August 12, 2002

Audrey Penn, M.D.
Acting Director
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-2540

Dear Dr. Penn,

The Section on Cerebrovascular Surgery (SCVS) of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Report of the Stroke Progress Review Group. We applaud the efforts of the National Institutes of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) to develop a national stroke research plan. We think that the report of April 2002 is an excellent starting point for such a plan. We would like to make a few suggestions that we believe will be of value for a comprehensive national stroke research plan.

The SCVS believes that greater emphasis needs to be placed on translating research findings into clinical practice and that it would be appropriate to allocate increased resources for this. We also urge you to consider an increased focus on hemorrhagic stroke. Hemorrhagic stroke constitutes nearly 20 percent of stroke and we believe that this type of stroke deserves greater attention in a national stroke research plan.

In our view, stroke remains woefully underfunded when one considers the personal and financial burdens that cerebrovascular disease imposes on the people of the United States. The SCVS wants to offer the services of the neurosurgical community for any ongoing NINDS Committee that might be proposed to implement a national stroke research and treatment plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please contact me if there is anything we can do to be of service.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Harbaugh, MD, FACS, FAHA
Chairman, SCVS