 900,000 by 2010. As a consequence, the public health impact of PD on health services continues to expand.

In order to describe the impact of PD in a large, multi-ethnic community, Eugene C. Lai, M.D., Ph.D. (Neurologist) and Stephen C. Waring, DVM, Ph.D. (Epidemiologist) and their team are currently engaged in a 3-year prospective study of PD among residents of Harris County from January 1, 1998 to December 31, 2001. This study is designed to determine the overall incidence of PD and the incidence of PD among the four predominant ethnic groups in Harris County (white, black, Hispanic, and Asian). This information is vital for assessing the current impact and the future health care needs associated with this disease in both Harris County and US. The researchers need the assistance of neurologists in Harris County in order to identify all newly diagnosed cases of Parkinsonism and Parkinson's disease from 1998 to present. The research team can obtain the information needed from the patient's medical record by chart review. All abstracted information will remain confidential without personal identification.

Ultimately, the researchers hope that this effort will provide a valuable resource for pursuing studies to determine the underlying cause(s) of PD with the ultimate goal of reducing individual risk for development of PD.

For additional information about this study, please call 713-794-7997.

Many Thanks to the Supporters of the TNS 2000 Winter Conference

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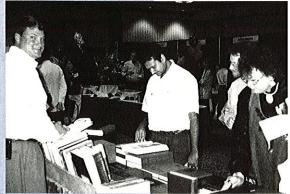
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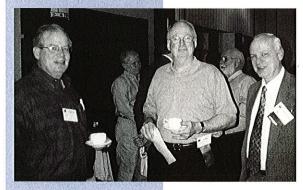
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2000 Winter Conference a Success!

Gary Tunell, MD

The Texas Neurological Society hosted a very successful Winter Conference in Austin on February 25, 26 and 27, 2000. Thirteen hours of CME credit and one hour of ethics were delivered during the conference in a "Ground Rounds" style presentation. All six neurology training programs in Texas were represented by faculty who gave presentations at the conference. The meeting was attended by 160 neurologists and neurological specialty nurses from across the state. Attendees thought the meeting was very high quality, informative and appropriate to the daily practice of neurology.

The society sponsored ten neurology residents at the meeting by the "Support Your Future Partner" program. Two resident members, Dr. Patrick Grogan and Dr. Ian Purcell were honored with "Young Investigator Awards" by the Society meeting.

Each year, attendance at the meeting has grown significantly due to the excellent presentations, the convenient central location, and the opportunity to renew friendships with colleagues from across the state. Next year's meeting is already being planned by Dr. Steve Herzog, Program Chair for the 2001 Conference. It will be held on February 16, 17 and 18, 2001 in Austin. Dr. Gary Tunell who has served as Program Chairman over the past two years has been installed as Secretary-Treasurer of the Society.

Generous financial support was received from 33 pharmaceutical companies who presented at the exhibit hall. We thank those vendors for their generous support, which helped pay honoraria for speakers at the conference.

Dr. Martin Heitzman, the 2000 President of TNS, conducted the business meeting at the conference. This included installing new officers and voting on new members.

Make your plans now for attending the 4th Annual TNS Winter Conference in Austin, February 16-18, 2001.

Medicare Interpretation in Northern California a Victory for Neurologists

In a victory for neurologists, the Northern California Medicare carrier, NHIC, recently announced that physical therapists may not perform or be reimbursed for the professional component of EMGs for Medicare patients in California.

"The message from California is that organized efforts by neurologists can make a difference," said Rebecca Hanson, MD, president of the Association of California Neurologists (CAN). "The determination by NHIC sets a precedent not only for California, but for Medicare carriers throughout the country."

The previous policy allowed certified physical therapists to perform and seek reimbursement for EMGs. The new statement clarifies that physical therapists are limited to the technical component of such tests. This ruling also affirms the specialty-trained physician's role in the professional component of diagnostic tests.

The CAN, in collaboration with the AAN, has been advocating to clarify local Medicare carrier policies and to sunset an existing law in California which allows physical therapists the freedom to perform EMGs without supervision by MDs.

Welcome from the Editor

Gage Van Horn, III, MD

I am pleased to assume the editorship of *Broca's Area*, a publication I have watched grow under the leadership of the founding editor, Tom Hutton. I thank Doug Hudson and the executive committee for their vote of confidence. Let me assure the TNS membership that I will endeavor to keep up the standards set by Dr. Hutton. This year at the annual winter conference, I whispered to Tom whose presentation followed Stan Appel's talk on ALS, "I'm certainly glad I don't have to follow that act." Stan, of course, is one of neurology's outstanding lecturers, and a tough act to follow. Hours later, I thought along the same lines when Tom asked me if I would be interested in becoming the second editor of *Broca's Area*. Of course, Tom's talk was certainly up to standards. The membership will have to decide how well I do.

J. Thomas Hutton, MD has been instrumental in promoting the fortunes of the Texas Neurological Society. Many years ago, while attending the annual TMA meeting shortly after his return to Texas, Tom stumbled almost accidentally upon a meeting of the Texas Neurological Society. He was surprised that the meeting was so sparsely attended, given the fact that the presentations were so good. He joined the society shortly thereafter, served as Vice-President in 1991/1992, and became President in 1992/1993. As president of the society, he set two goals that have been reached or surpassed. First, he sought a better relationship and collaboration with the Texas Medical Association. Prior to our linking with the TMA office of sub-specialties, we had interminable delays in such menial chores as changing the signers on our bank accounts and even admitting new members to the society. Today, our relationship with the TMA is flourishing, everything works well with Rachael Reed serving as executive director, and our membership is now at new heights. Tom's second goal was to develop an effective means of communication between the executive committee and the TNS members, culminating in the initial publication of Broca's Area in the winter of 1993. Mike Merrin of San Antonio suggested the name, but Tom and his wife Trudy provided the drive and know-how for the publication's success. Broca's Area has provided information relevant to the TNS membership including topics such as physical therapists doing EMG studies, the Clinton Healthcare Plan, the motorcycle helmet laws, and the Texas Department of Insurance development of patient protection rules. The society indeed owes Tom a debt of gratitude for his efforts on our behalf. Thanks also go to Trudy Hutton, working pro bono as managing editor, for her technical expertise, attention to detail, and proofreading ability.

The major sections of *Broca's Area* will remain unchanged. This includes sections such as the President's Message, advance notices of the program at the Annual Winter Conference, and major practice issues facing TNS members. I hope to establish a new section - abstracts of recent articles published in refereed journals by Texas' authors. Rachael Reed and her staff will assume the duties of managing editor. We welcome all articles and letters from TNS members on subjects of interest to the membership. Rachael and I will from time to time solicit submissions from individual members. Please forward all contributions to either Rachael or me.

TNS Announces Educational Series

Glaxo Wellcome has offered the Texas Neurological Society an unrestricted educational grant for physician education this year. The TNS board has decided to start a TNS Educational Series for Primary Care Physicians. The goal is to educate primary care physicians on the early diagnosis and treatment of Parkinson's Disease and Epilepsy. There is a need for this specialized training in the far corners of Texas. The first two meetings will be held in Tyler and McAllen. If the program is well received, it will be repeating in other smaller cities.

The meetings will be held on a Saturday morning, with one speaker on each topic, followed by lunch. Please spread the word in your community. Invitations will be sent to primary care doctors this summer. For more information, contact the TNS office.



Mark Your Calendar!

Texas Neurological Society's 4th Annual Winter Conference

February 16-18, 2001 Marriott at the Capitol

The Texas Neurological Society invites you and your guest to the 2001 Winter Conference and Annual Meeting to be held in beautiful downtown Austin, during the legislative session.

The Winter Conference will feature a two and one-half day CME program, social events, and spouse activities.

Look for a detailed program and registration brochure this Fall.

Welcome New Members

The following members were voted in during the Winter Conference in February

Active Members

Arlington Robert E. McMichael, MD

> Austin Susan Epner, MD Rajat Gupta, MD Tom Hill, MD

Dallas Waleed H. El-Feky, MD Steven Herzog, MD Jorge Romero, MD Hal Unwin, MD

El Paso Richard Brower, MD

Fort Worth William Bradley, MD Jung Cheng, MD

> Galveston Lilly Chen, MD

Houston James Ferrendelli, MD Sheila Jacobson, MD William Ondo, MD Amitabh Shukla, MD

Lubbock Bhupesh Dihenia, MD

Longview Mary Kerber, MD Richardson

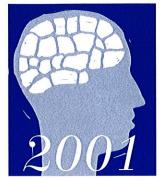
John Harney, MD

Associate Members

Austin Anant Patel, MD El Paso Philip LoPiccolo, MD

Resident Members

Houston Jennifer Lynch, MD Yu-Tze Ng, MD Gautham P. Reddy, MD



Young Investigator Award

Eugene C. Lai, MD, PhD, TNS Vice President Baylor College of Medicine

Our Society presents an annual award to young investigators to encourage and reward academic efforts in neuroscience. Residents, medical or graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows from any neurology training program in Texas may submit a paper of original research in the basic or clinical neurosciences for the contest. The Vice President of the Society serves as Chairman of the Selection Committee whose members

also include directors of neurology residency programs in Texas or their representatives. Candidates submit papers for review to the designated committee member in their institution, who then selects the best papers (maximum of one submission in basic neuroscience and one in clinical neuroscience) from his/her institution to send for final competition by December 1 of each year. The Committee as a whole then reviews the final submissions and chooses the winners. There is a first prize in basic and clinical neuroscience, respectively. Each includes \$750, a Certificate of Achievement, and a trip to the TNS Winter Conference to present the paper.

The 1999-2000 Young Investigator Award Selection Committee included Eugene Lai (Chairman), Richard Barohn (UT Southwestern), John Calverley (UTMB), Dennis Mosier (Baylor), Mya Schiess (UT Houston), and David Sherman (UT San Antonio). We had an enthusiastic response to our call for papers and the committee members worked together most cooperatively to select the eventual winners.

The winner in Basic Neuroscience was Dr. Ian Purcell who is a graduate of the UT Medical Branch M.D./Ph.D. program. His paper was entitled "Peripheral patterns of terminal innervation of vestibular primary afferent neurons projecting to the vestibulo-cerebellum in gerbil". Dr. (Captain) Patrick Grogan, who is a neurology resident at Wilford Hall Medical Center, won the Clinical Neuroscience award. His paper was entitled "Steroid, acyclovir and facial nerve decompression for Bell's palsy: an evidence-based review". Both winners attended the TNS 2000 Winter Conference in Austin and presented their papers to a packed audience. Their abstracts also appear in this issue of our newsletter.

The Selection Committee is already busy planning for next year's awards. We encourage all potential candidates to start preparing for their submissions. The deadline for submission is November 15, 2000.



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Steroid, Acyclovir and Facial Nerve Decompression for Bell's Palsy: An Evidence-based Review

ABSTRACT

Patrick Grogan, MD

Young Investigator Award - 1st Place Clinical Neuroscience

Objective: To compare the effects of prednisone, acyclovir, and facial nerve decompression in treating patients with Bell's palsy. Methods: A systematic review and analysis of the literature was performed to identify articles focusing on the treatment of Bell's palsy. A thorough study design analysis was performed on each study identified. Relative rates of either "good" or "complete" recovery were calculated, along with 95% confidence intervals, based on published results for all modalities. Results: all studies reporting a benefit from the different treatment modalities suffer from serious methodological flaws. The studies reporting no benefit were not sufficiently powered to exclude any clinically significant benefit, or any clinically significant harm. Side effects reported with use of steroids or acyclovir were minimal, whereas more severe effects (i.e. deafness) were seen with surgery. Conclusion: There is, currently, insufficient evidence to support or recommend the routine use of prednisone, acyclovir, or facial nerve decompression in the management of Bell's palsy.

Peripheral Patterns of Terminal Innervation of Vestibular Primary Afferent Neurons Projecting to the Vestibulo-Cerebellum in Gerbil

ABSTRACT

Ian Purcell, MD, PhD

Young Investigator Award - 1st Place Basic Neuroscience

Retrograde transganglionic labeling techniques utilizing Biotinylated Dextran Amines (BDA) were performed to examine the terminal field structure and regional patterns of innervation of vestibular primary afferent neurons projecting to the cerebellar uvula/nodulus and flocculus in the gerbil. Robust dark labeling in the vestibular periphery suggests that the vast majority of the terminals of afferent neurons projecting to these sites were of the dimorphic type with the majority (94% to the uvula/nodulus and 100% to the flocculus) innervating the peripheral zones of the anterior, posterior, and horizontal semicircular canal cristae. The uvula/nodulus receives strong input from primary otolith afferent neurons identified as dimorphic in type and predominately innervating the peristriolar zones of the utricular and saccular maculae. Our data show no direct otolith input to the flocculus. Comparison of the type and distribution of these neurons across the canalicular sensory neuroepithelium to morphophysiological studies in chinchilla (Baird et al. 1988; Goldberg et al. 1990a-c, 1992), suggest that this population consists predominantly of the lower to intermediate-gain more regularly firing, tonic afferents. Similar comparison suggests the otolith input is predominantly irregular firing, high-gain, phasic neurons with fewer (extrastriolar) more regular firing, lower-gain, tonic neurons. This study not only identifies the terminal field structure and regional distributions of vestibular primary afferent neurons providing input to the secondary neurons of the vestibulo-cerebellum and associated reflex pathways, but also provides valuable insight to their performance characteristics and how sensory information is relayed to the subsystems of the central vestibular system. This is the first time the peripheral regional distributions of retrograde transganglionically labeled peripheral terminal fields of vestibular primary afferent neurons projecting to the cerebellar cortex has been described in mammals.



Broca's Area Call for Newsletter Articles

Who:

Texas Neurological Society members

What:

Submissions for Fall 2000 issue of Broca's Area. Send in your paper or abstract for consideration. We also invite your "neurodotes," case anecdotes or vignettes about the history of neurology.

Where:

Send to: Gage Van Horn, III, MD, Editor, 6431 Fannin St # 7.044 Houston,TX 77030-1501 phone: (713) 500-7119; fax: (713) 500-7019 e-mail: Gage.Van.Horn@ uth.tmc.edu (e-mail format is preferable)

When:

Send to Dr.Van Horn by October 15

Why:

To get involved with your society and communicate with your colleagues across the state.



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Broca's Area

A periodic newsletter of the Texas Neurological Society

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Inaugural Fellow Members Elected

Congratulations to the 21 newly-elected Fellow Members in the Society. Fellow membership is a new category, made possible by a 1999 bylaws change. Fellows must have been Active members for at least seven years, have attended at least five annual meetings, and have demonstrated special achievement in the neurosciences. If you would like to be considered for Fellow Membership, contact the TNS office for an application at (512) 370-1532. Fellows voted on by the membership during the 2000 Winter Conference are:

Stanley Appel, MD, Houston Dan Bartel, MD, Wichita Falls Cesar de Jesus, MD, San Antonio Peyton Delaney, MD, San Antonio Randolph Evans, MD, Houston Fayaz Faiz, MD, Houston Robert Fayle, MD, Houston William Gilmer, MD, Houston Alan Halliday, MD, San Antonio Martin Heitzman, MD, El Paso Leonard Hershkowitz, MD, Houston J. Douglas Hudson, MD, Austin J. Thomas Hutton, MD, PhD, Lubbock Joseph Jankovic, MD, Houston Philip J. Leonard, MD, Austin Randall Light, MD, Bryan Raymond Martin, MD, Houston Shirley Molenich, MD, Fort Worth Stanton Moldovan, MD, Houston Irwin Novak, MD, Houston William J. Riley, MD, PhD, Houston Gage Van Horn, III, MD, Houston