



# Broca's Area

The Voice of Texas Neurology

Spring 1997

## Words from the President

Ed Garrison, MD

I want to bring you up to date on the issue of the physical therapist doing electromyography. The Legislative Affairs Office of the Texas Medical Association recently forwarded to me some materials which included documents previously sent to the Attorney General's office. As you may recall from my last message, the Board of Medical Examiners elected to make no ruling on this matter and forwarded it to the Attorney General instead for an opinion on whether or not performing needle EMG represented rendering a diagnosis. The Board of Medical Examiners did rule that EMG was the practice of medicine, but stated that medical practice could be performed by non physicians in some cases. Medical diagnosis, on the other hand, is the sole purview of physicians. To date there has been no opinion from the Attorney General. I was given a copy of a letter from one of the members of the Board of Medical Examiners which

more or less characterized this issue as a turf battle. This physician pointed out that physical therapists and chiropractors already do EMG in many places, implying that the question is moot.

I am discouraged by this lack of support from the Board. If we get an unfavorable ruling from the Attorney General, there will be little else we can do at the level of the Board. We always have the option of trying to get favorable laws passed by the Legislature, but they will not be excited about the prospect of such a restricted, technical issue. We obviously failed to sway the Board of Medical Examiners with our opinions, and they are physicians themselves. Explaining our viewpoint to members of the Legislature will be more difficult.

I would suggest that all of us monitor the quality of any EMG studies done by physical therapists in our respective local areas. Any (continued page 2)

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### Words from the President

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substandard studies should be presented to the local medical society for review. This will increase awareness of other physicians in the community and may give pause to anyone who might refer patients to a physical therapist for EMG.



On a more pleasant note, the Texas Neurological Society continues to prosper. We are doing well financially and continue to grow the membership. There are still a large number of neurologists in the state who are not members. Please take a moment to look in the directory to see who in your community is not a member, but should be. Encourage your colleagues to join.

I look forward to seeing you all in Houston. The scientific program and social activities for this year's meeting look especially interesting and entertaining.

### Membership Report

The Texas Neurological Society presently has 268 members. All Texas neurologists are encouraged to join the Society in order to strengthen Texas Neurology and to have a strong organization representing Texas neurologists to work for the improvement of health care as it relates to neurology in our state.

Active Members	225	Charter Life	8
Charter Active	39	Charter Honorary	2
Residents	25	Associate Members	2
Life Members	4	Honorary	1
Active Out of State	4		

To learn more about membership in the TNS call the TNS office at 800-880-1300, ext. 1532 or 512-370-1532.

### New CME License Requirements Allow

The Texas State Board of Medical Examiners recently amended continuing medical education (CME) requirements for physicians renewing their Texas license. The first provision, to take effect beginning with the February, 1997, annual registrations, allows physicians to carry over excess hours earned during one reporting period into the next two years. Currently, physicians are required to earn 24 hours of CME per year, 12 of which must be in formal (Category 1) activities.

A second change concerns the subject matter of formal CME hours. Beginning in January, 1999, physicians will be required to obtain at least one hour of formal credit in the area of medical ethics and/ or professional responsibility.

The Texas Medical Association can furnish physicians with a CME documentation record to help keep track of CME hours earned. If you would like to obtain a copy, call Billie Dalrymple, CME Program Manager, Texas Medical Association, at (512) 370-1447.

*A drug is a substance that when injected into a ginnea pig produces a scientific paper.*

*Anonymous*

**Practice Opportunity Available for Neurologist**

Board certified/board eligible neurologist needed for a busy office/hospital practice. Near major metropolitan center and Gulf Coast. Send resume to Texas Neurological Society, 401 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS

J. Thomas Hutton, M.D.

### ***BICYCLE HELMETS FOR TEXANS***

At a time when motorcyclists literally surrounded the Texas Capital Building demanding repeal of the motorcycle helmet law, it is ironic that the movement to require bicycle helmets has gained momentum. Such are the vicissitudes of the political system. Texans for Bicycle Helmets Coalition held a press conference January 29 in Austin. Dr. Red Duke opened the press conference and answered several questions. Some 42,000 bicycle helmets have already been distributed to low income families. The Texas Department of Health has a grant that allows for distribution of an additional 16,000 helmets over the next several months. This represents a good start but is far from universal usage. A Texas Transportation survey reveals that only 13.9% of all ages wear helmets, and only 9.7% of children from five to fourteen years wear helmets.

Representative Bill Carter has introduced a bill for bicycle helmets for Texans (House Bill 797). The coalition has asked that all interested parties contact their hospitals or employees and flooded their legislators with requests to vote "aye" on this bill. As neurologists who all too often see first hand head injuries resulting from bicycling accidents, your voice would be heard.

### ***TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE ACCEPTING HMO COMPLAINTS***

TDI is continuing to accept complaints by physicians related to HMO prob-

lems. Quality of care concerns can be registered by obtaining a complaint form by calling 800-599-7467 or by asking TDI officials for assistance by calling 800-252-3439, or writing to Complaints, Life, Accident and Health Consumer Protection MC111-1A, TDI, PO Box 149104, Austin, Texas, 78714-9104.

The second number may be called to file complaints about HMOs, including concerns about quality care, availability, and accessibility of health care services. The mailing address is Quality Complaints Unit, HMO/URA Group MC 106-3A TDI, PO box 149104 Austin, Texas, 78714-9104.

### ***1997 MEDICARE PAYMENT CHANGES FOR NEUROLOGY***

The estimated net effect of Medicare payment changes suggests Neurology fares well. Using Houston and Dallas for comparison Neurology increases 0.6%, whereas Cardiac Surgery will fall -4%, Pathology down -5.7%, General Surgery -2.5%, and Ophthalmology down -5.5%. In addition to Houston and Dallas other areas increasing for Neurology 0.6% include Fort Worth, Austin, Beaumont, Galveston and Brazoria County. Other Neurology payment changes for Medicare anticipated include Abilene +2.3%, Amarillo 0.0%, Brownsville +2.8%, Corpus Christi -1.1%, Denton -2.6%, El Paso -5%, Grayson County +1.3%, Laredo +2.6%, Longview +1.0%, Lubbock +0.7%, McAllen +2.9%, and Midland -1.5%. The big winners in Medicare this year include Anesthesiology (up 5.2% in Dallas and Houston) and Psychiatry (up 3.6% in Dallas and Houston).



## Texas Neurological Society 1997 Program

### *The Peripheral Nervous System*

Friday, May 16, 1997

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

George R Brown Convention Center

#### *Morning Session*

Rooms 309A and B

9:00 a.m.

#### *Cervical and Lumbosacral Radiculopathies*

Asa Willbourn, M.D.,  
Cleveland, Ohio

10:00 a.m.

#### *Upper Extremity Entrapment Syndromes*

Daniel Deumitri, M.D.  
San Antonio, Texas

11:00 a.m.

#### *Small Fiber Peripheral Neuropathy*

Yadollah Harati, M.D.,  
Houston, Texas

#### *Noon*

TNS Executive Committee Meeting  
Convention Center  
Room 309D

#### *Afternoon Session*

2:00 p.m.

#### *Brachial and Lumbosacral Plexopathies*

Asa Willbourn, M.D.  
Cleveland, Ohio

3:00 p.m.

#### *Lower Extremity Entrapment Syndromes*

Daniel Deumitri, M.D.  
San Antonio, Texas

4:00 p.m.

#### *Large Fiber Peripheral Neuropathy*

Yadollah Harati, M.D.  
Houston, Texas

Saturday, May 17, 1997

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

#### *Morning Session*

Rooms 302C and D

9:00 a.m.

#### *Immune Mediated Neuropathies*

Richard Barohn, M.D., Dallas  
10:00 a.m.

#### *Movement Disorders Related to Peripheral Nerve Injury*

Jospeh Jankovic, M.D., Houston  
11:00 a.m.

#### *Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy*

Jose Ochoa, M.D., Ph.D.  
Portland Oregon

Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Texas Neurological Society  
Annual Luncheon/Business Meeting  
Rooms 305B and E

#### *Afternoon Session*

2:00 p.m.

Young Investigator's Award  
Legislative Update Regarding  
EMG's by Physical Therapists  
(Pending)

2:40 p.m.

#### *Controversies in Pallidotomy*

Gage Van Horn, M.D.  
Houston, Texas

3:40 p.m.

#### *New Treatment Options for Multiple Sclerosis*

J. Theodore Phillips, M.D.  
Irving, Texas

4:40 p.m.

#### *Organization of a Stroke Management Team*

James C. Gratta, M.D.  
Houston, Texas

## TNS Officers Nominated for 1997-98 Term

The executive committee of the Texas Neurological Society has approved the following slate of officers for nomination for the 1996-1997 term of office. Officers will be voted upon at the Annual TNS business luncheon meeting to be held at noon on Saturday, May 17, 1997 in Houston.

### **President**

Gage Van Horn, MD

### **President Elect**

Phil Leonard, MD

### **Vice President**

John Calverly, MD

### **Secretary-Treasurer**

Martin Heitzman, MD

### **Member at Large**

(3 year term)

Michael Douglas, MD

### **Immediate Past President**

Ed Garrison, MD

### **TNS Section Chairman**

Martin Heitzman, MD

### **Scientific Program Director and TNS Section Secretary**

Doug Hudson, MD

## Broca's Area

*A periodic newsletter of the  
Texas Neurological Society*

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*Inquiries about this newsletter or about TNS in  
general are welcome at the following address:*

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Austin, Texas 78701-1680  
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### 1996-97 Officers

#### President

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#### President-Elect

Gage Van Horn, MD  
6410 Fannin, #7044  
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(713) 794-5236

#### Vice President

Richard Homan, MD  
Department of Neurology  
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center  
Lubbock, Texas 79430  
(806) 743-2720

#### Secretary-Treasurer

Robert F. Leroy, MD  
7777 Forest Lane #B-410  
Dallas, Texas 75235  
214-661-7684

#### Member at Large

Blake B. O'Lavin, MD  
3006 South Alameda  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78404  
(512) 883-1731

#### Immediate Past President

Ernesto Infante, MD  
6448 Fannin  
Houston, Texas 77030  
(713) 797-9191

**The Annual Meeting of the Texas Neurological Society** will be held in Houston in conjunction with the Texas Medical Association Annual Session on May 16 and 17, 1997. An excellent scientific program has been planned by this year's program director, Martin Heitzman, M.D. For details of this year's program see page 4 of this issue.

Each year the Texas Neurological Society hosts a dinner for members and their guests following the scientific sessions. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know your colleagues from across the state.

This year's TNS Member's dinner will be a new and special experience on Saturday, May 17 at Magic Island in Houston. Magic Island is a magnificent club which combines magical entertainment with gourmet dining in the elegant decor of ancient

Egypt and Victorian England.

TNS members will enjoy a before dinner cocktail reception followed by a private candlelight dinner in an elegant dining room. The evening will continue with magic and comedy shows in the main theater. After the show all members will have an opportunity to dance, see close-up magic shows, have their

fortunes told or play blackjack before the evening ends.

Members attending the Magic Island dinner evening will be transported by bus from the Hyatt Regency to Magic Island.

All members of the Texas Neurological Society

are encouraged to attend the Members' dinner. Watch your mail for details about registration information for both the scientific sessions and the dinner.

**Plan to Attend!**  
*Texas Neurological Society*  
**Annual Meeting**  
 May 16-17, 1996  
 Houston  
 Scientific Program  
 Friday & Saturday  
 TNS Members' Dinner Saturday Night

Texas Neurological Society  
401 West 15th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701-1680

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