



Western Neurosurgical Society Newsletter

March 2022

MEET THE PRESIDENT

David was born in 1936 and his early years were spent in the small dairy farming town of Roxbury, NY, in the middle of the Catskill Mountains. His grandfather owned the “Corner Store” which was the main grocery store in Roxbury. His father worked in the Corner Store after returning from WW II, but it was a frugal existence. In 11th grade David’s father, mother and brother decided to move to San Diego in a home-made trailer. After many adventures along the way the family settled in San Antonio, Texas, where his father rejoined the U.S. Army, and David completed his last two years of high school at Thomas Jefferson High School.

At Thomas Jefferson each student was required to choose either ROTC or a sport. Not wanting to do ROTC, David chose basketball. When he did not make the basketball team, he tried out for the track team. He found his calling in distance running and won most of his races at 800 yards and the mile in competition with other high schools in San Antonio.

David’s college career began at Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 1954. His major was Biology, but his passion was running cross country and track. His winning ways continued and in 1956 he was entered in the NCAA Cross Country Championship held at Michigan State University in November. Despite frost bitten ears, he placed 15th and was awarded a place on the NCAA All-American Team for 1956. Later that academic year he married and soon after, started a family.

On October 3, 1957, David entered Duke University School of Medicine. After graduation from Duke in June 1961 David joined the US Army Medical Corps and did an internship at Fitzsimons General Hospital in Denver, CO.

Following internship, David was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, N.C. for one year and made 12 parachute jumps. It was an exciting time to be with the 82nd Airborne Division. In late September, 1962 the Division rushed to Memphis, TN for back-up in support of the admission of James Meredith to the University of Mississippi. In October the Division was on full alert for a parachute assault into Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

In June 1963 David entered the Neurosurgery Residency Program at Walter Reed under the chairmanship of Col. George Hayes. In 1965 the chairman became Col. Ludwig Kempe, and in June 1968 David graduated from the residency program.

NEXT PAGE

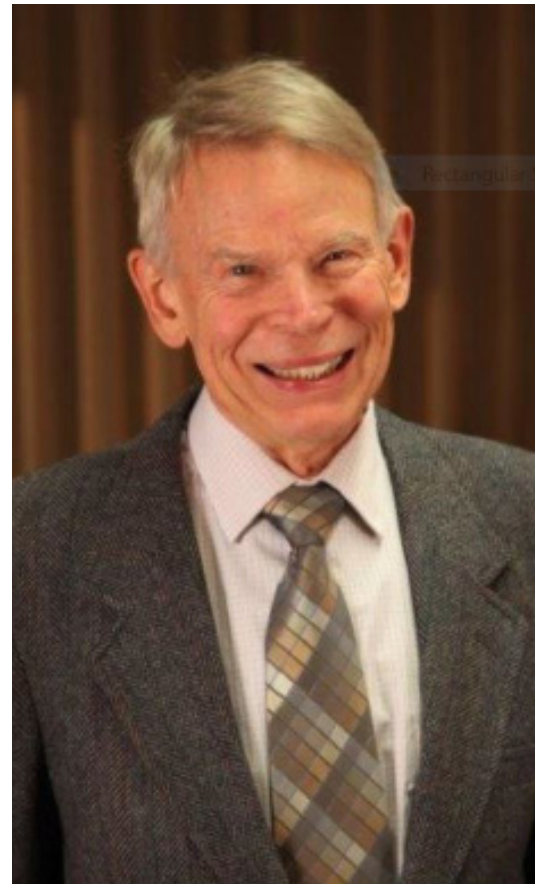


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Meet the President:

Dr. Pitkethly • pp. 1 - 2

Get to know your Chairs • pp. 2 - 5

New Members • pp. 3

In Memoriam

Dr. Glen Kindt • p. 5

Dr. Randall Smith • p. 6

68th Annual Western

Neurosurgical Meeting • p. 7

MEET THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

His first assignment as a fully trained neurosurgeon was to Madigan Army Hospital at Ft. Lewis, Washington for 2 years. Then he was then assigned to U.S. Army Japan for support of the Viet Nam War. Japan was a staging center for wounded soldiers evacuated from field hospitals in the war zone. Many were in critical condition and needed to be stabilized before the long flight home to hospitals in the United States. David was assigned to the Army Hospital at Camp Zama for most of his 18-month tour of duty. At the peak of the war, he was the only fully trained neurosurgeon in charge of 100 beds, usually all occupied.

When the war in Viet Nam was almost over, David was reassigned to Madigan Hospital. After one year at Madigan (January 1, 1973) he resigned his active commission to become US Army Reserve and moved his family and his neurosurgical practice to Overlake and Evergreen Hospitals. He was the first neurosurgeon to practice on the Eastside of Seattle and Lake Washington.

In 1989 David joined the Western Neurosurgical Society and married Mara, an RN whom he had met at Overlake Hospital.

In December 1989 David's Army Reserve Hospital unit was activated for the Gulf War. In January his hospital was integrated with the National Military Hospital of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh and there he treated Saudi civilians, US Army soldiers, and Iraqi soldiers. Due to a shortage of nurses, Mara was recruited by the hospital and they both remained together in Riyadh for the duration of the War.

In 1997 he retired from his neurosurgical private practice in Bellevue and Kirkland. Less than two years later a call came from Dick Winn at the University of Washington Department of Neurological Surgery with an invitation to join the faculty. David did so gladly and started work at Harborview.

In 2006 David retired from active patient care and surgery and remains as UW Professor Emeritus with the Department of Neurological Surgery.

One of David and Mara's most rewarding adventures was their volunteer work in East Africa. Through the auspices of FIENS (Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery), David rolled up his sleeves and returned to the operating room, neurosurgery clinic, patient rounds and gave lectures. They spent time in Kenya in 2012, Ethiopia in 2013 and Tanzania in 2014. David's last operation in Tanzania was the successful clipping of an ACom Aneurysm. Mara did important nursing work with AIDS patients in Kenya and teaching in Ethiopia and Tanzania.

Now life is more relaxed with golf one or two days a week, zoom conferences at UW, children nearing retirement age, four grand kids in mid to late 20s, and a wonderful love affair with his wife, Mara.

MEET THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Site Selection Committee Austin Colohan



I am the chairman of the WNS Site Committee and have been a member since 1999. Darla and I live in Temecula, California and I am retired., The site selection committee members are : myself, David Pitkethly, Charlie Nussbaum, and Ciara Harraher.

The site committee usually looks at future sites 4 years ahead. This year Darla and I visited 3 locations in the Northwest and the executive committee chose Coeur D'Alene for the 2025 meeting. A significant part of the committee's time is spent on negotiating the best terms for the Western. The site committee will be looking at Hawaii locations for 2026 during this year. However, the recent increases in hotel prices in Hawaii may preclude the Western going there soon.

If any member has a recommendation for future sites, you may contact me at acolohan@yahoo.com

Changing of the Guard

Dr. Marvin Bergschneider
and
Dr. David Pitkethly
Tamaya Resort



MEET THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Justin Dye

My first meeting was in Santa Fe in 2010 when I attended as a resident. I've been a member since 2017 and I'm currently in my third year as the membership committee chair. I previously worked in San Diego during my payback time with the Navy and I'm now on staff at my medical school alma mater, Loma Linda University.



Despite the circumstances the membership committee had an active year in 2021. Five new members were voted into the WNS at the annual meeting in New Mexico. Please join me in welcoming our new members including Scott Berta (San Mateo, CA), Travis Dumont (Tucson, AZ), Samer Ghostine (Riverside, CA), Maziyar Kalani (Phoenix, AZ), and Dante Vacca (Reno, NV).

The membership committee is dedicated to increasing diversity and better regional representation amongst our members. If you would like to nominate a candidate for membership, please email me at jdye@llu.edu. I look forward to seeing all of you in Hawaii later this year!

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

Hello, I'm **Debbie Henry**, the second woman neurosurgeon admitted to the Western (2002) and the first from the United States. Betty MacRae from Alberta, Canada succeeded me. My two decades of service to the Western include chairing the Audit Committee (2012-2013), serving as Secretary-Treasurer (2013-2015), Vice-President and Chair of the Exhibitor Committee (2019-2021) and serving on the Bylaws and Site-Selection committees (several years). I'm a frequent member at the WNS meetings, in the past with my son Stephen, who is now a junior at the University of Michigan.

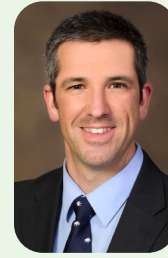
Our President Dr. Pitkethly asked me to fill-in-the shoes of Dr. Randy Smith as Editor of the Western Newsletter, an impossible task, but I said yes. Thank you to all who contributed to this Newsletter and to Professor David Lee who helped me with the Adobe In-Design Program.



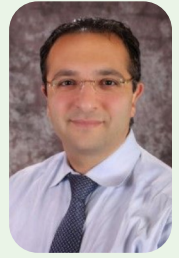
MEET THE NEW MEMBERS



Scott Berta, MD
San Mateo, CA



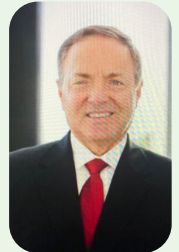
Travis Dumont, MD
Tucson, AZ



Sam Ghostine, MD
Riverside, CA



Maziyar Kalani, MD
Phoenix, AZ



Dante Vacca, MD
Reno, NV

AUDIT CHAIR

Dr. Odette Harris is the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Endowed Professor of Spinal Cord Injury Medicine at Stanford University. Dr. Harris is a Professor of Neurosurgery at Stanford University School of Medicine and is the Vice Chair, Diversity and Director of Brain Injury for Stanford Medical Center.



I ventured West for Medical School at Stanford and outside of a few years at Emory, I have spent this time at Stanford. My first introduction to the Western Neurosurgical Society was in 2001. I was honored to be selected as the Resident Research Award, the first Stanford Resident to receive this honor!

In 2015 after Residency, I was invited to join the Western Neurosurgical Society Audit Committee and became Chair in 2017. I served as Vice President of the Society 2016-2017. These are life accomplishments that I treasure.

In 2019/2020, the Audit Committee and the Secretary/Treasurer worked with our accountants in a financial deep dive that established a better understanding of the Society's financial health as it pertained to strength and suitability. These data have informed the path chosen forward and steered during the uncertainty of the pandemic years. The 2021 Audit was consistent with these findings and was approved by the Audit committee and the Executive Committee.

The Western Neurosurgical Society is like a Family. Clinically, professionally, and personally, when I think of who I turn to for guidance, advice, case review, life lessons...it usually includes a Member of The Western Neurosurgical Society.

CME CHAIR

My name is **Ciara Harraher** and I am a general neurosurgeon who works at Stanford University. I am based a bit further south in Santa Cruz, where I run a busy general neurosurgical practice. I joined the Western in 2013 at the urging of some of my Stanford colleagues who spoke so highly of the organization.



I immediately was glad I did! I have attended most meetings since then and started out sitting on the Membership, Program and Communication committees. I was appointed Chair of the CME committee originally in 2017 and have since been the chair of the Membership (2018-19) and Program (2019-21) committees. I am now back at the helm of the CME committee.

The CME Committee works closely with the Program chair to provide accreditation for our annual meeting. This means working with the AANS from an early stage in the process to identify the objectives of the meeting and how the educational content will meet these goals. Part of this process is to establish if any of the speakers or meeting organizers have any relevant conflicts of interest. This needs to be well documented and verified. Then we create a mechanism for attendees to verify their attendance and give an opportunity for a meeting evaluation. Once this has all been submitted, along with the meeting financials, the AANS will grant CME credit to the attendees which can be used as part of our maintenance of certification.

I am excited to help plan our upcoming meeting in Hawaii and make it both enjoyable and a worthwhile educational experience for you all!

BYLAWS CHAIR

My name is **Adair Prall**, and I joined the Western in 2010 at the meeting in Santa Fe. I live in Denver and have been here since training with Dr Glenn Kindt at the University of Colorado, finishing in 1997. I am married and live in the Denver suburbs with my wife Kellie, and two of our 4 children who are still at home. I am a skier, birder and mountaineer and try to be outside in Colorado and elsewhere as much as possible. Within the WNS, I have been on the CME Committee for three years, chairing it the last two. Currently, I am chair of the Bylaws Committee.



Per the WNS bylaws, any member can propose a change to the existing bylaws. However, any such proposed change must be reviewed at the interim EC meeting in April, and then presented to the membership 30 days prior to the annual business meeting with a recommendation from the EC, before being voted on at the business meeting. One likely proposal for membership vote this year is a change to bylaws regarding membership application and maintenance when annual meetings are cancelled.

Please feel free to contact me (cell 303-601-9290, ap1964@comcast.net) if you'd like to participate on our committee.

VICE PRESIDENT AND EXHIBITORS CHAIR

Javed Siddiqi

I was recruited to Southern California in 1996, since I've single-mindedly applied myself to the parents' creed, "service is the highest form of



worship". Starting at a county hospital, I have built a current team of neurosurgeons, neurologists, neurointensivists, and neurointerventionalists; I have also founded two neurosurgery and one neurology residency programs in Southern California. I've written multiple books on a wide range of topics, including applied mathematics, dangers of racism, international health politics, photography, and neurosurgery. I joined WNS in 2004, when I gave my required presentation on surgery within the cavernous sinus; I was elected Vice President of WNS in 2021 and am also currently the President of the California Association of Neurological Surgeons (CANS). As Exhibitor Committee Chair, I have written to all prior vendors, and am compiling a list of interested parties for 2022 meeting participation. I call on all WNS members to connect with me directly to suggest vendors to include, or with introductions to vendors who may support WNS. My email address is jxsiddiqi@gmail.com.

Charles Nussbaum, MD: WNS Historian

Currently I serve as Historian for the WNS. Prior to that I have held a variety of officer and committee positions within the group. Having mostly retired in 2019 after nearly thirty years of practice in Seattle, my wife Debbie and I split our time between Seattle and Teton Valley, Idaho. Professionally, in addition to supporting the WNS I do a few locums assignments (usually during “shoulder season”) as well as liability consulting.



Our 2021 meeting in Albuquerque was a special event after the prior meeting being held virtually because of COVID. I was so happy to see old friends and also make some new ones. The scientific program was also robust as always. The meeting, despite being smaller than pre-pandemic, was very successful and it is clear that the WNS and its membership are both doing well in these difficult times.

As Historian, I am the older guy running around with a camera, especially at the evening social events. Additionally I look forward to giving a couple of historical talks at upcoming meetings. Any topic suggestions are welcome.

Our 68th annual meeting will be on the Big Island this year (9/9-9/12). Hopefully conditions will allow for more members and guests to attend. I look forward to seeing you there!

PROGRAM CHAIR

I am Phil Taussky and I have been introduced to WNS by my good friend, Marco Lee, in 2015. I currently serve as the Section Chief of Neurovascular Surgery at the University of Utah and look forward to serving as the Scientific Program Chair of WNS this year.



We are fortunate again that this year’s meeting will be in-person set in a truly beautiful location in Hawaii. The program committee is in the process of preparing an excellent meeting that will cover some of the most exciting discoveries and advances seen in neurosurgery including specific practice-focused seminars. We expect the deadline to be July 15, 2022.

IN MEMORIAM

tributearchive.com

Glenn William Kindt passed away peacefully on January 20, 2022 at age 91 with his family by his side. Glenn was born on September 10, 1930 near Alpena, Michigan. After high school, he attended Michigan State University, was in the Air Force ROTC



and earned his degree in Chemical Engineering in 1951. After graduation, he served four years in the Air Force, earning a degree in Meteorology. In 1952 and 1953, he was a weatherman stationed at Suwon Airbase during the Korean War. After the military, Glenn’s love of education led him to medical school at the University of Michigan in 1955, specializing in neurosurgery. During his residency, Glenn met his wife Charlotte, who was a nursing student at the time. Glenn and Charlotte were married in 1960. As a neurosurgeon at the University of Michigan, Glenn contributed to the development of surgical tools and the advancement of football helmet technology. In 1981, Glenn began his tenure at the University of Colorado. There he founded the Department of Neurosurgery, serving as Chief for twenty years. Glenn enjoyed taking the family camping, skiing, attending college football games, and family reunions. As an avid runner, he participated in the Bolder Boulder for over 20 years. He also enjoyed daily walks with family in his later years. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Charlotte, as well as their six children, Karl (Linda), Karen (Scot), Erick, Kirsten (Tom), Kurt, and Kathryn (Todd). They also have nine grandchildren: Rob, Meggy, Kristopher, Kody, Josie, Seth, Wyatt, Boden, and Ryker. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the CU Neurosurgery General Fund for Research Make checks payable to: University of Colorado Foundation In the memo line please write: Neurosurgery General Fund. For Research: #0223130/Kindt Memorial. Send checks to: Tami Lack c/o Neurosurgery Dept. MS C307 – Anschutz Medical Campus 12631 E. 17th Ave. Rm 5108 Aurora, CO 80045

IN MEMORIAM

Randall W. Smith, MD

By Moustapha Abousamra

I consider it an honor to write another “memorial” for Randy, my colleague, my mentor, and my friend. I already wrote a factual obituary that was published in the October CANS Newsletter, as well as a personal remembrance titled “Randy and Caviar,” that was published the Special Commemorative Edition of CANS Newsletter in December. Please see links. Here, I plan to discuss Randy’s influence on me and organized Neurosurgery.

California Neurosurgery:

At CANS, Randy was always my mentor; he served in every capacity in this important association. I learned from him the importance of being thoroughly prepared for Board meetings and to be inquisitive. He took his fiducial responsibilities seriously; studied the financial report carefully; asked probing questions; and “everything is fine” was never an acceptable answer. He was very helpful and made himself available to me when I was President. And when I retired from the practice of Neurosurgery, he called me and offered me the position of associate editor; until then, I had only written the occasional essay dealing with neurosurgery and the practice of medicine. I loved being part of his team.

National Neurosurgery:

One day, I received a surprise call from Randy asking me “what are you plans for AANS?” I had been active in CSNS, attending as a delegate, and was about to take over as chairman of the NeurosurgeryPac. He told me that I should consider running for a leadership position. I confessed that I had not entertained such a course. He encouraged me to consider running for either Vice President, much like he did, or even for President. In preparation, he’d make sure that I get elected as Chairman of the CSNS Southwest Quadrant; the California delegation is the largest and most influential of the state societies. After serving as Quadrant Chairman, I served as an AANS Regional Director for three years, then Vice President. Randy was my “campaign manager,” who advised me every step of the way. He encouraged me to be the voice of California Neurosurgery and of Private Practice. He was always fair minded and generous with his time.

Western Neurosurgery:

I was fortunate to take over as Secretary/Treasurer of the WNS from Randy. In preparation to transferring his duties to me, he explained every aspect of this demanding job so thoroughly and made it seem so simple. The computer files, correspondence and data base were all up to date and easily searched and found. The actual transfer was so organized; he made my life easy. The same happened when I followed him as the Historian of the WNS. He gave me three thumb-drives with thousands of photos from the preceding three meetings as well as from earlier meetings and some photos of founding members that he painstakingly collected and labeled. Among the photos were cartoons and jokes that he used in some of his presentations. I used all the photos but decided not to use the jokes-I told myself: I’m no Randy!

Randy was committed to organized Neurosurgery. Very few matched this dedication. He was a great role model and mentor to me and many of our neurosurgical colleagues. He always challenged his colleagues and made sure they rose to their potential; I was no exception. I am forever indebted to him and will never forget his influence on me and my career.

PS: After Randy Died and at the 2022 CANS Annual Meeting, Flo Smith gave me Randy’s CANS tie. I had lost mine in the Ventura Thomas Fire that burned our home in 2017, so I was delighted to have it. Attached is a photo of CANS outgoing president Mark Linskey, MD with me wearing Randy’s tie.



Western Neurosurgical Society

Save
the
Date

68th Annual Meeting
September 9-12, 2022
Fairmont Orchid
Hawai`i



Fairmont Orchid, Hawai`i
One North Kaniku Drive
Kohala Coast, HI
USA 96743
T + 808 885-2000 ext: 7503
F + 808 885-1064

Room Category	Single/Double Rate
Fairmont Garden View Rooms	\$279.00
Partial Ocean View Rooms	\$299.00
Ocean View Rooms	\$309.00