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The University of Texas  
Health Science Center  
at Dallas

*Spine Task  
Force*

013822

Orthopedic Surgery

Southwestern Medical School

January 12, 1988

Phillip Lippe, M.D.  
2100 Forest Ave., Suite 100  
San Jose, CA 95128

Dear Phil:

It was a real pleasure meeting you at the American Medical Association Guides meeting in Chicago this week.

As we discussed, I share your concern about the disparate view points of orthopedic and neurosurgeons towards spinal disorders.

Just as a spine is not merely a "container" for neurological tissue, so it is not merely a musculoskeletal entity either. Recognition of special anatomical and physiological factors in the spine have major implications for rehabilitation, personnel selection and impairment evaluation.

I agree with you that it would be a reasonable goal to bring orthopedic and neurosurgeons more closely together in educational and other endeavors to improve our common understanding. I, of course, represent no specific organization in this regard, but simply one who has been active in the areas of rehabilitation and impairment evaluation. My involvement with technology for quantification for physical function, functional restoration, interdisciplinary treatment programs, and attention to treatment outcomes has led to the recognition that neurosurgeons might welcome more familiarity with new "sports medicine" treatment approaches to musculoskeleton deficits in the spine. I have included some of our group's reprints to familiarize yourself with my area of interest. If I can personally be of assistance in any educational way to the AANS, I would be most happy to volunteer my services. I would be willing to do anything I can to assist in communicating my knowledge in this exciting new area of mutual interest.

Again, it was a great pleasure meeting you and hearing your excellent presentation on pain. I look forward to comparing ideas with you again in the future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tom Mayer'.

Tom G. Mayer, M.D.  
Associate Clinical Professor,  
Orthopedic Surgery