

The Story Behind

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ABSTRACT

The Executive Committee of the Neurosurgical Society that functioned during 1988-1990 period under the leadership of Dr's Tunçalp Özgen and Yücel Kanpolat realized many major accomplishments. Each of these senior neurosurgeons served as presidents of the Society for one year. Dr. Nur Altınörs was the General Secretary while Dr. Kemali Baykaner served as the associate secretary and Dr. Nuri Arda served as the treasurer thus composing the Executive Committee. The most important project was to receive the right to add "Turkish" to the title of the society. This required a long and tiresome formal process and final approval by the Turkish Government; the society gained the privilege of being the only organization to bear this title as far as neurosurgical societies in the country were concerned. This development enabled the society to be the legal representative of the Turkish Neurosurgical Community and maintain regular scientific and administrative relations with international neurosurgical organizations and societies.

KEY WORDS: Pubmed, SCIE, The story, Turkish Neurosurgery, Turkish Neurosurgical Society

ÖZ

Türk Nöroşirürji Derneği'nde 1988-1990 yıllarında başkanlık yapan Prof. Dr. Tunçalp Özgen ve Prof. Dr. Yücel Kanpolat'ın liderliğinde çok önemli atılımlar yapılmıştır. Bu iki kıdemli beyin cerrahı birer yıllık süreler ile Türk Nöroşirürji Derneği başkanlığını yapmışlardır. Bu süreçte Yönetim kurulunda Prof. Dr. Nur Altınörs genel sekreter olarak görev yaparken, Prof. Dr. Kemali Baykaner muhasip ve Prof. Dr. Nuri Arda veznedar olarak görev yapmıştır. Derneğin temel hedefi dernek adına Türk sözcüğünü eklemektir. Türk adını alabilmek için birçok bürokratik süreç için aşılmaması gerekiyordu. Sonuç olarak zamanın Türk hükümetinden gerekli izin alınarak Derneğimiz Türk Nöroşirürji Derneği adını almıştır. Bu sayede, Türk Nöroşirürji Derneği, Türk nöroşirürji topluluğunun yasal temsilcisi ve uluslararası nöroşirürji kurum ve topluluklar ile idari ve bilimsel bağlar kuran yegane dernek haline gelmiştir.

ANAHTAR SOZCÜKLER: Pubmed, SCIE, Hikaye, Türk Nöroşirürji Dergisi, Türk Nöroşirürji Derneği

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The idea of publishing a neurosurgical journal emerged as one of the top items of the agenda for the committee because at that time many medical disciplines in the country had already been regularly publishing journals in their fields.

The project led to many questions and difficulties. The publication frequency, contents, format, language and financial problems were extensively discussed.

The final decision was to accept and publish every kind of article in neurosurgery and related fields of medicine. Two issues in Turkish and two issues in English were planned to be printed yearly. The Turkish one was named "Türk Nöroşirürji Dergisi" and the English one "Turkish Neurosurgery", both being the official journals of the Turkish Neurosurgical Society (TNS). The first Turkish issue appeared on January 1989 followed by the first English issue on April 1989. The lack of contemporary computer technology caused the executive committee members to spend endless working hours evaluating papers, making decisions, designing the pages by traditional methods and reviewing drafts in the printing office in addition to their heavy professional work.

Initially there was no group of referees and no editorial board. Starting to publish the journals and

continuing as scheduled was primarily a matter of time and finance.

The following achievement was buying a flat in the heart of the city, which became the headquarters for the TNS, and also the office for the journals. The law concerning nongovernmental civil organizations required the center of the society to be in Ankara.

A full-time secretary soon was in charge of all correspondences and secretarial work.

National and international Editorial Boards and a group of referees were established.

The editor and his team worked in close association with the executive committee of the TNS.

A subscription system had not been formed, and journals were instead sent free to members of the TNS, to universities in the country and to main libraries throughout the world.

At the present time, each issue is printed around 1200 copies.

The proceedings of the national neurosurgical congresses were published as supplements of the Turkish version of the journal.

A native English-speaking lady, Ms. Flora Callaby, professionally reviewed the language and grammar of the articles submitted in English. Different officers were assigned for the job after passing away of Flora Callaby for whose memory we have great respect.

As the years passed by many subgroups dealing with specific fields of neurosurgery have emerged. The scientific and social publications of these groups have been supported by the budget of TNS.

The efforts of many consecutive editors resulted in building of a web site for the society, and also for the journals. All back issues are now accessible through a link on

"<http://www.turknorosirurji.org.tr>" and authors can easily submit their manuscripts articles in the web environment.

The journals may also be reached through Google by using the names "Türk Nöroşirürji Dergisi" and "Turkish Neurosurgery".

Dr. Hakan Caner, who became the editor-in-chief in early 2007, and his coworkers succeeded in their attempt of including the "Turkish Neurosurgery" in pubmed (Medline). In addition, "Turkish Neurosurgery" has also been started to be indexed in

the SCIE (science citation index expanded). This important accomplishment will greatly promote the worldwide recognition of the journal, and I hope that it will consequently cause continuous flow of high-quality international submissions. Further efforts are ongoing to be accepted to the Science Citation Index.

In spite of these developments, there are still some problems to be solved and aims to be reached. So far, the international submissions have not been as desired. The percentage of case reports and case illustrations have exceeded the expected level and in turn research and experimental studies are not abundant as they should be.

The task of the present and future teams will mainly be focused on solving these problems and eventually producing a journal with a high impact factor.

In appreciation of their devotion and hard work, a chronological list of journal editors as of March 2008 is provided below.

We are deeply thankful to our referees, to our editorial board members, to our associate editors, to our language advisers, to our printing office and to others who have served in any respect. Mukadder Karakaya Çerçi, the society secretary for many years, deserves special credit for her tremendous contribution to development of both the TNS and the journals.

Tunçalp Özgen	1989-1989
Yücel Kanpolat	1989-1990
Osman E. Özcan	1990-1992
Selçuk Palaoğlu	1992-1994
Nur Altınörs	1994-1995
Selçuk Palaoğlu	1995-1996
Zafer Kars	1996-1998
Kaya Aksoy	1998-2000
Murad Bavbek	2000- 2003
Erdener Timurkaynak	2003-2004
Kemal Benli	2004-2006
Hakan Caner	2007-