

August 15, 1980

News

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*****Dr. Kemp Clark president-elect
of American Association of Neuro-
logical Surgeons

DALLAS--The field of neurosurgery will eventually become more involved in the areas of trauma reduction and the epidemiology of trauma, says Dr. Kemp Clark, president-elect of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

And the role of the neurosurgeon will change significantly within the next 15 years, he predicts. Clark is professor and chairman of Neurosurgery at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

The changes will come about because of medical advances in the treatment of malignant tumors and disc diseases, he says. "The malignant tumor that has occupied so much of our attention will be cured through chemotherapy and immunotherapy--not surgery. Disc disease, another area the neurosurgeon is very heavily involved in, will be treated in much different ways. There will be much less surgery as we explore different ways to treat this condition."

Clark says that at the present time, "We are nowhere near being able to treat spinal cord injuries appropriately. This is one area the neurosurgeon will become more involved in. And neurosurgeons are also going to have to take responsibility and become more involved in the design of accident-preventive equipment."

His election to the office of president of the AANS next year, says Clark, is "a great honor for me. The role of president of the association is the highest honor a neurosurgeon in this country can receive from his peers."

Founded in 1931 as the Harvey Cushing Society in honor of Cushing, a pioneer in the field of neurosurgery, the AANS currently has a membership of 2,300 board-certified neurosurgeons--the largest such organization of neurosurgeons in the country. The organization's name was changed in 1965 to reflect the expanding role of the AANS as the voice of the specialty, much the same as the AMA speaks for the medical field.

Clark received his M.D. degree from The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 1948 and has been associated with Southwestern since 1956.

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