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# THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

(FOUNDED AS THE HARVEY CUSHING SOCIETY IN 1931)  
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Edward S. Connolly, M.D.  
1514 Jefferson Highway  
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Dear Ed:

RE: AANS

Spine Task Force

I am so pleased that you will be chairing the Spine Task Force created by the Spine Section and re-charged by the Board of Directors, AANS. Because of the future uncertainties of the role of the neurosurgeon in spine surgery, this committee promises to be one of the more important ones in our organization. I do not need to tell you of the problems our specialty faces, or more importantly, will face in the future in the area of spine disorders and their treatment. I can assure you that virtually everyone in a leadership role in the AANS considers this a major priority and is anxious for our specialty to initiate steps to keep the majority of neurosurgeons of the future actively involved in disorders of the spine.

As we discussed recently, we need to identify those individuals who have certain expertise in the spine area or else some special talent that would benefit the committee and complete the composition of the Task Force. I have had several conversations with the Executive Committee of the AANS as well as one session with the officers of the Congress. As a result, I have a list of names that I believe will serve the Task Force well and will also give us a broad representation from various other organizations.

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Here is the list of names along with the organization they are coming from:

Dave Kelly	-	ABNS
Sid Tolchin*	-	AANS BOD
Jim Robertson	-	RRC
Chris Shields	-	Congress

Additionally, I am asking Merwyn Bagan and Paul Croissant to submit 1 or 2 names (we will pick only one) from the JCNS to serve on the Task Force. Each of these men realize the importance of the spine problem and I am sure they will respond promptly with the best people they can find. Also, we should consider someone who is active surgically in the field and to this end we should consider Larson or Seipert.

Once the Task Force membership is firmed up, then we need to get on with the business at hand. I would think that a meeting of the committee at the AANS Toronto meeting would be helpful. However, to really get down to business, I think, you will need at least a full day of meeting and I would suggest planning ahead on a meeting for mid-July in Chicago at the central office. Obviously, some of the first things to get under way is to evaluate items such as whether or not there truly is a problem (?questionnaire?) and importantly, formulate the goals and objectives of the task force; in other words, just what is it we want to accomplish in the spine for neurosurgery.

Ed, this is a big, but very important job. Again, I am glad that you are taking the time to work on it. I will be available to help in any way I can including coming to any meeting of the task force you plan.

Sincerely,



George T. Lindall, M.D.

\* Not contacted yet.

CC: Henry D. Garretson, M.D.  
David L. Kelly, M.D.  
\* James T. Robertson, M.D.  
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