Giants of Neurology

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INTRODUCTION:

As part of the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, the directors decided that those deceased past directors who were “giants” in Psychiatry and Neurology be recognized in formal presentations that could be included in a monograph. Past directors Robert Michels (psychiatry) and Mark L. Dyken (neurology) agreed to share this assignment. A review of all past directors revealed 80 were deceased. Those considered psychiatrists will be included in a separate communication entitled “Giants of Psychiatry,” by Michels.

Giants come in many sizes. Some are good and some are evil. Some are exciting, and some are boring. Regardless, once we reviewed the list, it became clear to us that each of the deceased past directors would be considered a giant by someone. So we included all.

We encountered other challenges: In the early years, almost every director was certified as both a neurologist and a psychiatrist. Thus, despite major disagreements among individuals and, at times, hostility between the neurology and psychiatry factions on the past board, we frequently had difficulty in identifying an individual as a giant in psychiatry or a giant in neurology. Except for two, all of the first 29 were certified in both disciplines.

Some disagreed with splitting the specialties. One of these was Lewis Pollock, a founding director in 1934 and a sitting director until 1938. Although a pioneer and influential in the certification of many others, he refused to accept a grandfather certification because of the separation of the specialties. Another founding director, Jeffrey Allen Jackson, is listed as being certified in neurology, but his obituary stresses his psychiatric activities.

Most belonged to and were officers in the major societies for both disciplines, and many made major scientific contributions to both specialties. For most of the past directors, because of their stature, each of us wanted to claim them as representatives of our specialty. For a couple, neither of us wanted them. For some, the primary affiliation was decided by vote. At times, it was like trading baseball cards. Nevertheless, we did it amicably and with good manners.

Of the 80 deceased directors, 46 were psychiatrists and 34 were neurologists. This communication will address the 34 who were “giants of neurology.” Each made major contributions to the field. For example, 15 served as presidents of the American Neurological Association and eight more served as vice presidents. Five served as presidents of the American Academy of Neurology.

Of the 12 founding directors of the board, we identified six as neurologists. They were Louis Casamajor, Walter Freeman, Jeffrey Allen Jackson, Lewis John Pollock, Edwin Zabriskie, and Lloyd H. Ziegler. As true for the six psychiatry directors, all six neurology directors were regarded at the time as outstanding representatives of neurology and psychiatry. In time, the reputation of most colorful (best known) of these, Walter Freeman, became tarnished, but all deserved to be included in this review. The founders will be discussed in alphabetical order. Later directors will be addressed in order of appointment to the board or randomly if appointed at the same time.

After each biographical sketch, some of the major sources will be referenced but will not be specifically cited in the text, except for direct quotes or excerpts. In almost all of the reference material, each of the neurology giants was described as an outstanding teacher who was greatly supported by his significant others. Therefore, these strengths will only be mentioned in the individual texts when, in special instances, they are needed to justify the designation.

The research for this project was, for the most part, great fun. Most of those included I knew personally or by name. For those I knew personally, it was like visiting old friends. For the others, it was like making new friends and learning more about my personal heritage.

As the preparation for this project began more than 16 months ago, I wish to thank each of those living past directors for not complicating my task by dying during this time. Now in my 82nd year, I am also pleased to wake up each morning and find that I am not on the list.
Fig. 1. Founding Fathers of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (neurologists highlighted).
THE FOUNDING FATHERS:

The six “giants” included in this section have been recognized as founding fathers of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. They were appointed as a group in 1934 at the genesis of the organization, and were primarily responsible for developing the format of examination. Despite differing opinions about many of the details of organization, they were able to reach a consensus that began this 75-year odyssey.

**Louis Casamajor: 1881-1962**

(Director 1934-1942)

Louis Casamajor was born in Brooklyn, New York, on August 12, 1881, and died on December 14, 1962, at the age of 81. He served as a director of the ABPN through 1942. Throughout his entire professional career, he was associated with the New York Neurological Institute and Columbia University, in New York City. He received his medical degree from Columbia’s College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1906, and joined the staff of the New York Neurological Institute as an assistant attending neurologist in 1909. Over the years, Dr. Casamajor had much to do with shaping this institution’s growth and development, and held important positions until his retirement in 1948. At that time, he was appointed Professor Emeritus of the faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Melvin Yahr, a later director of ABPN, noted in an obituary published in the _Transactions of the American Neurological Association_ in 1963 that Casamajor will be best remembered for his early interest in diseases of the nervous system in children. He was director of the pediatric neurology service at the Neurological Institute, succeeding Bernard Sachs, who developed the service in the 1920s. Casamajor retired from this position somewhat prematurely because of progressive deafness. He was eventually replaced in 1951 by Sydney Carter, another future director of the ABPN and pioneer in child neurology.

During Casamajor’s time, the service consisted of six beds occupied by profoundly impaired children with chronic encephalopathies or degenerative neurological disorders. Yahr noted that Casamajor had an ability to express his ideas and concepts with clarity and logical argument, which resulted in his assignation as "official orator" of many scholarly societies with which he was associated.

Casamajor considered himself to be primarily a neurologist. But in addition to serving as president of the New York Neurological Society in 1929, he was also president of the New York Psychiatric Society and the New York Society for Clinical Psychiatry. Yet, according to reports, he could become quite agitated in defense of the primacy of neurology. Rowland, in his book, _The Legacy of Tracy J. Putnam and H. Houston Merritt_, describes Casamajor as “avuncular,” but he must have had his feisty side. In the book describing the first 50 years of the ABPN (Hollender, 1991), Hollender recounts Casamajor’s reaction to the naming of the board. He wrote to Clarence 0. Cheney in September 1934 concerning which specialty should precede the other in the name: “Neurologists, you know, have much more reverence for the alphabet than psychiatrists have.” In response to the decision that psychiatry would take precedence, he responded, "Personally, I don't give a damn which way it is, but I know some of the neurologists feel it should be alphabetical."

Although Casamajor was a life-long bachelor, Yahr noted that many considered themselves his children from the standpoint of either having been his pupils or having been cared for by him during their childhood.

References:


Walter Jackson Freeman: 1895-1972  
(Director 1934-1948, Secretary 1934-1946, President 1947)

Walter Jackson Freeman was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on November 14, 1895, and died on May 31, 1972. He undoubtedly was one of the most colorful and the most controversial of all ABPN directors. To adequately summarize his life in just a few paragraphs is impossible. Those interested in his detailed and complete biography are referred to the meticulously researched books, *The Lobotomist: A Maverick Medical Genius and His Tragic Quest to Rid the World of Mental Illness*, by Jack El-Hai (El-Hai, 2005) and *Last Resort: Psychosurgery and the Limits of Medicine* by Jack Pressman (Pressman, 1998).

Freeman was born into a distinguished medical family. His grandfather, W.W. Keen, a president of the American Medical Association (AMA), served as surgeon for presidents and was the first in the United States to successfully surgically remove a brain tumor. Freeman received an undergraduate degree from Yale University in 1916 and a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1920. After an internship and residency in pathology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (1921-1923), he studied neurology and neuropathology in Paris, Rome, and Vienna (1923-1924). From 1924 to 1933, he was senior medical officer in charge of laboratories at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, a federal institution for the insane, in Washington, D.C. From 1926 to 1954, he was professor and chairman of neurology at George Washington University. He received a Ph.D. in 1931 from Georgetown University. He was elected secretary of AMA’s section on nervous and mental disease in 1927, and became chair in 1931. He was President of the American Association of Neuropathologists (1944-1945).

Freeman made major contributions to the ABPN as its longest-serving director (15 years), secretary (13 years), president in 1947, and a final year as a director in 1948. Until 1941, he was the only “neurologist” to serve as an officer. In the early days, the board was split on most votes, which were finally determined by a 6-to-5 majority. Freeman pointed out that he was elected secretary—after voting for himself. He was the only original neurology director to serve as an officer. As secretary of the board, he was responsible for setting up the examinations first given in 1935. It was his duty to visit sites around the country, recruiting examiners, and ensuring that the facilities and testing materials were ready. Freeman avoided recruiting examiners who were “brusque, sarcastic, rigid, and especially those who insisted in too great detail upon their own views.” The position did engender some animosity, prompting his successor to comment, “Walter. You are the American son of a bitch of psychiatry and neurology, emeritus.”

Freeman published widely and made important contributions to the understanding of neurological disease. Some of his works include the 1933 book, *Neuropathology: The Anatomic Foundation of Nervous Diseases*, several papers that defined torulosis of the nervous system, and articles on Parkinson’s disease, brain tumors, encephalitis, and neuroanatomy.

Although I do not recall meeting any of the other founding directors, I do remember Freeman. During a meeting in the late 1950s, we were introduced, but I didn’t catch his name. When I learned who he was later, I was quite disappointed that I hadn’t voiced my concerns about his destructive procedure, transorbital lobotomy. At the time, chlorpromazine had already been introduced and was considered part of the reason for the dramatic reduction of the inmate population in mental institutions. When the drug was first released in 1954, I was an intern on the psychiatric service, and had already signed papers on 10 or 12 patients to be committed to Central State Hospital for the Insane. At the last minute before transfer, the psychiatrist on the service suggested a trial on chlorpromazine. Its effect was near-miraculous. The majority were controlled to the point that they could function in a protected environment outside an institution.

Unfortunately, Freeman’s many outstanding contributions to neurology and psychiatry were tainted by his persistence in performing a damaging surgery on the brain, transorbital lobotomy, long after medications were developed that seemed to be equally effective. In the first sentence in his book, El-Hai states, “Aside from the Nazi doctor Josef Mengele, Walter Freeman ranks as the most scorned physician of the twentieth century.”

Yet it’s important for others to understand Freeman’s actions in relation to the times in which he lived. In those days, institutions were filled with severely psychotic and incapacitated patients who were doomed to spending the rest of their lives in misery, with no hope of returning to an outside world. Many of these responded to lobotomy to the point that they could function outside an institution. The procedure was widely accepted and performed in more than half of the nation’s psychiatric hospitals. It is estimated that between 40,000 and 50,000 patients underwent this procedure between 1936 and the late 1950s. Such distinguished psychiatrists and neurologists as Adolph Meyer were early supporters. And in 1949 Egas Moniz, a Portuguese neurologist, received the Nobel Prize in medicine and
physiology for his introduction of a surgical treatment for mental disease. Freeman’s championing of “psychosurgery” was considered by many to be a major advancement in the treatment of mental disease.

Although one could argue that transorbital lobotomy was performed far too often without appropriate pre- and post-evaluation and that it was performed far too long after the introduction of successful medical treatments, few would compare Freeman’s actions to Mengele’s atrocities.

Unfortunately, Freeman continued to perform the procedure until 1967, when he lost his privileges after the death of a patient. His showmanship was not always amusing. Edwin Zabriskie, a co-founding director of ABPN and a veteran and observer of war wounds during World War I, fainted during one of Freeman’s particularly gruesome demonstrations. This ended Zabriskie’s earlier support for the procedure.

In the end, Freeman recorded 3,439 procedures performed during his career. Although one of these was on Rosemary Kennedy, contrary to popular misconceptions, he did not operate on the movie actress Francis Farmer. His reputation was further damaged by the movie One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest. Dr. Freeman made important contributions to medicine and neurology and psychiatry during his early career, but, ultimately, the lobotomy controversy is best summed up in the subtitle of El-Hai’s book: A Maverick Medical Genius and his Tragic Quest to Rid the World of Mental Illness.

References:

Jeffrey Allen Jackson: 1884-1938
(Director 1934-1938)

Jeffrey Allen Jackson served as a founding director of the ABPN until his death from leukemia at the age of 54 on December 1, 1938. He was born in 1884 in Upatoi, Georgia, and graduated in 1906 from the Jefferson Medical College. Following an internship at the Philadelphia General Hospital, he took the position of pathologist at the Central Indiana Hospital for the Insane, from 1908 to 1910. In 1910, he returned to Philadelphia to become head of the mental department of the Philadelphia General Hospital. He was instrumental in the organization and direction of the newly constructed Philadelphia Hospital for Mental Diseases. His expertise in this area resulted in his appointment as Superintendent of the Danville State Hospital for Mental Diseases (Pennsylvania) in 1920, a position he held until his death.

During his tenure, the Danville State Hospital reached the front rank, not only as a mental-illness hospital but also as a center for community activities, and Jackson became recognized as a national authority, resulting in many prestigious appointments. He was an associate editor of the Pennsylvania Medical Journal, a member of the editorial board of The Modern Hospital, and editor of the Mental Health Bulletin, the latter printed at the Danville State Hospital. He also served as Secretary of the Philadelphia Psychiatric Society, President of the Association of Trustees and Superintendents of the State and Incorporated Hospitals for Mental Diseases and Defects of Pennsylvania, and President of the Pennsylvania Hospital Association. In addition, he was an active member of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society, where he was the chairman of the mental hygiene committee. As a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, he served as a counselor and member of the executive committee, and board of examiners.

He was a member of many medical societies and served on numerous boards and commissions. In 1929, he received an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from Bucknell University. All of these accomplishments contributed to his nomination by the section on nervous and mental diseases of the American Medical Association for director of the ABPN. He served as a director from 1934 until his death in 1938.

Reference:
Lewis John (Polly) Pollock: 1886-1966  
(Director 1934-1937)

Lewis John Pollock was born in Moscow, Russia, on April 18, 1886, and died on November 8, 1966, at age 80. He came to the United States as a child and graduated at the age of 20 from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the University of Illinois. After a residency at the Montefiore Hospital in New York, he returned to Illinois for tours at the Chicago State and the Kankakee state hospitals, followed by appointment to the faculty of Northwestern University Medical School in 1916.

He rose through the ranks to become Professor and Chairman of the then Department of Nervous and Mental Diseases in 1926. During his career, Dr. Pollock served as an officer of many prestigious organizations, including president of the American Neurological Association in 1942. Although he was a charter member of the ABPN and a director from 1934 through 1937, he was the only director to never be certified by the ABPN. He qualified by record, but it is said that he refused to be “grandfathered,” because he disagreed with the concept of separating psychiatry and neurology as specialties.

Pollock served as a neurologist during World War I in France, where he obtained the material on peripheral nerves, which resulted in his classic monograph, *Peripheral Nerve Injuries*, published with Loyal Davis in 1933. In addition, he published well over 100 other original articles and chapters in textbooks. His clinical and physiologic studies of human spinal cord injuries were among his major contributions. During World War II, he received the Certificate of Merit for his work as an investigator for the Office of Scientific Research and Development.

In a moving memorial to Pollock, Benjamin Boshes, his successor at Northwestern, supplied many facts about Dr. Pollock’s career and an insight into his personal life. To quote Dr. Boshes, “The undersigned had selected Dr. Pollock for a mentor because here was the most brilliant, inspiring mind on the faculty of the medical school of Northwestern University. In the years of closeness, I was to discover the inner man, a warm, friendly, human being. It was sad, therefore, to watch the ravages of time and illness eat away at this magnificent edifice. To the end, however, he retained islands of memory, particularly when one would mention the meetings of the American Neurological Association.”

References:

Edwin Garvin (“the Colonel”) Zabriskie: 1874-1959  
(Director 1934-1939)

Edwin Garvin Zabriskie, known by his friends as “the Colonel” was born in Brooklyn, New York, on October 7, 1874, and died on January 13, 1959. He attended Columbia College and graduated in medicine in 1897 from the Long Island College Hospital. He studied neurology in Paris and Berlin before going into private practice in New York City and becoming an adjunct professor of neurology at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School.

Around 1909, he began his long association with the New York Neurological Institute, a relationship that continued for the rest of his life. The many positions he held at that institution included that of senior attending neurologist, chief of staff, and acting director of neurology from 1946 to 1948. He was professor of clinical neurology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons from 1925 until 1948. H. Houston Merritt (Merritt 1975) noted that Zabriskie was not an experimental worker in the neurological sciences. His publications were related to the clinical aspects of diseases of the nervous system, and his greatest strength was in the organization of medical and social societies.

During World War I, Zabriskie served in the Army Medical Corps participating in the Battles of Chateau-Thierry and St. Mihiel, and in the Meuse-Argonne campaign. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was in charge of neurology for the European area. During World War II, he was a consultant to the United States Surgeon General.
Zabriskie belonged to many organizations. In addition to being a founding member of the ABPN and the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Diseases, he was a member of the American Neurological Association from 1910 on, and served as its president in 1944. He attended meetings regularly, and, in 1958, despite poor health, he drove to Atlantic City alone to attend his last meeting before his death.

After the death of his wife of 17 years in an automobile accident, he never remarried. But despite personal tragedy, according to Charles Rupp in his memorial, “The Colonel loved life and its amenities, but most of all he loved people. His devotion to his patients far exceeded that required of even the most empathic physician. He was extremely interested in the personal and professional life of his younger colleagues and was unobtrusively helpful in furthering many a budding career.”

References:

**Lloyd Hiram Ziegler: 1892-1945**

(Director 1934-1945)

Lloyd Hiram Ziegler was born in Bippus (an unincorporated town), Indiana, on June 1, 1892, and died in the midst of his work the evening of January 8, 1945, as he was about to interview a patient. In addition to a bachelor’s degree in 1914, he received his master’s degree in psychology from Indiana University in 1916, and his medical degree from the University of Minnesota in 1921. After serving an internship at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Washington, DC, he entered the United States Public Health Service, working with the veterans of World War I. He then became house officer at the Phipps Psychiatric Clinic under Adolf Meyer, followed by a fellowship in neurology at the Mayo Clinic and a year as a resident at the Colorado Psychopathic Hospital in Denver, Colorado.

In 1926, he returned to Mayo Clinic and remained there as a member of the staff of the section on neurology until 1930, when he became chief of the department of neurology and psychiatry at Albany Medical College and Hospital in New York. In addition to his teaching, administrative, and clinical duties there, he had an active private consulting practice. In 1937, he moved to the Milwaukee Sanitarium in Wisconsin, where he assumed the position of associate director, then became medical director in 1942.

Not only was Ziegler a founding member of the ABPN, he served on the board from its inception in 1934 until his death in 1945. He was said to be a workaholic who had difficulty relaxing. “Action was his life, and in action he died, at the age of 52.”(Kindwall, 1945) His work ethic resulted in many publications in neurology and psychiatry. He was recognized as an energetic and enthusiastic teacher, and his many students and house officers remember him for his ability to stimulate, encourage, and guide without being domineering.

He was quite concerned with the problems of government and social organization, and particularly interested in the returning veteran. One of his last activities in this field was his initiative in the establishment of a voluntary neuropsychiatric rehabilitation clinic in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, under the auspices of the Neuropsychiatric Association. He was also active in the cause of mental hygiene, and made many addresses furthering public interest in it.

Reference:
Fig. 2. ABPN Board of Directors - May 1948  (Neurologists Highlighted)
1938-1949:

Because only one new neurology director was appointed in the 1930’s (1938), he will be included with those elected during the decade of the 1940’s. These 11 directors served during the difficult times during and immediately before and after World War II.

(Director 1938-1941, Vice President 1941)

Henry William Woltman was born June 16, 1889, in Westfield, Wisconsin, and died while working on November 27, 1964. He undertook his graduate work at the University of Minnesota, where he received his medical degree in 1913. In 1917, he was one of the first to be awarded a Ph.D. in neurology. That same year, he joined Dr. Walter D. Shelden, who was establishing a neurology section at the Mayo Clinic. This began a life-long connection between Woltman and that institution.

In 1930, he was appointed chairman of the section of neurology and psychiatry, and in 1946, he was instrumental in establishing separate sections of neurology and psychiatry. That year he also served as President of the Staff of the Mayo Clinic.

Dr. Woltman made major contributions to both neurology and psychiatry through his 149 papers. His doctoral thesis, published in *Archives of Internal Medicine*, concerned the neurological manifestations and neuropathology of pernicious anemia. It is considered to be one of the classic works regarding this disease.

With Dr. James W. Kernohan, he defined the role of the incisura of the crus in producing ipsilateral signs of pyramidal disturbances in patients with brain tumor. This work resulted in the eponymous naming of the site: the Kernohan or Kernohan-Woltman notch. Woltman is also eponymized by the Moersch-Woltman (“stiff-man”) syndrome and in Woltman’s sign of myxedema. Woltman and Kernohan were the first to report a case of vasculitis restricted to the peripheral nervous system (nonsystemic vasculitic neuropathy). Woltman also played an important part in the introduction of insulin therapy at the Rochester State Hospital. With the help of Dr. E. J. Baldes, he built and put into use the first electroshock apparatus in Minnesota. For a time, he advocated the procedure of frontal lobotomy in well-selected cases, a new procedure and concept for that era.

In addition to serving as a director of the ABPN, he held other prestigious titles: chairman of the section on nervous and mental diseases of the American Medical Association in 1934; President of both the Minnesota Society of Neurology and Psychiatry and the Central Neuropsychiatric Association in 1937; President of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Diseases in 1948; and President of the American Neurological Association in 1950. He served as a member of the advisory council of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, Public Health Service. He was a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a charter member of the American Academy of Neurology.

References:
Tracy Jackson Putnam: 1894-1975
(Director 1940-1943)

Tracy Jackson Putnam was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on April 14, 1894, and died in California in 1975.

For a more complete history of this “giant,” the reader is referred to Rowland’s detailed account, *The Legacy of Tracy J. Putnam and H. Houston Merritt: Modern Neurology in the United States*.

Tracy Putnam’s professional life story, marked by both major triumphs and disappointments reflected a multi-talented physician. Like Percival Bailey, he made his imprint in several specialty areas involving the nervous system. In addition to his contributions to neurology, he was also a highly regarded certified neurosurgeon and psychiatrist. Rowland’s book and other sources refer to Putnam as aloof and reserved. He is sometimes described as a Boston “Brahmin,” implying the distance that often comes with privilege and money. These references are often followed by comments such as, “Tracy Putnam wasn’t as easy to know…he wasn’t completely at ease with proximity” (Aring 1983).

Putnam graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1920 and spent a year at Johns Hopkins Hospital as a resident in pathology. Following this, he trained in general surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital and then in neurosurgery at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, under Harvey Cushing. During this time, he began his research career.

Between 1924 and 1925, Putnam spent a year as a Moseley Traveling Fellow in Holland, where he studied the anatomy of the visual system in animals and humans. Subsequently, he worked in neurology and psychiatry with Stanley Cobb until 1934, when he assumed responsibilities of director and professor of neurology at the Harvard Medical School.

Although he made many original contributions during this period, he is best known for his work with H. Houston Merritt in the development of a method for testing antiepileptic agents by measuring electroconvulsive thresholds. This activity led to the introduction of diphenylhydantoin (Dilantin), the first new anticonvulsant introduced in the twentieth century. During these years, he also conducted studies of significance on the physiology of the pituitary and the surgical treatment of hydrocephalus and dyskinesias. Additionally, he invented several useful laboratory and neurosurgical instruments and was key in defining chronic subdural hematoma, hydrocephalus, and epilepsy.

In 1939, Putnam was offered the directorship of the Neurological Institute of New York and the position of Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery at Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons. His acceptance of these positions has been identified by some as the worst mistake in his professional career. For whatever reasons, he was not well-accepted among New York City’s medical community, and, in 1947, he left New York. For the rest of his career, he held the position of director of the neurological service at the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in Los Angeles.

It is quite likely that Putnam’s disillusionment with his colleagues in New York affected his evaluation of Merritt’s involvement in the introduction of diphenylhydantoin. Some of Putnam’s actions and statements during this time may reflect a disillusionment of his colleagues. For example, Schlesinger (Schlesinger, 1988, p 89) noted that in Putnam’s chapter in *Discoveries in Biological Psychiatry* (Putnam, 1970, pp 85-90), he wrote that Merritt’s contribution in the introduction of diphenylhydantoin was relatively small. Schlesinger notes that records, publications, and other evidence indicate that both Putnam and Merritt made major contributions to this work, and that this incident represented the only evidence in Putnam’s professional life in which he did not show his characteristic generosity.

At any rate, Tracy Putnam remained productive, making major contributions to the establishment, in 1950, of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness. This came about as a result of Putnam’s testimony—among others—before Congress in 1949 (Bailey, 1975, p 518). In addition to serving as an early director of the ABPN (1940-1943), he held other prestigious positions representing neurology, neurosurgery, and psychiatry. These included: editor-in-chief of the *Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry* (1935-1955); a founder and president of the Cushing Society (1941-1942), later the American Association of Neurological Surgeons; first president of American Society for Psychosomatic Medicine (1943); and chair of the medical advisory board to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (1947).
Hans Heinrich Reese: 1891-1973
(Director 1940-1947, Vice President 1943-1944, President 1945)

Hans Reese was born September 17, 1891, in Bordesholm, Holstein, Germany, and died June 23, 1973, in Madison, Wisconsin. In 1914, his studies at the University of Kiel were interrupted by World War I. After serving three years in the Imperial German Navy, he returned to the university and received his medical degree in 1917. He continued his training at the University of Hamburg. After a year in pathology and a year in internal medicine, he studied neurology from 1919 to 1923 under Max Nonne. There, he developed an interest in the treatment of neurosyphilis, which resulted in a trip to the United States to meet with Professor Hideyo Noguchi and Dr. Bernard Sachs at the Rockefeller Institute in New York City. They arranged for him to meet William Lorenz, chairman of the department of neuropsychiatry at the University of Wisconsin, who was recruiting a neurologist and was impressed with Dr. Reese’s special interest in neurosyphilis. In 1924, Reese was appointed assistant professor of neuropsychiatry at the university, where he remained the rest of his professional life. He became chair of the department in 1940. When the department was divided in 1956, he became the first chair of neurology.

In addition to his work on neurosyphilis, he introduced malarial treatment in Wisconsin, and made contributions in other areas, including multiple sclerosis, subacute combined degeneration of the cord, and insulin shock. He held a host of leadership positions during his career. In addition to serving three years as Vice President and, in 1945, a year as President of the ABPN, he was active and held offices in many medical societies, including President of the American Neurological Association in 1953. As an early participant in the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, his testimony with that of others before Congress in 1949 led to the formation of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness the following year (Bailey, 1975, p 518). He also contributed to the development of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of America.

In many ways, Hans Reese led a storybook life. He was an Olympic gold medalist as a member of the German soccer team that won the Olympics in 1912. During his three years in the Imperial German Navy during World War I, he participated in the Battle of Jutland and received both the Iron and the Hanseatic Crosses. During World War II, he was cited by the United States Army and Navy for his work as a consultant from 1942 to 1945, and by the United States Army Air Corp for his contributions as a combat scientist and medical advisor in 1945. In 1963, Germany awarded him the Cross of Merit for his activities in promoting German-American relations. He also was the first non-Japanese national to receive an honorary degree from the University of Kyushu.

Dr. Reese’s bravery was not limited to war and athletics. Forster movingly describes an example of another type of courage (Forster, 1975, p275): At a meeting in 1954 of the American Neurological Association, Dr. Reese was recognized as a past president. Instead of merely acknowledging the honor, Forster notes, “Dr. Reese courageously went to the podium and decried McCarthyism as a form of Nazism; he stated that this, in his opinion, had all of the hallmarks of the destruction of a great nation such as he had seen happen in Germany—a truly courageous statement from a professor of neurology and psychiatry at the State University of Wisconsin with a witch-hunting Senator from the same state!”

And, last but not least, Dr. Hans Reese trained my chief, Dr. Alexander Treloar Ross, and I will be eternally grateful.
Johannes Maagaard Nielsen: 1890-1969
(Director 1941-1942)

Johannes Maagaard Nielsen was born in Aarslev, Denmark, on October 17, 1890, and died on December 12, 1969. His family came to the United States when he was 5. His father died soon afterward, and he worked to help support his mother and sisters while attending school. After completing grammar school, he was not considered high school material, so he dropped out and was apprenticed to a carpenter. By the time he was 17, he was a construction foreman and had become proficient in mathematics. He decided to study medicine. With fluency in six languages and prodigious math skills, he had no difficulty in passing the examination for a high school diploma. He completed his premedical studies through night classes while working days and was accepted at the University of Chicago Medical School in 1919. Nielsen had serious visual problems due to retinitis with macular involvement. Additionally, he had to teach math and English in a private school to support himself. Despite these significant challenges, he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha during his junior year and graduated with honors in 1923. Following his internship, he trained at the Battle Creek Sanitarium in Michigan and the University of Vienna with Otto Marburg. In 1929, he entered the private practice of neurology and psychiatry in Los Angeles with Dr. Samuel D. Ingham. Despite a busy practice, he was active in teaching, and in 1931 was appointed associate professor of neurology and psychiatry at the University of Southern California. He was head of the department from 1945 to 1952, when he resigned because he opposed the separation of psychiatry from neurology.

In addition to serving as a director of the ABPN in 1941 and 1942, Dr. Nielsen held many prestigious positions in American neurology and psychiatry. He was one of the founders of the Society of Biological Psychiatry and was president in 1947 to 1948. He was a fellow of the American College of Physicians, the American Psychiatric Association, and the American Academy of Neurology. He was elected to membership in the American Neurological Society in 1937 and to its presidency in 1955.

Dr. Nielsen’s life was devoted to work. His efforts resulted in numerous publications covering many subjects. The best-known are those on aphasia, agnosia, and apraxia. He was said to be an outstanding teacher who had a photographic memory, wide knowledge, and a capacity to present his material succinctly. As further noted by von Hagen (1975, p 287), “This compulsion to work resulted in his having not many close friends but a multitude of admirers…True to his philosophy of life, he worked until three days before his death from a cerebral thrombosis on December 12, 1969.”

References:
John Charnley McKinley: 1891-1950
(Director 1942-1945)

John Charnley McKinley was born November 8, 1891, in Duluth, Minnesota, and died January 3, 1950. All of his training was at the University of Minnesota, where he received his medical degree in 1919. After three years as a teaching fellow, he earned a Ph.D. in nervous and mental diseases and was appointed assistant professor and the first full-time faculty member in the field of neurology. In 1928, he received a Guggenheim Fellowship to study neuropathology and neurology at the universities of Breslau and Munich in Germany. When he returned to the University of Minnesota in 1929, he was promoted to professor of nervous and mental diseases. He was head of the department of medicine from 1934 to 1943, and then head of the department of neuropsychiatry until 1946, when he was disabled by a stroke at the age of 55.

Despite his relatively short life, he was quite productive professionally. In addition to being a director of the ABPN from 1941 to 1945, he was President of the Central Neuropsychiatric Association in 1938 and was quite active at the state level in Minnesota. He was secretary of the Minnesota Basic Medical Science Board and participated in the enactment of mental health legislation. His interest in screening psychopathic personalities led to his work with Dr. Starke R. Hathaway in developing the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI), first published in 1942. This will probably remain Dr. McKinley’s most noted work. He made original contributions in other areas, including poliomyelitis, post encephalitic paralysis agitans, muscle tonus, electromyography, and neurotropic virus diseases.

Dr. McKinley was well on his way to preparing a three-volume text on clinical neurology when his project was first delayed by World War II and then by his illness in 1946. His successor, A.B. Baker, assumed the task, and the work was finally published as the very successful text, Clinical Neurology.

References:
Hathaway SR, McKinley JC. A multiphasic personality schedule (Minnesota): III. The measurement of symptomatic depression. J Psychol 1942;14:73-84.

Percival Bailey: 1892-1973
(Director 1943-1946, Vice President 1946)

Percival Bailey was born on May 9, 1982, and died on August 10, 1973. From a background of great adversity, he became one of the true “giants” in many areas of medicine, including neuropathology, neurophysiology, neurology, neurosurgery, and psychiatry. Born into poverty in a very poor area of southern Illinois called “Little Egypt,” he attended a one-room school sporadically, in winter months after harvesting and before spring planting. His early life is well-documented in his book, Up From Little Egypt. After ongoing confrontations with an abusive father, he left home at the age of 14 to live with relatives. He overcame these many disadvantages and was awarded a scholarship to the Southern Illinois State Teachers College, now Southern Illinois University. There, he came under the influence of exceptional teachers who recognized his unique abilities and convinced him that he could become more than just a country teacher. He entered the University of Chicago, where he obtained his bachelor’s degree in 1912 and Ph.D. in 1918. He supported himself by teaching anatomy while working toward his medical degree, which he earned in 1918 at Northwestern University.

After an internship at Mercy Hospital in Chicago, his interest in the nervous system led to his application for training with the neurosurgeon Harvey Cushing and psychiatrist Adolf Meyer. Cushing accepted him immediately.
By the time Meyer offered him a position three months later, Bailey was already at work (April 1919) with Cushing in Boston. This was the beginning of a life-long, love-hate relationship—at least from Bailey’s perspective. In his book, *Up From Little Egypt*, Bailey, with the bluntness for which he was notorious, noted that Cushing had faults to which he had been sensitized to by previous teachers, “(1)…had a tendency to prettify his data, (2)…had a tart tongue…had learned to curb it and attempted to curb mine…(3)…tendency to believe anything he imagined to be true and was not too careful about the conclusiveness of his proof. (4)…never learned to spell or write English correctly…(5) his scholarship left much to be desired.” Despite these observations, the next page-and-a-half of his book conveyed that he believed that, in balance, Cushing’s positive attributes far outweighed the negative. In his eulogy to Cushing, published in the *Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry*, pp 1140-1144, Bailey said, “Few, indeed, will have faults as recessive and virtues as dominant as were those of the man whom we are proud to call our master: HARVEY CUSHING.” In July 1921, after one of the intermittent controversies with Dr. Cushing, Bailey went to France for further neurologic training at Salpetriere in Paris. He returned to work with Cushing from 1922 to 1925 and then returned to Paris to study at St. Anne’s Hospital from 1925 to 1926. Despite their previous disagreements, he again went back to Cushing from 1926 to 1928.

Dr. Bailey became professor of surgery (1929-1930) and professor of neurology (1933-1939) at the University of Chicago. In 1939, he was named Distinguished Professor of Neurology and Neurological Surgery (1939-1948) and, finally, a clinical professor of psychiatry (1951-1967), all at the University of Illinois.

In his more than 260 publications, Bailey made major contributions in a variety of areas, including neuropathology, neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neurology, neurosurgery, history of medicine, and psychiatry. Of these, his greatest single contribution was debatably the landmark book he published with Cushing, *Tumors of the Glioma Group*. This established a classification of the gliomas based on microscopic appearance, enabling clinical correlation and prediction of prognosis. In addition to many publications on tumors of the nervous system, he made contributions in cytoarchitecture of the brain, epilepsy, and stereotactic atlas of the human brain. Bailey’s studies, with Frederic Gibbs, of the psychological and behavior manifestations of patients with psychomotor epilepsy reawakened his interest in psychiatry. This development set him on the path to the position of Director of the Illinois State Psychiatric Institute. A study of Sigmund Freud and psychoanalysis led him to challenge the scientific basis for psychoanalysis, which he summarized in his book, *Sigmund the Unserene: A Tragedy in Three Acts*.

Bailey’s contributions were widely recognized during his lifetime. He was an honorary member of professional societies in at least 17 countries. He was an ABPN director and vice president in 1946. He was an honorary fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. In his book, *Up From Little Egypt*, he listed the 45 very distinguished scholastic and professional honors he received from around the world. He claimed to be most proud of the Docteur honoris causa de l’Université de Paris. His contributions to neurology, neurosurgery, psychiatry, and other fields and the high regard of his colleagues in his many areas of expertise resulted in his election as president of many of their most prestigious societies, including the American Neurological Association (1955), Central Neuropsychiatric Association (1940), Society of Neurological Surgeons (1948), Society of Biological Psychiatry (1948), Illinois Psychiatric Society (1954), and Chicago Literary Club (1954).

**References:**


Hiram Houston Merritt: 1902-1979
(Director 1943-1950, Vice President 1948-49, President 1950)

H. Houston Merritt was born January 12, 1902, in Wilmington, North Carolina, and died January 9, 1979, in New York City. His life was filled with outstanding accomplishments as a teacher, clinician, investigator, administrator, and leader in many areas too numerous to mention in this brief biography. The reader is referred to a more complete history of this “giant” in Rowland’s detailed and fascinating book, The Legacy of Tracy J. Putnam and H. Houston Merritt: Modern Neurology in the United States.

After attending the University of North Carolina and Vanderbilt University, Merritt received his medical degree in 1926 at the age of 24 from Johns Hopkins University. Upon completion of an internship and residency in internal medicine at the Grace-New Haven Hospital in New Haven Connecticut, he was trained in neurology at the Boston City Hospital (1928-1930) and neuropathology at the Deutsche Forschungsanstalt (1930-1931) in Munich, Germany. In 1931, he returned to Boston City Hospital and joined the faculty of Harvard Medical School. After 13 productive years, he moved to New York City as chief of service at the Montefiore Hospital and professor of clinical neurology at Columbia University. In 1948, he was appointed professor and chairman of the department of neurology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons and director of the service of neurology at Neurological Institute of the Presbyterian Hospital, a position he held until 1968. From 1959 until his retirement in 1970, he also was dean of the faculty of medicine and vice president in charge of medical affairs.

He was remarkably successful in all of these positions. In addition to being an outstanding clinician and investigator, he was a superb administrator. As a teacher, he was responsible for training at least 30 neurologists who became chairs of academic departments. He taught countless others through his more than 200 publications, including the many editions of the classic, Textbook of Neurology. As an investigator, he will probably be remembered best for his work with Tracy Putnam on the laboratory testing of potential anticonvulsant drugs and the discovery of diphenylhydantoin sodium (Dilantin). But he made numerous other important contributions. Among these were establishing the norms and deviations of cerebrospinal fluid and the correlation of clinical and CSF changes in neurosyphilis.

Despite his demanding professional commitments, he volunteered his services generously. This included sitting on the initial National Advisory Council of the National Institutes of Neurological Diseases and Blindness and serving as consultant to the army, navy, and Veteran's Administration. He also served on the boards of volunteer agencies, such as the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, United Cerebral Palsy Association, Muscular Dystrophy Association of America, Myasthenia Gravis Foundation, Parkinson’s Disease Foundation, and Epilepsy Foundation of America.

Dr. Merritt’s accomplishments were recognized through numerous honors. In addition to honorary memberships in medical societies around the world and the highest awards from at least 10 professional societies and volunteer agencies, he was presented with honorary degrees from Harvard University, New York Medical College, and Columbia University. He served in positions of leadership in a range of professional societies, including President of the ABPN (1959), the American Neurological Association (1957), Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease, New York Neurological Society, and Ninth International Congress of Neurology. He participated on many editorial boards for scientific journals, and was editor-in-chief of Archives of Neurology from 1962 to 1971.

After reviewing the lives of Putnam and Merritt, I thought a great deal about why these two brilliant, productive, and outstanding individuals should have had such different responses to their role at the New York Neurological Institute and why Merritt was so successful in a position where Putnam had been a failure. I did not know Dr. Merritt well, but one of my fondest memories of him was related to receiving a rejection of a paper I had submitted for publication in the Archives of Neurology. In his letter, he addressed me as “Dear Mark,” pointed out the appropriate outstanding parts of the paper, gently described why the paper did not quite meet the current requirements of the Archives, and ended with, “With warmest personal regards.” Although I didn’t keep any acceptance letters, I still have that rejection letter. In my mind, this anecdote answered the enigma of his administrative success.
References:

**Alphonse Ralph Vonderahe: 1896-1979**
(Director 1943-1948, Vice President 1947)

Alphonse R. Vonderahe was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 24, 1896, and died in Cincinnati, November 1979. He received bachelor’s degrees from Xavier University in Cincinnati in 1916 and another in 1919 at the University of Cincinnati and his medical degree from the Cincinnati College of Medicine (1921). He served his neurology and psychiatry internships and residencies at the Cincinnati General Hospital and the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. In 1924, he joined the department of anatomy at the University of Cincinnati. Although he retired as professor emeritus in 1969, he continued teaching neuroanatomy until 1978. In addition to a practice and clinical appointments in neurology and psychiatry, he served as the neuropathologist for Cincinnati General Hospital from 1926 to 1948, while actively pursuing his research interests.

He inspired students at all levels of training in developing an interest in the nervous system. One of these was Francis M. Forster, a future director and President of the ABPN and another “giant” in neurology.

Among Vonderahe’s contributions, many consider the most important to be his study on the loss of appropriate cells and nuclei in hypothalamus in various disease conditions such as diabetes, acute abdominal crisis, and heat stroke. He was the first to describe an anomalous commissure, aberrant dorsal supraoptic decussation of the third ventricle. He developed an early clinical and research interest in electroencephalography (EEG). In addition to founding one of the first EEG laboratories in Cincinnati, he did basic electrophysiological studies on the brain of salamanders and developing chick embryos and their response to convulsant and anticonvulsant drugs. Through his training and long-time friendship with Dr. J. W. Papez, he came to appreciate and formulate a concept of the brain as it functions in emotional states, resulting in 1943 in a publication entitled, *The Anatomic Basis for Emotion*, in the *Ohio State Medical Journal*.

Vonderahe’s contributions were widely recognized during his lifetime. He served as a director and Vice President (1947) of the ABPN, chairman of the section on nervous and mental diseases of the American Medical Association, a member of the first research grants committee of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness of the National Institutes of Health, Vice President of the American Neurological Association (1954-1955), and an original member of the editorial board of Neurology. He was active in the American Psychiatric Association, American Association of Anatomists, American Electroencephalographic Society (founding member), Central Society for Encephalography, American Association of Neuropathologists, and the American Society for Biologic Psychiatry, among others.

Vonderahe achieved all of these accomplishments despite some overwhelming handicaps. Early in his career, he was hospitalized with tuberculosis for long periods. After an auto accident in 1934, his wife required special care for the rest of his life. Forster noted in letters in the University of Cincinnati archives that this was the likely reason that Vonderahe did not accept offers of departmental chair.

Forster, in his eulogy published in the *Archives of Neurology*, concluded, “American neurology has lost in one blow one of the last of the great students of the structure of the nervous system and one of the earliest observers of the comparative electrophysiology of the vertebrate nervous system.”
Roland Parks Mackay was born on October 25, 1900, in Atlanta, Georgia, and died on February 28, 1968. He received a bachelor's degree from Emory University, in Atlanta, in 1920. When he was in his twenties, his father, a Methodist minister, assumed a parish in Ontario, Canada. He had to work his way through medical school at the University of Toronto and, in 1925, he graduated second only to Charles Best, the co-discoverer of insulin. He interned at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, followed by a residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, under Henry Woltman. He completed his postgraduate training in neuropathology at the Eppendorfer Krankenhaus in Hamburg, Germany. In 1929, he became an assistant professor at Rush Medical College in Chicago. In 1934, he moved to the University of Illinois, then to Northwestern University in 1962, where he served as professor of neurology until his death in 1968.

Dr. Mackay's published original contributions were in clinical areas with particular interest in syringomyelia, intramedullary tumors of the spinal cord, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and neurological education. He was highly regarded by his peers, who elected him, with frequency, to leadership positions in various major neurological organizations. He was a director and President of the ABPN (1953), and also served as President of the American Neurological Association (1954), the American Epilepsy Society (1958), Society for Biological Psychiatry (1950-1951), and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (1960-1962). In addition to membership on the Advisory Council of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness from 1953 to 1957, he was on the advisory boards of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of America, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society. He was an honorary member of a number of distinguished societies, including the Societe Frangaige de Neurologie and Association of British Neurology.

In 1958, Dr. Mackay made an important contribution to American neurology. The American Medical Association (AMA) was planning to replace the Archives of Psychiatry and Neurology with a new, psychiatry-focused journal. Dr. Mackay, as a representative of the American Neurological Association (ANA), and Dr. Paul Bucy, representing neurosurgery, persuaded the AMA to establish the Archives of Neurology as the official organ of the ANA. Mackay had previously served as associate editor of the Archives of Psychiatry and Neurology from 1956 to 1960, and continued in this position for the new Archives of Neurology from its inception in 1960 until 1966. He was also an associate editor of Neurology from 1954 and served as editor of the Year Book of Neurology, Psychiatry and Neurosurgery from 1948 until the year of his death.

Those who knew him often described him as a “stubborn Scot but…loved and admired” (Aird). To illustrate this, Bucy relates an anecdote that I had heard when Mackay was still alive. Mackay was violently opposed to the use of anticoagulant therapy in cerebrovascular disease. In 1965, after experiencing a coronary thrombosis, his physician recommended anticoagulant therapy. Mackay refused. Early the next year, he developed a subdural hematoma. Although in the story I heard, the response was more colorful, Bucy quotes Mackay’s comment, "I knew that anticoagulant therapy was dangerous, but this is the first intimation that I have had that it is dangerous to even think about it."

References:
Bernard Jacob Alpers: 1900-1981
(Director 1948-1955, Vice President 1952, President 1955)

Bernard Jacob Alpers was born on March 14, 1900, in Salem, Massachusetts, and died on November 2, 1981, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1923 and a doctor of science degree in medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 1930. From 1923 to 1925, he trained at the Philadelphia Orthopedic hospital and Infirmary for Nervous Disease. He spent his first two years after medical school training at the Philadelphia Orthopedic Hospital and Infirmary for Nervous Disease. From 1925 to 1928, he was a fellow in neuropsychiatry at the Graduate Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and at the Philadelphia General Hospital. As the result of the landmark monograph on gliomas by Percival Bailey and Harvey Cushing, his interest in neuropathology was further stimulated. In 1928, he was awarded the Francis Clark Traveling Fellowship in Neurosurgery for the purpose of studying neuropathology in Europe. During 1928 and 1929, he studied at Queens Square in London, in Madrid, Spain with del Rio Hortega, and in Hamburg Friedrichsberg, Germany with Alfons Jakob. Upon his return from Europe, he established a neuropathology laboratory in the department of neurosurgery at the University of Pennsylvania, where he served until 1939 when he became chairman of the department of nervous and mental diseases at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He held this position until his retirement in 1966.

His scientific contributions began very early and continued throughout his career. As a medical student, he obtained material during two years of externship at Boston Psychopathic Hospital that resulted in four published papers on cerebrospinal fluid. During his residency and fellowship, his publications included studies of Friedreich’s ataxia and neurological complications occurring during pregnancy. In Jakob’s laboratory, he worked up a case of diffuse progressive degeneration of the gray matter of the cerebrum that became known as “Alpers Disease.” His time at the University of Pennsylvania produced a number of important papers on brain tumors, experimental neuropathology, cerebral diplegia, cerebral birth injuries, and other topics. During his career, he published more than 160 scientific articles. In addition, his book, Clinical Neurology, went through six editions from 1943 to 1971. For all but the sixth edition (with Elliott Mancall), he was a single author.

During World War II, he was active in the establishment of training programs for neurologists and psychiatrists for the army, navy, and Veterans Administration.

Although he was said to be a shy person, Alpers was active in many areas and received numerous honors for his contributions, including President of the ABPN (1955), the American Neurological Association1959), and the American Association of Neuropathologists.

References:
Mancall EL. Personal communication.

Frederick P. Moersch: 1889-1975
(Director 1949-1956, Vice President 1954, President 1956)

(While searching for background material for Dr. Moersch, I contacted Dr. Jack Whisnant for material from the Mayo Clinic archives. He contacted Dr. Donald Mulder who responded to this request by writing the following summary edited slightly for format. Thank you, Dr. Mulder. )

Frederick P. Moersch was born March 28, 1889, and died December 28, 1975. He graduated from medical school at the University of Minnesota in 1913. After an internship at University Hospital, he practiced neurology and psychiatry with a group of physicians associated with the University of Minnesota.

He was inducted into the U.S. Army in the summer of 1917, and was given additional training in neuropsychiatry at the University of Michigan. Following World War I, he was an assistant in neuropsychiatry at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

In 1920, he began a distinguished career at the Mayo Clinic, where he remained until his retirement in 1956. His practice at Mayo was increasingly devoted to the specialty of neurology.
He is perhaps best remembered for his and Henry Woltman’s report on a new syndrome, which they named the “Stiff-man Syndrome.” Their paper is unique in that it delineates a clinical description of a new syndrome they had observed over a period of 32 years in 14 patients.

The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology certified him in 1935. He became a director of the board in 1948, serving as a representative of the section on nervous and mental diseases of the American Medical Association (AMA). In 1955, he was elected President of the ABPN. Dr. Moersch was elected Vice President of the American Neurological Association in 1952, and served as chairman of the section on nervous and mental diseases of the AMA in 1951. Following his retirement from the Mayo Clinic in 1956, he and his wife, Agnes, moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He died in 1975 at age 86.

References:
Mulder D. Personal Communication.
THE 1950s:

The directors appointed during the 1950s participated and were instrumental in the resurgence of neurology after World War II. In addition to their contributions to the American Board of Psychiatry, most played pivotal roles in the newly established American Academy of Neurology and were involved with the founding of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness of the National Institute of Health.

Russell Nelson DeJong: 1907-1990

(Director 1951-1958, President 1958, Interim Executive Secretary 1971-1972)

Russell Nelson DeJong was born in Orange City, Iowa, on March 12, 1907, and died August 20, 1990, in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. At the age of 8, he moved to Michigan and remained there the rest of his life. He received both his undergraduate (1929) and medical (1932) degrees from the University of Michigan. He also served his internship and residency there, under Dr. Carl Camp. At the completion of his residency in 1936, he was awarded a master’s degree in neurology and was immediately appointed an instructor. He rose through the ranks and became professor and chairman of the department of neurology in 1950. Except for a sabbatical from 1954 to 1955 as a Fulbright Research Fellow at the National Hospital, Queen Square in London, he served continuously over the next 26 years until he retired in 1976 as a professor emeritus. During his tenure as chairman, he trained more than 100 neurologists, and more than 35 of these entered academic careers.

Dr. DeJong was active in so many areas that only a few selected examples can be given here to highlight his contributions to neurology. He considered himself primarily a clinical neurologist but made significant administrative, teaching, service, editorial, and research contributions, for which he was widely recognized. His work resulted in more than 200 publications. His research interests were primarily clinical and covered many areas, including migraine, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease, neurological complications of systemic disease, and Huntington’s disease.

In addition to serving as President of the ABPN in 1958 (certified in both psychiatry and neurology in 1939), he returned as Interim Executive Secretary in 1971 and 1972. He also held numerous leadership positions in many prestigious professional and lay organizations. He was President of the American Neurological Association in 1965 and the American Epilepsy Society from 1955 to 1956. He was a founding member, one of the “Four Horsemen,” of the American Academy of Neurology and served as First Vice President from 1961 to 1963. He was honorary vice president and member of the scientific program committee of the Second International Congress on Neurogenetics and Neuro-ophthalmology in 1967. He was a founding member of the Pan American Congresses of Neurology, and an American delegate to and Vice President of the first (1963) and second (1967) Pan American Congress of Neurology. He also made other critical contributions at the national level to the post-World War II resurgence of neurology. Among the committees he served on were those on the emerging National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness (NINDS), today the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke (NINDS). He was a member of the training grant committee for neurology from its inception as part of the National Institute of Mental Health (1950-1952) and then as part of the NINDS (1952-1956). From 1956 to 1963, he served on an NINDS research grant committee. He also received a number of international honors. He was given honorary membership in the neurological societies of several countries and held positions of importance in International Neurologic Congresses, the World Federation of Neurology, and the Pan American Congresses of Neurology.

In addition to serving as editor and on the boards of many publications, he was the first editor-in-chief of Neurology, the official organ of the American Neurological Association. He held this position for 26 years from 1950 until 1976. Also in 1950, the first of four editions of his classic textbook, The Neurologic Examination, was published.

References:
Paul Ivan Yakovlev was born into a military family in Touretz, Russia, on December 28, 1894, and died on June 16, 1983. This man was indeed a “giant” whose accomplishments are so extensive that they can only be touched on in this limited biography. Among the other references, the reader is particularly encouraged to read the detailed four-page obituary by Dr. Thomas Kemper, published in the *Archives of Neurology* (Kemper, 1984). Paul Yakovlev had a storied life. He was orphaned at the age of 9 and raised by a widowed aunt in Russia. In 1914, he was accepted at the Military Medical Academy in St. Petersburg, which—at that time—was considered to be the foremost medical school in Russia. There, he was exposed to Vladimir Bekhterev, Paul Flechsig, Alexander Maxmow, and Ivan Pavlov. Because of deteriorating conditions after the revolution in 1917, he received his diploma with high honors six months early on December 26, 1919. After enduring adventures and hardships, he was able to escape through Finland and England to Paris. There, he was accepted by the University of Paris to study for a doctorate in medicine. He spent one year as a foreign assistant with Pierre Marie and three years as a foreign assistant with J. F. F. Babinski. He received his doctorate in medicine from the University of Paris in 1925.

With the help of an American friend, he was able to obtain a passport, extra quota, because of special professional qualifications and entered practice in Rhode Island on March 25, 1925. In October 1925, he took a position as a research fellow for Stanley Cobb at the Boston City Hospital to survey the foreign medical literature on epilepsy for a monograph and to work in the outpatient department at the Boston City Hospital. From 1926 to 1936, he worked at the Harvard Neurological Unit and the Monson State Hospital for Epileptics. In 1931, Dr. Yakovlev was a research fellow with M. A. Minkowski in Switzerland for six months. During this time, he obtained the brain of a 21-month-old patient that was his first case of schizencephaly.

Over the course of his career, Yakovlev held academic and affiliated positions, including: assistant in neuropathology (1928-1932); research fellow in neuropathology (1933 to 1935); research fellow in neurology (1935 to 1937); clinical associate professor of neurology (1955); and clinical professor of neuropathology (1957) at the Harvard Medical School. He also worked at Harvard-affiliated institutions including Metropolitan State Hospital and the Walter E. Fernald State School in Waltham, Massachusetts. In 1947, Dr. Yakovlev moved to the Connecticut State Hospital in Middletown, becoming director of research and training, clinical associate professor of neurology at Yale University (New Haven, Conn.), and attending neurologist at the Grace-New Haven Hospital. In 1951, he returned to Harvard Medical School. In 1955, Yakovlev was promoted to clinical associate professor of neurology and, in 1957, to clinical professor of neuropathology. It was during this period, before retirement in 1961, that he was also curator of the Warren Museum of Harvard Medical School.

Many of Yakovlev’s contributions were attributed to his development of a giant microtome large enough to make serial sections of the whole human brain. Following this development, he rapidly expanded his collection of normal and abnormal brains for use in teaching and research. Ultimately, this collection consisted of more than 900 brains and 250,000 slides, and was eventually housed at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology as a national resource of histoanatomical documentation in neurologic science. Dr. Yakovlev enjoyed his final years serving as scientific advisor and working with his great collection in Washington, D.C.

Among the areas that Yakovlev helped to define were the origins of the frontopontine tract in humans, neurocutaneous syndromes and epilepsy, neuronal substrates and epilepsy, schizencephaly, arhinencephalia, mental retardation, decussation of the bulbar pyramidal tract, frontal lobotomies, the limbic cortex, the time of myelination and the anatomy of the limbic cortex, corpus callosum, and thalamus, and two classic anatomical atlases.

His contributions were recognized during his lifetime. In addition to serving as a director and Vice President of the ABPN, he was elected President of the American Association of Neuropathologists in 1951 and First Vice President of the American Neurological Association in 1959. In 1955, he received the Max Weinstein Award for outstanding scientific achievements in cerebral palsy from the United Cerebral Palsy Association.

During one of the Boston neurological meetings, I was fortunate to be one of a small group attending Dr. Yakovlev’s demonstration of his “collection.” Even more than the excellent presentation, I remember his warmth, kindness, and good humor. Everyone I knew who knew him well shared this opinion. We also shared the opinion that he was brilliant. At least on one occasion, this combination did not always turn out the way it should. During the days when psychiatry candidates were required to take an hour of oral examination in basic neurology, the story...
was told many times about Dr. Yakovlev’s kind intent. One of his assistant examiners asked him for help in calming down a particularly emotionally tense psychiatry candidate. Kindly Dr. Yakovlev started out with what he considered to be an “easy” question to relax her by asking her to name all the afferent and efferent connections of one of the nuclei of the thalamus. Needless to say, but to his amazement, she did not relax.

References:

Francis M Forster: 1912-2006
(Director 1953-1960, Vice President 1959, President 1960)

In the “In Memoriam” published in Neurology (Gutmann, 2006), Ludwig Gutmann states, “When Frank Forster asked me to write his obituary some months ago, we did so together. It documents the events and accomplishments that he thought were important and were particularly meaningful to him.” This writer would not presume to improve upon a document written by a distinguished neurologist and author, combined with input and approval from the subject himself, a rarity in obituaries. For this reason, Dr. Gutmann agreed to write the following biographical sketch for this document.

Dr. Francis M. Forster, a founder of the American Academy of Neurology, died February 23, 2006, in Cincinnati, Ohio. As chairman of two university departments, he trained more than 100 residents. Sixteen of these became chairs of neurology in the United States, Asia, South America, and Europe. Francis Forster was born in Cincinnati on February 14, 1912. He studied pre-medicine at Xavier University and received his medical degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 1937. He completed his neurology residency on the Harvard Neurological Unit at the Boston City Hospital under the direction of Dr. Tracy J. Putnam and Dr. H. Houston Merritt, and trained in psychiatry at Pennsylvania Hospital. He subsequently was a Rockefeller Research Fellow in Dr. John F. Fulton’s Laboratory of Physiology at Yale University School of Medicine.

Dr. Forster began his academic career in 1941 as an instructor in neurology at Boston University School of Medicine. Two years later, he joined the faculty of Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, where an interest in the field of epilepsy took root. His lasting focus in reflex epilepsy occurred after detecting somatosensory-evoked seizures in a child whose akinetic episodes were induced by an unexpected tap on her left shoulder.

In 1950, he joined the faculty of Georgetown University as the first professor and chair of the department of neurology, and became Dean of the School of Medicine of the university in 1953. He was professor and chair of the department of neurology at the University of Wisconsin from 1958 until 1978. At Wisconsin, he devoted his energies to teaching and developing a research epilepsy program. In his studies of patients with partial complex seizures, he concluded that these seizures depended on the evocation of memory patterns and environmental cues for their stereotyped behavior. Dr. Forster’s research on reflex epilepsy addressed the concept of a naturally occurring conditioned reflex and the implication this might have for the treatment of these disorders. Patients with musicogenic, photosensitive, voice-induced, and somatosensory-evoked seizures and those induced by various visual stimuli had significant improvement of their seizures and the associated EEG abnormalities with extinction techniques.

Dr. Forster authored more than 200 scientific and clinical publications, including eight chapters and four books. He became Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin in 1978, but continued as Director of the Francis M. Forster Epilepsy Center at the Madison VAH until 1982. In 1955, he received an Honorary LLD degree from Xavier University and, in 1982, an honorary Doctorate in Science degree from Georgetown University.
Dr. Forster actively participated in professional organizations, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the American Medical Association. In 1947, as one of the “Four Horsemen,” he was a founder of the American Academy of Neurology and was its president from 1957 to 1959. He was a director and President (1960) of ABPN, President of the American Epilepsy Society and the Pavlovian Society, and was a consultant to the Surgeons General of USPHS, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Air Force.

Special honors received in his lifetime include a Distinguished Service Award from the American Academy of Neurology, William G. Lennox Award from the American Epilepsy Society, and Founders Awards from the Wisconsin Neurological Society and Wisconsin Epilepsy Society. He took particular pride in being a consulting physician to President Dwight Eisenhower, President Quirino and Archbishop Reyes of the Philippines, President Lonardi of Argentina, and Cardinal Albert Meyer of Chicago. In 1964, Dr. Forster’s testimony in the trial of Jack Ruby for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald established that Ruby’s acts were inconsistent with an epileptic seizure.

Forster’s marvelous sense of humor was typified by an observation he made at a reception held in his honor and hosted by the American Academy of Neurology in September 2005. “The city of Cincinnati has recognized my contributions by placing a plaque at my birthplace. It says ‘Vine and Calhoun.’”

References:
Gutmann L. Personal communication.

Knox Hendeson Finley: 1904-2004
(Director 1954-1961, Secretary 1960, Vice President 1961)

Knox Hendeson Finley was born in Santa Anna, California, on May 22, 1904, and died on September 15, 2003, at the age of 99. He graduated from Pomona College in 1926 and received his medical degree from Yale University in 1930. After an internship in general pathology at New Haven Hospital (1930-1931), he was a fellow in neurophysiology at Harvard Medical School under Dr. Stanley Cobb from 1931 to 1932. In January 1933, he entered a residency in internal medicine. After 19 months, he was awarded a National Research Council Fellowship in Neuropathology to study under Dr. W. Spielmeyer at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Munich, Germany, and at the University of Amsterdam (1934-1935) in the Netherlands.

Finley was a neurology resident at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1936, then a psychiatry resident at Boston Psychopathic Hospital from 1937 to 1940. He was also appointed an instructor in neuropsychiatry and neuropathology at Harvard Medical School (1938-1942). He was certified in both neurology and psychiatry in 1939. From 1942 through 1944, he was on the faculty of the University of Oregon Medical School as an associate professor of neuropsychiatry. He was a member of the United States Navy Medical Corps from 1944 to 1946 and was in charge of a neuropsychiatric ward and the electroencephalographic laboratory at the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Leandro, California.

Finley then entered practice in San Francisco at the California Pacific Medical Center, where he worked for 45 years. He also held the academic title of Clinical Associate Professor of Neurology and Pathology at Stanford University and continued as a consultant to the department of neurology after it moved from the Presbyterian Hospital to Palo Alto, California. In 1959, he founded the hospital’s department of neurology and served as chair for many years. He was also the founding director of the affiliated Institute of Neurological Science of the Institute of Medical Science.

Dr. Finley and his colleagues made significant contributions to the understanding of the complications and causes of brain damage associated with open-heart surgery and congenital anomalies of the heart. In addition, they contributed to the better understanding of central nervous system involvement by viruses. Exhaustive clinical studies involved perinatal arbovirus encephalitis and its sequelae, and the long-term effects of various viral infections of the nervous system, with special attention to Western equine and St. Louis encephalitis.

In addition to serving as Secretary (1960) and Vice President (1961) of the ABPN, he was a member of all the major neurological societies, and was Vice President (1963) of the American Neurological Association and President (1954-1955) of the San Francisco Neurological Society.
Lee McKendree Eaton was born February 3, 1905 in Owaneco, Illinois, and died on November 18, 1958. In these short 53 years, his contributions to neurology certainly qualify him as one of the field’s “giants.” He received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago in 1927 and a medical degree from Rush Medical College in 1932, followed by a year of internship at Cook County Hospital, and then a fellowship in medicine and neurology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. In 1938, he was awarded a master of science degree in neurology from the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, Graduate School, University of Minnesota. On July 1, 1936, he joined the Mayo Clinic as a consultant and, by 1950, had risen to professor. In 1954, he became chairman of the sections of neurology.

Although he had already received many honors and was recognized nationally, his early death interrupted a life of promise for continued productivity. He had served as the American Medical Association’s chairman of the section on nervous and mental disease, President of the Central Neuropsychiatric Association, a member of the advisory board of the Myasthenia Gravis Association, an honorary member of the Association of Electromyography and Electrodiagnosis, a founding member of the American Academy of Neurology, and a member of the American Neurological Association. At the time of his death, Eaton was completing his second year as a director of the ABPN. He was also President, in 1958, of the Association of Research in Nervous and Mental Disease. After working for a year in preparation, he died a few weeks before the annual meeting, which was subsequently dedicated to his memory.

Dr. Eaton wrote more than 50 published papers on aspects of neurology and its relationship to psychiatry, but he is probably best remembered for those works related to myasthenia gravis and myositis. In writing about the concept of inflammatory myopathy, he popularized the term “polymyositis” when dermatological features were not present. He, with Lambert, published the original clinical description and electrophysiological characterization of the myasthenic syndrome associated with malignant tumors. This became known as the Eaton-Lambert syndrome.

Dr. Eaton was known as an impressive clinician and teacher. For example, it was largely due to his influence that a future neurology “giant,” Jack Whisnant, switched to neurology in his second year of an internal medicine residency.

References:
Whisnant JP. A composite account of the career of Lee M. Eaton, M.D. Personal communication.
Abraham Bert Baker was born March 27, 1908, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and died on January 18, 1988, in a Minneapolis nursing home where he had been residing for his last two years. Except for an internship year, he spent his entire career and lifetime in Minneapolis. He received a B.A. (1928), a B.S. (1929), an M.B. with distinction (1930), and his M.D. (1931), all from the University of Minnesota by the time he was 23 years old. His academic achievements were recognized by his election to Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Omega Alpha, and Sigma Xi honorary societies. Two years later, he received his sixth degree, a Ph.D. in neuropathology (1934). After an internship in Pennsylvania, he trained in pathology from 1931 to 1934. His Ph.D. thesis on hemorrhagic encephalitis stimulated further interest in the nervous system. He then entered a neurology residency under Dr. McKinley from 1934 to 1937. In 1937, he was appointed an instructor in neurology and pathology and rose rapidly through the academic ranks until he became professor and director of neurology in 1946, a position he held for the next 31 years. After retiring as a professor emeritus, Baker served as chief of neurology at Mt Sinai Hospital in Minneapolis until 1983.

To understand how one man could accomplish so much in so many areas, one really had to know him personally. Adjectives I frequently ran across in my review included “intense,” “dynamic,” “tenacious,” “energetic,” “aggressive,” “enthusiastic,” “visionary,” and—occasionally—“dogmatic.” It was my good fortune to work with him in many activities involving research and national committees. He was a brilliant “bulldog,” who would ultimately accomplish anything he set out to do. He was also not subject to false modesty.

During his lifetime, he had well over 200 publications. Although he worked in a multitude of research areas, the most prominent of these were poliomyelitis and cerebrovascular disease with a focus on atherosclerotic changes in the intracranial arterial system. His work on the neuropathology of poliomyelitis documented the nature and location of the pathologic lesions of the brainstem and diencephalon. These observations led to improved understanding and better clinical management of patients with bulbar polio. In 1955, Baker published the first of multiple editions of his classic book, Clinical Neurology, which was unique in that each chapter was written by an authority in the field and could easily be replaced with updated versions.

Dr. Baker made so many major contributions, it is difficult to single out which was the most important. Most consider it to be either his role in founding the American Academy of Neurology or activity at the national level resulting in the establishment of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness (NINDB)—now the (NINDS). He was particularly effective at lobbying senators and representatives. Once the institute was established, he continued to play key roles. He was chairman of its first training grant committee (1952-1956) and later chairman of the study section for research grants. At this critical time, he simultaneously developed the direction for both training and research at a national level. Later he served on the council of the NINDB (1962-1966) and the NINDS program projects committee (1969-1972).

His role in establishing the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) in 1948 was pivotal to the resurgence of neurology after World War II. He, with the support of Adolph Sahs, Russell DeJong, and Francis Forster (the “Four Horsemen”), was the driving force in creating an organization that represented all neurologists. Despite this, a surprising turn of events nearly resulted in the role of first president going to another man. At the organizational meeting in Chicago, chaired by Dr. Baker, Walter Freeman was nominated for the position. The motion was seconded and, before anyone knew what was happening, the nominations were closed and Freeman was voted the Academy’s first president (Cohen MM, 1998, pp. 4-5). It was later discovered that Freeman was not a member of the Academy and, therefore, not eligible for the office. Then a mail ballot of all Academy members elected Dr. Abe Baker as the first president (1948-1951). The first regular scientific meeting was in French Lick, Indiana, in 1948. From the beginning, Baker insisted that the meeting consist of special educational courses as well as scientific presentations.

Some of those trained at the University of Minnesota, however, consider Dr. Baker’s teaching to be his most important contribution (Ettinger, 1988). In addition to receiving awards as the medical school’s most distinguished teacher, he also received from the University of Minnesota the Regent’s Professorship, a rarely granted acknowledgment of outstanding teaching.

Dr. Baker’s accomplishments were recognized during his lifetime, resulting in numerous honors and appointments. In addition to his role as founding president of the AAN, he was also President of the ABPN (1963), the American Neurological Association (1970-1971), and the Epilepsy Foundation of America (1971-1973), and Chairman of the National Committee for Research in Neurological Disorders (1952-1969), to highlight a few.
Additional examples of honors include: a Citation for Meritorious Service by the President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped; a Fulbright Teaching Professorship at the University of Oslo (1959); election to the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (youngest foreign member elected ever); and honorary memberships in the neurological societies of Chile and Argentina.

I was thrilled and intimidated when asked to be the A.B. Baker Lecturer at the University of Minnesota in 1986. I was thrilled because of my high regard for Dr. Baker, but intimidated because my presentation was concerning a controversial subject, and I dreaded his possible critical comments. I wish that he would have been there, no matter how caustic his response. I learned for the first time from his son Lowell, also a neurologist, that his illness was in its final stages. He died a little over a year later. Despite all of his accomplishments, I could not help but wonder that if he had focused on the dementias, his end might have been different.

References:

Sidney Carter: 1912-2005
(Director 1959-1966, President 1965)

Sidney Carter was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on December 8, 1912, and died in Valhalla, New York, on January 16, 2005. He worked his way through Dartmouth College, graduating in 1934, and received his medical degree from Boston University in 1938. Following an internship, he was a psychiatry resident at Westboro State Hospital during 1939 and 1940. He then began a neurology residency at Boston City Hospital. Most biographers note that during this time he had the distinction of being Merritt’s last chief resident at Boston City Hospital and Denny-Brown’s first. In December of 1943, he was mobilized to England at the Seventh General Army Hospital. In 1945, he became chief of the neuropsychiatric section of the 116th General Hospital in Nuremburg, Germany, and was responsible for neurological care of war criminals.

In 1946, he joined Merritt at the Montefiore Hospital in New York and moved with him in 1948 to the Neurological Institute. Although he had been rounding regularly on the child neurology service, it was unexpected when, in 1951, Merritt asked him to succeed Louis Casamajor as Chief of the Pediatric Neurology Service. Under Carter’s direction, this service rapidly expanded to the point that it became a prototype for child neurology services around the country. Carter was soon promoted to Professor of Clinical Neurology in 1960 and, in 1962, to Dwight David Eisenhower United Cerebral Palsy Professor. He served until 1978 and at the mandatory age of retirement, he became professor emeritus of neurology and pediatrics. He then served as chief of neurology at Blythedealth Children’s Hospital in Valhalla, New York, and remained in active practice until 1989.

Before 1957, there had been no hospital funding for programs to train child neurologists. Carter assumed a leadership role in negotiations with the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness to obtain federal support. He also had a major role in establishing guidelines for the requirements for the program to be funded. It is not surprising that his program at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center was the first approved. The next step was the need to identify child neurology as a recognized specialty or subspecialty, and whether it should be primarily neurology or pediatrics. After considerable dialogue between Carter, along with Francis Forster and members of the American Board of Pediatrics, an agreement was reached that it would be part of neurology. Then as the first child neurologist to become a director (1959-1966) and President (1965) of the ABPN, Carter was also a leader in the development of the “Special Competence in Child Neurology” certification by the ABPN in 1967.

Dr. Carter was recognized as an outstanding clinician and teacher, and a large number of directors of academic programs of child neurology were trained with him. As a result, all of his published research was clinical and covered a variety of diseases.

His leadership and contributions, particularly to child neurology, were widely recognized and acknowledged.
At the time of his retirement, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University established a Sidney Carter Professorship in Pediatric Neurology in his honor. He was elected president of each of the three major organizations representing neurology: the ABPN (1965), the American Academy of Neurology (1969-1971), and the American Neurological Association (1978-1979). In 1976, he received the Hower Award, the highest honor of the Child Neurology Society. In his memory, the American Academy of Neurology established the Sidney Carter Award in Child Neurology that is awarded biannually.

References:

Alexander Treloar Ross: 1908-1997
(Director 1959-1964, Vice President 1964)

Alexander Treloar Ross, the son of a Scottish immigrant physician, was born January 27, 1908, in Honolulu, Hawaii, and died January 14, 1997, in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas. He received an A.B. in bacteriology from Stanford University in 1928, a medical degree from the University of Oregon in 1932, and an M.S. from the University of Michigan in 1937. Upon graduation from medical school, he was commissioned a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Medical Corps Reserve. An internship and a residency in neuropsychiatry under Hans Reese were completed at the University of Wisconsin in 1935. He was an instructor of neurology at the University of Michigan from 1935 to 1937. He then was a physician at Caro State Hospital in Michigan until 1940. At that time, he was recruited to Indiana University as an assistant professor of neurology by David Boyd who was the first full-time chairman of the newly named Department of Neurology and Psychiatry. After only 14 months, in September of 1941, he was called to active duty as a first lieutenant in the Army.

Ross served with distinction during World War II, mostly in Europe, and was responsible for the only functioning electroencephalography laboratory in the European theater. In 1945, he was appointed chief of neurology in the division of neuropsychiatry for the entire U.S. Army. He was discharged from the U.S. Army Reserve as a much-decorated Lieutenant Colonel in 1952.

When he returned to Indiana in 1946, no funds were available at the medical school for his old academic position, so he entered private practice but continued to do most of the teaching of neurology as a volunteer. When Dr. Boyd left Indiana in 1948, Dr. Ross became Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurology and Psychiatry. Under his guidance, both psychiatry and neurology grew. Dr. Ross realized that these two disciplines needed to be independent and through his efforts, each was established as an autonomous department in 1952. Though certified by examination in both disciplines, neurology (1939) and psychiatry (1942), he considered himself to be a neurologist and chose to become chairman of the department of neurology, and over the next 19 years built it from one full-time faculty to one of the largest and best in the country. Typical of this kind and self-deprecating gentleman, in 1971, he chose to step down as chairman two years before the mandatory retirement age for administrators, because he thought that this would make the transition go more smoothly. He was most supportive to his successor and continued as full-time faculty until 1978, when he became professor emeritus.

His contributions to the medical literature are primarily clinical. These have been critical to the understanding of a number of diseases, including cerebral hemiatrophy, tuberous sclerosis, acute cerebellar ataxia of childhood, progressive selective sudomotor denervations, recurrent cranial nerve palsy, and inanition syndrome in infants with anterior hypothalamic neoplasms. Progressive selective sudomotor denervation is known by the eponym, Ross’s Syndrome.

Dr. Ross was one of the great bedside teachers whose greatest pleasure was in helping his students, residents, and faculty reach their potential. One only became aware of his many accomplishments by observation. He never called attention to them. Nevertheless, they were recognized and earned him many honors in his career. He served as vice president of three of the most important organizations in neurology, the American Academy of Neurology, the American Neurological Association, and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He also served on...
advisory councils to the National Institutes of Health, the Veterans Association, and other organizations. Other distinctions included Indiana’s highest honor, Sagamore of the Wabash in 1963, and Honorary Kentucky Colonel in 1969. Indiana University honors him each year with two special awards: the Alexander Treloar Ross Award for the most outstanding graduating medical student in neurology; and recognition of the neurology resident who presents the best original paper during an annual competition.

Some of his most important accomplishments will probably never be appropriately recognized. Although he had a great deal to do with the resurgence of neurology after World War II, Dr. Ross himself never called attention to his role. It was apparent that he had input into the NINDB training grants for neurology residents, and Indiana received one of the first of these. Also, it was known that he served in official advisory capacities to the Veterans Administration, the National Institutes of Health, and many other government, professional, and volunteer groups. Although he was never formally identified in any of the official records, I was impressed in 1972 when hundred of letters were sent to Indiana University expressing the high regard in which Alexander Ross was held by the most outstanding neurologists, psychiatrists, and neurosurgeons in the world. I read them all and I was pleased that his influence did not go unnoticed. For example, among them were four from each of the recognized founders (Four Horsemen) of the American Academy of Neurology. Baker noted “…Dr. Ross had the vision to realize the importance of this phase of medicine and joined us in the formation of the American Academy of Neurology and in the gradual expansion and activation of this specialty.” Forster: “…American Academy of Neurology…His valiant efforts and its inception had much to do with bringing this Society into being…” Sahs: “…numerous contacts with him during the founding and the early days of the American Academy of Neurology. …carry out effectively a number of administrative assignments in the fledging Academy.” From these accolades from the acknowledged founders of the Academy, one might assume that if he was not a fifth “horseman,” he did not ride far behind.

As his student, resident, colleague, and friend, I will take the liberty of quoting myself: “When this giant walked, the ground didn’t shake, but his footprints are imprinted forever in the minds and hearts of all those who knew and loved him.”

References:
Fig. 4. ABPN Board of Directors - March 1958 (Neurologists Highlighted)
THE 1960s ON:

The 1960s and 70s was a time of gradual transition for the ABPN, from directors who’d been active leaders during the resurgence of neurology after World War II to a younger group who lived through those times in more junior positions. As only nine of those appointed in or after 1960 have met the criteria for inclusion in this presentation—to the good fortune of those who are excluded—both decades will be discussed together.

Adolph Louis (Ady) Sahs: 1906-1986
(Director 1960-1967, Vice President 1966, President 1967)

Adolph L. Sahs was born in Charles City, Iowa, on May 27, 1906, and died December 6, 1986, in Iowa City. After spending his boyhood years in Salem, South Dakota, he entered the University of Iowa in 1925, thus beginning a lifetime relationship with that institution. During his undergraduate years, he was an outstanding first baseman on the varsity baseball team, but opted to go into medicine rather than pursue a professional career as an athlete. He received his medical degree in 1931. He interned at the Cincinnati General Hospital in Ohio, but returned to Iowa to train in neurology under Dr. Clarence Van Epps. In 1936, he joined the faculty as an instructor of neurology. From 1938 to 1939, Sahs studied with Tracy Putnam and Leo Alexander at the Boston City Hospital and with John Fulton at New Haven as a Rockefeller Foundation fellow. After returning to Iowa, he rose through the academic ranks to full professor and to head of the department of neurology in 1948. For the next 26 years until 1974, he served in this position. As professor emeritus, he continued an active clinical practice until his death in 1986.

Dr. Sahs made a difference in a diversity of areas. Like most of the neurology “giants,” he was an outstanding teacher, receiving multiple teacher-of-the-year awards. He was a superb clinician with legendary diagnostic skills, and he made significant contributions to new knowledge. During the resurgence of neurology after World War II, he participated in every phase, from the local to the national to the international level. He was recognized as one of the “Four Horsemen,” instrumental in establishing the American Academy of Neurology and its early development. He contributed at many levels as a leader in the National Institute of Neurologic Disease and Blindness, later the National Institute of Neurologic Disease and Stroke, and was on various committees, study sections, site visiting teams, training grant committees, and the advisory council.

Although he was instrumental to the advancement of neurological knowledge in a spectrum of areas, many would consider the most important to be his studies of intracranial aneurysms and intracranial hemorrhage. Beginning in the 1950s, he organized and supervised a monumental multicenter study of more than 3,000 patients, the “International Cooperative Study in Subarachnoid Hemorrhage.” This would be the first multiple-institution prospective and later randomized study of neurological disease. This effort resulted in numerous publications and a book that defined the natural history of intracranial aneurysms and arteriovenous malformations. This project evolved into a random controlled study comparing the results of hypotensive management, carotid ligation, intracranial surgery, and bed rest. Although the results of the study are very important, it is the early championing of trial methodology as a model for future large cooperative studies in the treatment of other neurological diseases that continues to contribute to evidence-based medicine.

A second major contribution to medical knowledge resulted from his role as general chairman of the Joint Committee for Stroke Facilities (1969-1978), a collaborative venture between the American Neurological Association and the Regional Medical Programs. He organized 10 committees composed of outstanding experts who defined the state of risk factors, epidemiology, diagnosis, diagnostic workup, management, and specific treatment that were summarized in the monograph Guidelines for Stroke Care.

He, in collaboration with Paul Bucy, was also responsible for revising and rewriting the fifth and sixth editions of Grinker’s Neurology.

These contributions to neurology resulted in additional honors and appointments, including President of the ABPN (1967), American Academy of Neurology (1961-1963), and American Neurological Association (1967-1968).
Fig. 5. ABPN Board of Directors - April 1962 (Neurologists Highlighted)
Although I knew and worked closely with many of the “giants” outside Indiana University, I had the most continuous and personal contact with Dr. Sahs, beginning in the 1950s as part of the cooperative study of subarachnoid hemorrhage, and continuing until just a few years before his death. We participated in studies and sat on national committees together. But, it was during a blizzard in 1967 when I had the most intimate view of what helped make him great. I was in Iowa City, Iowa, attending a meeting of the executive committee of the cooperative study when informed that all flights had been cancelled and I was marooned there for the next five days. During that time, with Dr. Sahs’ abhorrence of inactivity, he insisted that I spend every waking hour making rounds, attending lectures, sitting with him, and observing him examining his patients from the wee hours of the morning to late at night. Not a moment was wasted. Observing his drive and innate brilliance, I could easily understand why he was so effective at so many levels.

References:

Augustus Steele (Buck) Rose: 1907-1989
(Director 1961-1968, Vice President 1968)

Augustus (Buck) Rose was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on July 14, 1907, and died June 25, 1989. After attending the University of North Carolina, he transferred to Harvard Medical School in 1930, with a teaching fellowship in microscopic anatomy. Following graduation from medical school in 1932, he became a house officer at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Two years later, he returned to the University of North Carolina as an associate professor of anatomy. In 1937, he resumed clinical work at Massachusetts General Hospital as an assistant in neurology. In 1939, he became an assistant and chief of the department of therapeutic research as a half-time position at Boston Psychopathic Hospital. He also taught neurology and psychiatry at several Harvard hospitals and had a part-time practice.

In 1951, he was appointed professor of medicine and chairman of the division of neurology at the University of California in Los Angeles. When neurology became a department in 1970, he was the first chairman. After becoming professor emeritus at UCLA in 1974, he continued to be involved in the university in addition to taking on Veterans Administration activities as a VA Distinguished Physician.

Dr. Rose’s research contributions were chiefly clinical. During the years in Boston between 1939 and 1951, his primary research contributions were in neurosyphilis and evaluation of results of neurosurgical procedures on the frontal lobe. During World War II, he participated in the evaluation of penicillin as a treatment for syphilis and, because fever therapy (malaria) for general paresis was used, he had the opportunity to evaluate antimalarial compounds. As part of his work on the results of frontal lobe operations, he showed that sectioning of the connections between anterior thalamus and the anterior cingulum, in addition to relieving anxiety states, also altered the reaction to pain. At UCLA, he was instrumental in establishing a dedicated neurological research center within the department of neurology. Although many areas of research were carried on at this center, as director, he chose demyelinating disease as the primary area for research. He directed the collaborative study evaluating the effects of ACTH in multiple sclerosis. In later years, he became interested in Alzheimer’s disease and helped create the Foundation for Alzheimer Research. He became the first chairman of its National Scientific Advisory Board.

Rose’s contributions to neurology were widely recognized. In addition to serving as a director and Vice President of the ABPN, he was President of both the American Academy of Neurology (1959-1961) and the American Neurological Association (1969). He also served on the Council of the National Institute of Neurological Disease and Stroke and on the boards of many volunteer organizations. He was made an Honorary Foreign Member of the Association of British Neurologists in 1972.
Charles Rupp: 1908-1970
(Director 1962-1969, President 1969)

Charles Rupp was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 12, 1908, and died in Woodstock, Illinois, on September 1, 1970, within six weeks after a pulmonary malignancy was discovered. He graduated from William Penn Charter School (1925) and Harvard College (A.B. 1929) and received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1933. After an internship at Bryn Mawr Hospital, he trained in neurology and psychiatry at several institutions. He was a resident at the Orthopaedic Hospital and Infirmary for Nervous Disease and the assistant resident psychiatrist at New York Hospital. In 1936, he returned to Philadelphia as a fellow in psychiatry at Pennsylvania Hospital and completed his training as senior psychiatrist at the Rhode Island State Hospital.

Dr. Rupp then returned to Philadelphia where he began private practice and remained for the rest of his professional career. He served on the neurology staff of the hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, the Graduate Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and Bryn Mawr Hospital. He held leadership positions at the Philadelphia General Hospital, where he was chief of service and chairman of the department of neurology (1963-67), and president of the medical board (1954-57). He spent the last 16 years of his life as chair of the department of neurology and psychiatry at the Lankenau Hospital. He also held an appointment as associate professor on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

He authored a number of clinically oriented papers. He was well-regarded by his peers, and he wrote many “in memoriams” for deceased colleagues published in the Transactions of the American Neurological Association. In addition to serving as a director and President (1969) of the ABPN, he also was active in the American Neurological Association. After serving as Assistant Secretary from 1948 to 1955, he was Secretary-Treasurer from 1955 to 1959 before being elected First Vice President in 1960. As ABPN’s chairman of the examinations committee, he was a major contributor to the introduction, in 1967, of the written examination as an independent part of the certifying process.

Charles Rupp was described in his obituary as a quiet and rather private person whose sometimes gruff exterior concealed a warm and compassionate nature. During a search for biographical information, it was discovered that Dr. Rupp was a major railroad enthusiast. The Charles Rupp Railroad Timetable Collection was donated to the John W. Barriger II National Railroad library in 1933 by the Philadelphia Antheneum. It consisted of 36 record boxes of thousands of timetables, travel brochures, and other paraphernalia representing more than 100 railroads collected by Dr. Charles Rupp of Philadelphia.

References:
Mancall, E. Personal communication.
Arnold Phineas Friedman: 1909-1990  
(Director 1965-1972, President 1971)

Arnold P. Friedman was born August 25, 1909, in Portland, Oregon, and died September 17, 1990, in Tucson, Arizona. He received a bachelor’s (1932) and a master’s degree (1934) from the University of Southern California, and his medical degree from the University of Oregon in 1939. He was an intern (1939-1940) and a neurology resident (1940-1942) at Los Angeles County Hospital. From 1942 to 1943, he was an assistant physician at Boston Psychopathic Hospital. He was a fellow in neurology at Harvard Medical School from 1943 to 1944. He joined the faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University as an instructor in neurology in 1944 and became a clinical professor in 1967. He worked primarily at the Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center, where he established, in 1947, one of the first headache clinics in the world. He remained director of the clinic until 1973 when he became professor of neurology at the University of Arizona. He retired in 1986.

Dr. Friedman was recognized as an international authority on headaches, with a special interest in migraine headaches. He published widely the results of his observations and work in numerous journals and books. His preeminence led to his appointment as chairman of the ad hoc committee on classification of headache, established by the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, which led to the publication of the first comprehensive classification of headache. He also served as chairman of the World Commission for the Study of Headache (1958) and the headache sections of the American Medical Association and the American Neurological Association. He was President of the American Association for the Study of Headaches and a member of the board of directors of the National Migraine Foundation.

Dr. Friedman made other contributions to neurology. In addition to serving as a director and President (1971) of the ABPN, he was a trustee (1958-1959) of the American Academy of Neurology and a member of all of the major national neurological societies, including the American Neurological Association. In addition to his many awards and honors from professional organizations, he was made an honorary chief of the Kiowa Indians in Oklahoma in 1958. The author could not find any explanation for this unusual award.

References:

David Barrett Clark: 1913-1992  
(Director 1969-1976, Vice President 1976)

David Clark was born in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, on November 1, 1913, and died in September 1992. He first studied veterinary medicine at Michigan State College, where he became interested in the nervous system. He then entered the University of Chicago Graduate School of Medicine and was awarded a fellowship in anatomy and received a Ph.D. in anatomy in 1939. Evidently, his medical studies were interrupted during World War II when he worked on the neuropathology of war gases as a research assistant to Steven Polyak. It was during this time that he developed a close personal and professional relationship with Douglas Buchanan, a pioneer child neurologist, who greatly influenced his decision to become a child neurologist. After the war, he resumed his medical studies and received his M.D. degree in 1946 from the University of Chicago, and followed with a six-month internship in pediatrics. He then interned in medicine followed by a neurology residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He trained for a year (1950-1951) as a Fulbright Lecturer in Neurology at the National Hospital at Queen’s Square, London, with J. Godwin Greenfield. He returned to Johns Hopkins as an instructor, rising to associate professor while working closely with Frank Ford, another pioneer child neurologist. As Dr. Ford’s successor after 16 years at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Clark became disillusioned with
administrative obstruction to his efforts to build a strong, independent child neurology section, and accepted a position at the University of Kentucky at Lexington in 1965. He became the first professor and chairman of the department of neurology of the newly organized medical school.

Although his main contributions were in teaching and patient care and he published relatively few scientific papers, Dr. Clark did make important research contributions. In the late 1950s, he was one of a small group who developed the Nation Collaborative Perinatal Project of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness. This was a prospective study to identify the causes of neurological deficits in young children that ultimately included 60,000 pregnancies. Other interests and contributions included the pathology of congenital and perinatal neurologic disorders, the neurological complications of congenital heart disease, and subacute sclerosing panencephalitis.

Dr. Clark’s contributions to the formal establishment of child neurology as a distinct specialty are widely recognized. In 1959, when the first child neurology examination was given as a separate part of the examinations by the ABPN, he worked closely with Dr. Sidney Carter, the first child neurology director on the board, as an assistant examiner. In 1969, he became the first child neurologist after Carter to become a director of the board. This was the first year that examinations were performed for candidates for certification in “Neurology with Special Qualification in Child Neurology.” He had been one of the leading participants in the negotiations with the American Board of Pediatrics at the American Board of Medical Specialties in recognizing child neurology as being in neurology and not pediatrics. He also served during this time (1966-1974) on the Residency Review Committee for psychiatry and neurology.

Among his most distinguished lectureships were the Tel Lecturer at the Royal College of Physicians (1967), the Sir Leonard Parsons Lecturer (1973) in Birmingham, the Litchfield Lecturer in Residence (1976) at Oxford University, MacKeith Lecturer (1980) at the British Society of Child Neurologists in London, and the Douglas Reye Memorial Lecture (1979) to the International Congress of Child Neurology in Sydney, Australia. In 1979, he received the Hower Award, the highest honor awarded by the Child Neurology Society.

References:
Fig. 6. ABPN Board of Directors - February 1969 (Neurologists Highlighted)
T. R. Johns was born in Fairmont, West Virginia, on August 25, 1924, and died at his desk of cardiomyopathy on February 11, 1988, in Charlottesville, Virginia. He attended Morgantown High School, West Virginia University, and Harvard College, and received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1948. He interned at the Faulkner Hospital in Boston and trained with Bernard Alpers at Jefferson Hospital from 1949 to 1951. After a two-year tour of duty in the Navy, he completed his training and became chief resident at the Neurological Institute of New York at the Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital under H. Houston Merritt.

Johns joined the faculty of the University of Virginia on January 1, 1956, as an assistant professor of neurology in the department of neurology and psychiatry. Six months later, he was named acting neurologist-in-chief and in 1958, the position was made permanent. By 1964, he was promoted to professor of neurology, and, in 1967, due to his efforts, neurology was given departmental status, and he was named the first chairman, a position he held the rest of his life. In 1972, he was named Alumni Professor of Neurology. From a rather modest beginning, under Dr. Johns’ leadership, the department expanded into one of the top programs in the country.

Dr. Johns excelled in many areas. In Thompson’s memorial to Johns, he noted that Johns, in his curriculum vita, listed his “interests” to be teaching, general neurology, and disorders of the motor unit, particularly neuromuscular and myasthenia problems. He was highly regarded as a teacher and was awarded the Robley Dunglison Award from the University of Virginia in 1965. His administrative abilities were demonstrated in the excellent department that he built, and his appointment to University of Virginia governing bodies, including chairing the committee on governance in the School of Medicine, the presidency of the University of Virginia Hospital Clinical Staff, and membership on the University faculty senate.

His primary interest in research was in neuromuscular disease. Early in his career, in 1960, he was awarded a Markle Scholarship in Medical Science (Neurology) to study at the Institute of Pharmacology in 1960 at the University of Lund, Sweden, with Dr. Stephen Thesleff. This interest resulted in a greater understanding of the nature and management of neuromuscular disorders with a particular interest in myasthenia gravis. His contributions were recognized with the establishment of a Jerry Lewis Neuromuscular Center in 1982. In addition to his own research, he successfully stimulated increasing research productivity by the residents, fellows, and faculty in his department.

In addition to serving as a director of the ABPN, Dr. Johns made many other contributions at a national level. He served on committees for the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke. He was a board member of volunteer agencies, including the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Hartwell Thompson, in his memorial published in the Annals of Neurology, noted, “T. R. was a diplomat, but he was a stubborn one. He held out for his principles, even when he might lose. His attempts to make changes in some of the priorities and processes of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) were defeats or setbacks and are well-known to his colleagues. Many of the objectives he advocated for ABPN have been embraced since his term expired.” The issues are not known by this biographer and are only cited to emphasize a personality trait that a very close friend and colleague observed and thought to be of interest in a eulogy.

Dr. Johns and I became friends when we examined together on Arnold Friedman’s team. We developed a mutual admiration society concerning Indiana University graduates who went into neurology. Our graduates who interviewed or accepted a residency with T. R. described an outstanding program to be highly coveted. Indiana University will be forever grateful for returning one of these, Dr. Robert Pascuzzi, the current chairman of the ABPN Board and of the department of neurology at Indiana University, who also brought with him Dr. Karen Roos, another exceptional example of T. R.’s program. They started brilliant and both returned brilliantly trained. Thank you, T. R.

References:
Melvin David Yahr: 1917-2004

Melvin David Yahr was born November 18, 1917, in New York City, and died of lung cancer on January 1, 2004, in Scarsdale, New York. He grew up in the Bronx and Brooklyn. He received his bachelor’s degree (1939) and his medical degree (1943) from New York University. There, he served his internship and residency in neuropsychiatry, where he worked under Foster Kennedy. From 1944, during World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps until 1947. In 1947, he returned to complete his residency under H. Houston Merritt at the Montefiore Hospital in New York City.

In 1948, when Merritt moved to the New York Neurological Institute, Yahr joined him as a research assistant in neurology. In 1950, he was promoted to instructor in neurology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. He continued on the faculty until 1973, when he left to assume the chair of the department of neurology at the newly formed medical school at Mount Sinai. During his years at Columbia, he rose to become the first H. Houston Merritt Professor of Neurology and Associate Dean for postgraduate studies. He continued as chairman at Mount Sinai until 1992. At that time he continued to be active until his death as the Aidekman Family Chair in neurologic research and in the practice of neurology.

Dr. Yahr contributed much to the knowledge of neurological disease, producing more than 300 publications. But most would consider his major contributions to be in Parkinson’s disease and related disorders. In 1963, he organized and established the Clinical Center for Research in Parkinson’s Disease and related Disorder at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. The work of Yahr and his colleagues resulted in the better understanding of Parkinson’s disease in many areas, including the development of the Hoehn-Yahr scale for assessing Parkinson’s disease severity and progression.

In 1968, Yahr and his associates reported confirmation of the reports of Cotzias a few months earlier that high oral doses of L-dopa were effective in the treatment of Parkinson’s disease. In the fall of 1968, he chaired a committee of clinical investigators working with L-dopa to develop a large-scale nationwide clinical trial. The efforts of this group, convened by the National Institutes of Health, served as the basis for further clinical trials that ultimately established the safety and efficacy of L-dopa.

Dr. Yahr’s accomplishments were recognized by national and international honors and leadership positions. He was consultant to many groups, including the National Institute of Neurological Communicative Disorders and Stroke, the National Research Council, the National Academy of Sciences, and the New York City Board of Education.

In addition to serving as President of the ABPN, he was also elected President of the American Neurological Association and chairman of the board of trustees of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease. He served as Secretary-General of the Ninth International Congress of Neurology. He was a founder and Chairman of the World Federation of Neurology Research Committee on Extrapyramidal Disorders. He served on many editorial boards and was editor-in-chief of the Journal of Neural Transmission from 1989 until his death.

Among his honors were the Jacobi Medallion and the J. Lester Gabrilove Award for Significant Contributions to Medicine from Mount Sinai, the Solomon Berson Award in Clinical Science from New York University, and the Parkinson’s Disease Foundation’s 30th Anniversary Award from Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. He was an honorary member of the Société Française de Neurologie, the Association of British Neurologists, the Argentine Neurologic Society, the Société Belge de Neurologie, and the American Neurologic Association.

References:
John Robert Calverley: 1932-2004  
(Director 1977-1984, Secretary 1982-1983, Vice President 1994)

John R. Calverley was born January 14, 1932, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and died October 30, 2004, from prostate cancer. He received his medical degree from the University of Oregon in 1955, and served an internship (1955-1956) and one year of neurology residency (1956-1957) at the University of Iowa. He then trained in neurology at the Mayo Clinic (1957-1960). He served the next three years in the U.S. Air Force.

In 1963, Calverley began a lifetime affiliation with the University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston as an assistant professor of neurology in the department of psychiatry. His academic advancement was rapid. By 1970, he was a full professor and had founded the division of neurology. In 1973, he was instrumental in establishing an independent department of neurology, which he chaired until 2002 when he reached the age of 70. At this time, he was said to be the longest serving neurology chairperson in the United States. He continued to serve as residency program director until his death two years later.

Dr. Calverley considered himself to be first and foremost an educator and clinician, and this is where he excelled. Virtually all the work he published was clinically related. His contributions to patient care, education of residents and students, and the specialty of neurology at a national level were exceptional and widely recognized. He received four Golden Apple awards for outstanding teacher for medical students and was highly regarded as a teacher by his residents. The year of his death, he received a special award, the John P. McGovern, M.D. Award in Oslerian Medicine for integrating scientific and humanistic principles in the practice and teaching of medicine principles to students and residents.

His leadership in academic neurology included positions as a director and Vice President of the ABPN, chairman of the accreditation council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Residency Review Committee for Neurology, President of the Association of University Professors of Neurology, and a trustee of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN). In 2004, he received the Texas Neurologic Society’s 2004 Lifetime Achievement Ward. That same year, the AAN Foundation established the John R. Calverley Education and Research Fund to support a clinical research training fellowship in his honor.

For many years I worked closely with John in the Association of University Professors of Neurology and the ABPN, and agree with the assessment expressed in Ashizawa and Kent’s eulogy (Ashizawa and Kent, 2005) that "John was a man of dignity, grace, and kindness. He was a true gentleman.” Having examined with him for many years, I might add that he also was a particularly kind and astute examiner.

References:
Ashizawa T. Eulogy for Professor John R. Calverley. UTMB Department of Neurology  

(Director 1978-1985, Treasurer 1984, President 1985)

Leonard Berg was born July 17, 1927, in St. Louis, Missouri, and died on January 18, 2007, from complications caused by a cerebral hemorrhage. He graduated from Soldan High School in St. Louis at age 15 and, in 1943, enrolled in a wartime accelerated pre-med program at Washington University. He worked his way through school by playing dance music on his clarinet and saxophone. In 1945, Berg entered Washington University’s School of Medicine, where he became interested in neurology during a freshman neuroanatomy class taught by James L. O’Leary. He received his medical degree in 1949 at age 21.

Berg served an internship (1949-1950) and one year of residency (1950-1951) at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. From 1951 to 1953, he was a resident in neurology at the Neurological Institute in New York. In 1953, he became one of the first postdoctoral fellows at the new clinical center of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

When he returned to St. Louis in 1955, he turned down a full-time faculty position at Washington University because he feared that he would not be successful in research, and entered private practice. Dr. Berg’s professional
life consisted of two separate and distinguished careers. From 1955 until 1989, he carried on a full-time private practice of neurology. Yet during this time, he contributed to the field of neurology locally and nationally. He served as a volunteer faculty member, with the ultimate rank of clinical professor. Motivated by his patients, he developed a special interest in Alzheimer’s and related diseases. While carrying on a full-time private practice, he initiated and received funding for major research programs at Washington University. This generated more scientific curiosity and stimulated ideas that led him to leave private practice in 1989 to accept a full-time faculty appointment as professor of neurology at Washington University.

He, with others, developed a clinical staging instrument, the Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) for distinguishing healthy aging from the onset of very mild dementia. In 1979, the National Institutes of Health awarded him and his colleagues a four-year grant to study both groups. Six years later, Berg was awarded a grant from the National Institute on Aging to establish one of the first Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) grants at the School of Medicine and Barnes Hospital. He served as its director until 1997. Under his leadership, the center expanded to include experimental neuropathology, genetics, neuropsychology, neurochemistry, and neuroradiology, and made significant advances in the understanding of this disease.

Dr. Berg held major leadership positions. In addition to being a director and President (1985) of the ABPN, he served as Chairman of the Missouri State Advisory Board on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders (1988-1995), Chairman (1991-1995) of the National Alzheimer’s Association’s Medical and Scientific Advisory Council, a member of the national Scientific Advisory Council of the American Federation for Aging Research, and a member of the Congressional Advisory Panel on Alzheimer’s Disease (1993-1995). He was also an effective spokesman for Alzheimer’s disease, testifying before Congress in 1992. Some of honors included the Second Century Award from Washington University, the Peter H. Raven Lifetime Award from the Academy of Science of St. Louis, and the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Public Service Awards from the Alzheimer's Association. In addition, since 1997, the Alzheimer Disease Research Center has hosted a biennial Alzheimer's research symposium in his honor.

In September 1998, he had his first stroke, which he correctly diagnosed as a right parietal cerebral hemorrhage secondary to amyloid angiopathy. He had a good recovery until early in January of 2007, when he had a second episode that resulted in his death. Dr. Berg’s passing has been so recent that most of the current directors knew him personally. Morris and Landau, in their eulogy, described him: “An outstanding physician and esteemed mentor, he provided sage advice, supportive collegiality, and exacting standards. He was a true gentleman, gracious and courteous, with a warm and engaging sense of humor. He was respected by all and idolized by many.”

References:
Fig. 7. ABPN Board of Directors - November 1977 (Neurologists Highlighted)
Acknowledgments:

Major published sources of material for this compilation are referenced after each “giant” biographical sketch. But many, many others made major contributions directing the author to obscure sources, verifying data, and giving direction to methods of research and the writing process. So many were involved over so many months, some might be inadvertently omitted. If so, I hope they will forgive me.

Many of the ABPN staff reviewed the archives for information and photographs of these “giants.” Foremost among these included Pat Janda, Dorthea Juul, Leah Kalasky, and Debbi Sippel.

Ralph Hicks, American Neurological Association archivist and historian, and Nancy L. Eckerman, medical history librarian at Indiana University, gave direction to finding obscure information sources and obtaining permission for use of material. Their advice and support over the entire time of the project was invaluable.

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Annie McLeary of the American Neurological Association supplied sources for material published by the American Neurological Association and copies of information that I could not find elsewhere that was published in the out-of-print, Centennial Anniversary Volume of the American Neurological Association 1875-1975.

Dr. Ludwig Guttmann wrote the material on Francis Forster, and Dr. Donald Mulder provided the profile on Frederick P. Moersch.

Dr. Jack Whisnant supplied and confirmed additional information on many of the directors from the Mayo Clinic, and Elliott Mancall contributed information on directors from the Philadelphia area.

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Photographs:

All photographs were taken from American Board of Psychiatry archives when available and recognizable. The photograph of Leonard Berg was supplied by his daughter, Nancy Berg, and Dr. William Landau and is published with their permission.


The photograph of John R. Calverly was obtained from the files of the University of Texas Medical Branch and reprinted with permission (Photo Courtesy of University of Texas Medical Branch) Hensley, K. Media Relations Specialist, Office of Public Affairs, the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston.