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*File: Spine Section
Fellowships*
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January 15, 1987

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Gentlemen:

At the recently concluded Joint Officer's meeting of the AANS and the CNS there was a unanimous decision of both executive bodies that Neurosurgery should proceed without delay to develop fellowships in spinal surgery. This, of course, is a complex situation and will require input from several different bodies.

The problems with funding, impact on neurosurgical residents, impact on neurosurgery programs, potential need for increased operating time, and impact upon orthopedic neurosurgical relationships are well appreciated.

The Executive Committee of the Joint Spinal Section led by Stewart Dunsker has asked that the American Board of Neurological Surgery discuss with the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery the possibility of their delaying or reversing their decision to proceed with a subcertification in spinal surgery for orthopedic surgery.

It is my understanding from recently meeting with the Spine Section leadership that they will proceed to develop recommendations and guidelines for the implementation of the fellowships in spinal surgery for Neurosurgery. Hopefully, some of the initial information will be presented to the Executive Committee of the Congress of Neurological Surgery which meets in February and also to the Executive Committee of the American Association of Neurological Surgery which will also meet in February.

Dr. Henry Garretson
Dr. Steve Mahaley

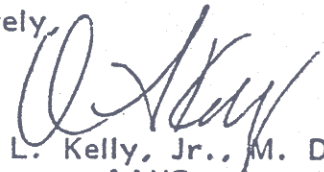
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The development of fellowships in neurological surgery has been long debated and discussed. It seems the opinion of many that we should now proceed to take action which in the long term will be in the best interest of our patients and specialty.

Sincerely,



David L. Kelly, Jr., M. D.
Secretary - AANS

DLK:gmm

cc: Dr. Ojemann
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