Mission Statement

The Mission of the course Research Update in Neuroscience for Neurosurgeons (RUNN) is to provide an introduction to and update of the latest concepts, hypotheses and methods of neurobiology and neuroscience relevant to neurological surgery. These are presented by accomplished neuroscientists in an atmosphere emphasizing scientific rigor, highlighting models of career development for neuroscientists, and illustrating potential future neurosurgical applications. A milieu of total immersion in scientific discourse is designed to foster creative discussions among neurosurgical trainees and faculty.

Historical Background and Setting

The RUNN course was the brainchild of Henry Schmidek, formerly of Harvard University and the University of Vermont. The course was conceived in response to the anticipated expansion of neurosciences, which he predicted in the early 1980’s. The course was to combat what he perceived as a lack of serious thought and scholarly productivity. With miles of bicycle trails and nearby ferries, the only way to get to the workshop was by boat. There was nothing like it in neurosurgical education, and it instantly caught on.

Because of the unique educational offering, and ensure residents’ continued participation.

For an annual report, the Society of Neurosurgeons (SNS) began in 1920 the SNS is a nonprofit organization of North American residency Program Directors. The SNS would be the Program Directors’ continued commitment to this unique educational offering, and ensure residents’ continued participation.

Academic Stars and Leaders in Neurosurgery and have become dedicated faculty. A requirement for faculty participation remains— the individual be active and accomplished scientist, speaking on topics he/she actively investigates, and that he/she be an effective speaker. Only those who are highly rated would be invited again. Many would dazzle and inspire casting truly unforgettable lectures or discussions. The days would be filled with lectures, unhurried, with plenty of time for discussion. There would be long blocks of time for reading in the library, or for creative and vivid discussions with beer, wine and munchies late into the night. Friendships would be formed among attendees, and research ideas and even an occasional scholarly career would be hatched. All attendees stay at the dorm at Swope Hall, where the legendary cafeteria is like no other, and the views from each simple bedroom (many shared by two residents) are memorable.

Because of untimely illness in 1998 Dr. Gross asked to step down from the Directorship of the RUNN Course, which he had grown to love so much. The opportunity for change of leadership allowed a re-examination and re-commitment to the Mission and core values of the RUNN Course. The AANS and CNS asked the Society of Neurosurgeons (SNS) to assume sponsorship and oversight of the course. Established in 1920 the SNS is known in neurosurgical lore as the “Senior Society” or organization of North American residency Program Directors. The SNS would be the Program Directors’ continued commitment to this unique educational offering, and ensure residents’ continued participation.

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The 2001 RUNN Course—
Curriculum: Tradition and Innovation

The founding mission and core values of the RUNN Course remained unchanged for this year's offering in 2001, and the SNS Executive Committee (representing North American Residency Program Directors) renewed its commitment to the course and its leadership.

In response to recent course evaluations and discussions with Program Directors and residents, the course was shortened in 1999 from two weeks to one full week, with travel days on both weekends, and this format which was very popular last year will be maintained. Length of individual lectures remains unchanged, including evening sessions. Curriculum content has been reshaped to include lectures covering the spectrum of molecular, cellular and systems neuroscience. These include coverage of topics on molecular genetics, signaling and receptors, stem cells, cell death, regeneration, oncogenesis, glial barriers, vascular tone and phenotype, chaos theory, cognitive information science, circuit modeling, and higher cortical functions. A major focus of the courses of the MBL laboratories and the very popular microscopy seminars with hands-on dissection of squid giant axon challenged the minds of the more agile young neurosurgeons. There were discussions on academic career development, scholarship, mentorship, and philosophy of science and the scientific method, and history of the MBL. And there were the traditional open house of the faculty, Career Development, and Course Orientation, and the farewell Clambake and certificate ceremony.

The 2001 Special Lecture was delivered by Mark Hallett, Chief of the Neurology Branch at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the NIH. He discussed cortical organization and the powerful tools of functional imaging in the study of brain plasticity. Dr. Hallett spent time with the attendees discussing the NIH and academic career tracks for neurologists and neurosurgeons. Dr. Michael Walker, also of the NIH, joined us again this year with his unique lifelong commitment to maintaining the best of the RUNN Course leadership. Dr. Walker recently retired director of the NIH NINDS Division of Stroke, Trauma, and Neurodegeneration, feeling freed from mundane distractions, participants reflected not only on the course material presented, but also on their own career development as well.

Even amid the grueling lecture schedule, attendees found a free afternoon for excursion to Martha's Vineyard or Boston. And thanks to an ingenuous cadre of neurosurgeons residents, the PowerPoint projected PA system by day became a full screen movie theater with booming sound by night.

Dr. Issam A. Awad, Oginsky-Kindt Professor and Chairman of Neurosurgery at the University of Colorado and RUNN Co-Director, delivered the Course together with his wife Cathy and a team of Co-Directors. Setting a pace of informality and congeniality, Dr. Awad explored the philosophy of the Course: "It is not a board review… the real objective is to help you explore your own research involvement." The RUNN Course is dedicated to the pursuit and advancement of the Society of Neurological Surgeons. For further information, go to the web site at http://www.societyns.org.

 нужно подправить и уточнить некоторые предложения от первой главы, и дополнить их до уровня научного стиля.