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September 21, 2001

## Dear Academicians:

After 29 years as a Neurosurgery service chief (13 years at MCV, 16 at UCLA), on July 1, 2001, I relinquished that leadership responsibility. Neil Martin is my successor in Los Angeles, which immensely pleases me. I am continuing as a residency program director and will also continue to be active in patient care, operative neurosurgery, teaching and research.

Residency training, operative neurosurgery, programmatic development and research have always been my primary professional interests. With fewer administrative chores I will now have more time to devote to those areas.

This past year I had a left hip replacement. That can often be a wonderful procedure and, in my case, it certainly was. I feel better and stronger (with lots of exercise) than I have in years, and my golf handicap is now going down rather than up.

Maria stopped her anesthesiology residency. It was a bit much for a surgically trained person to be standing "behind the table".

We are looking forward to seeing all Academy friends in Palm Beach in November.

Sincerely yours,

Donald P. Becker, M.D.

Director, UCLA Neurosurgery

**Brain Tumor Program** 

W. Eugene Stern Professor of Neurosurgery

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# NEUROSURGERY



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September 6, 2001

David P. Piepgras, M.D. Mayo Clinic 200 First St., S.W. Rochester, MN 55902

Dear Fellow Academicians:

This year my round robin letter will outline a busy schedule for both me and my family members. I have elected to retire from being Co-Chairman of the Clinical Neuroscience Department at Brown University and Neurosurgeon-in-Chief at Rhode Island Hospital on October 1, 2001. I will retain an Professor Emeritus appointment at the University. I have accepted the position of President of Sention Inc. a Providence based CNS pharmaceutical company with 2 lead compounds about to go onto clinical trials. Some of these drugs could have an impact on major neurosurgical problems such as the cognitive aftermath of patients with cerebral aneurysms and other disorders. All stages of life require an adjustment, and this is no exception. However, with a strong group at Brown which has been built over the last several years in Neurologic Surgery, I feel I have accomplished my goal when I originally took this position in 1985. We will continue to have contacts with both the neurosurgical group and the neuroscientists at Brown for both scientific and personal reasons.

My son Darin will be completing his dermatology residency at the University of Iowa this year and has enjoyed being in proximity to John Van Gilder, M.D. and the other superb clinicians at Iowa. He is currently the Chief Resident in the program. My second son and youngest child John has begun his ophthalmology training this past July at the Will's Eye FREDERICK HARRINGTON JR., M.D. Institute and is thoroughly enjoying himself. My daughter Kimberly has been involved in investment banking and consulting both in Europe and the United States.

> Our plans are to stay in Rhode Island for the long term. We enjoy the people and the ambiance. In addition, there are few places that are better suited for sailing. I am hoping to be at the Breakers Meeting in November, and look forward to seeing you all at that time. With a little bit of luck, Lynn will find time out of her busy schedule to join me on what promises to be an excellent meeting.

Sincerely yours.

Mel H. Epstein, M.D./ems Chairman and Professor

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Theodore S. Roberts, MD Professor Emeritus

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Department of Neurological Surgery University of Washington School of Medicine

September 12, 2001

David G. Piepgras, M.D., Secretary American Academy of Neurological Surgery Mayo Clinic 200 First Street SW Rochester, MN 55905

### Dear Fellow Round Robin Readers:

This year marks a definite change from my usual activities in that I have decided to start my retirement as of July, 2001. Our department has generously worked out an Emeritus Professorship and thus, still able to contribute some time to department research, teaching and various educational activities.

The past year has been a very busy one with gradually increasing clinical load in the area neoplasms and my relatively new associate, Richard Ellenbogen, MD, has generously pitched in and carried a huge amount of the workload here at Children's Hospital in Seattle. We have been fortunate to have approved, a full time Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery. Our first Pediatric Fellow has hence finished up here and has moved on to the famous Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD.

I am still continuing to get in some flying time, especially between Seattle and Friday Harbor, Washington where family abounds and much of the Roberts' tribe activities go on there.

Best regards to all members of the Society and hope all of you have a superb year coming up.

With all best wishes.

Theodore S. Roberts, MD

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# THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY

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Janj/wfns/DT September 2001

David G. Piepgras MD Secretary, The American Academy of Neurological Surgery Mayo Clinic Rochester MN 55905 USA

(Round Robin)

Dear Dave,

It has been a busy year for the Thomas family. In October 2000 Hazel and I hosted the meeting of the European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery in London. There have been radical administrative changes both in the University and in the Hospital. Hazel has returned to almost full time work in Medical Audit for the National Blood Transfusion Service. Our son, William, returned from the Middle East to do a Master's degree in International Politics in the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and is once again living at home with us this year.

With best wishes and kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

David G.T. Thomas



The University College London Hospitals