In Celebration of NMC’s 50th Anniversary

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I was most pleased to note that Neurologia medico-chirurgica (NMC) has marked its 50th anniversary. The formation of the Japan Neurosurgical Study Group, predecessor to the Japan Neurosurgical Society, was originally planned in 1943. At that time, however, Japan was at war and we had to wait until 1948 to hold the first general meeting of the Study Group. The date “1948” incorporated into the emblem of the Japan Neurosurgical Society represents the year in which the Society was established.

Simultaneously with the holding of the inaugural meeting, “No To Shinkei” (Brain and Nerve) was launched as the Society’s journal in the same year. Lectures presented at the inaugural meeting were published in the first issue of “No To Shinkei” in November 1948. It is of true significance that Dr. Makoto Saito and Dr. Kentaro Shimizu wrote about their delight at the publication of “No To Shinkei” in the Editor’s Note. “No To Shinkei” was a commercially based journal, however, so publication of the Society’s own journal was very much awaited.

It was stipulated in Society bylaws to make NMC the Society’s official journal. In 1959, about 10 years after the Study Group was set up, the long-awaited English journal was published. This was only 7 years after the Society changed its name from “Study Group” to “Society” in 1952. In 1976, NMC was divided into Parts I and II. Part II, published in Japanese, was called Shinkei Geka. In 1990, NMC became an English journal. As stated, the journal of the Japan Neurological Society underwent considerable change in becoming what it is today. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the previous editors who have edited the journal and to others for their efforts and to the members of the Japan Neurosurgical Society for their ongoing support.

In 1992, 2 years after the NMC became an English journal, the Japanese Congress of Neurological Surgeons, the other major Japanese society of neurosurgeons, launched its Japanese journal, No Shinkei Geka Journal (Japanese Journal of Neurosurgery). This made available both Japanese and English neurosurgery journals and laid the foundation for enhancing the academic standards of Japanese neurosurgery. Today, the NMC has achieved a high impact factor, established a firm position as a major world-level journal, and continues to grow. Japanese neurosurgeons are proud of the NMC, which demonstrates that the Japan Neurosurgical Society is taking the lead in international neurosurgical fields.

Academic conferences,
NMC, and social activities are the three basic pillars of the Society. With the development and dissemination of annual academic conferences and the Society’s journal NMC, the Japan Neurosurgical Society has evolved from a private organization to the long-awaited incorporated association in 2003, meaning that the Society has been acknowledged by the government as an entity legally recognized with a “social personality,” thus given the capacity by law and approval as an entity for social activities for the common good. I sincerely hope that the Japan Neurosurgical Society continues to contribute to public welfare and further grows hand in hand with NMC as an engine for international neurosurgery development and a branch of neuroscience.

Note: “Sixty Years’ History of the Japan Neurosurgical Society,” published on September 25, 2008, regarding the history of the Society in the text.