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دکتر صومی، رئیس دانشگاه علوم پزشکی:

هنر بهره گیری از فرصت های ارزشمند جهت اعتلای دانشگاه

دکتر فرهودی، مدیر امور پژوهشی:

حضور استاد سمیعی، طلیعه ای بر توسعه و ارتقای ارتباطات علمی

دکتر شکوری، رئیس دانشکده پزشکی:

تکریم مقام معلم، همانا ارج نهادن به ارزش های والای انسانی است

دکتر سلیمانپور، معاون تحقیقات و فناوری دانشکده پزشکی:

پیشرفت و توسعه، نتیجه سرمایه گذاری در امر پژوهش

ویژه نامه
پروفسور مجید سمیعی

رئیس مرکز مغز و اعصاب هانوفر آلمان

به مناسبت حضور ارزشمندشان در دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تبریز در شهریور ۱۳۹۳
و انتخاب ایشان به عنوان مرد برتر جراحی مغز و اعصاب در سال ۲۰۱۳ توسط مجله جهانی جراحی مغز و اعصاب


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هنر بهره‌گیری از فرصت‌های ارزشمند جهت اعتلای دانشگاه

پیام ریاست دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تبریز به مناسبت حضور استاد سمیعی

۵

حضور استاد سمیعی، طلیعه‌ای بر توسعه و ارتقای ارتباطات علمی

خیرمقدم مدیر امور پژوهشی دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تبریز

۶

تکریم مقام معلم، هماناارج نهادن به ارزش‌های والای انسانی است

خیرمقدم توسط ریاست محترم دانشکده پزشکی

۷

پیشرفت و توسعه، نتیجه سرمایه‌گذاری در امر پژوهش

دست‌نوشته معاون تحقیقات و فناوری دانشکده پزشکی

۸

بخش اول

مطالب برگرفته از وبسایت اداری پروفسور مجید سمیعی

۹

زندگی‌نامه - ۱۰ / جوایز و مدالها - ۱۲ / ریاست کنگره‌ها و انجمنهای علمی - ۱۳ / جوایز دانشگاهی و کتابهای منتشرشده - ۱۴ / تشکر از استاد سمیعی - ۱۵

گزارش تصویری دیدار پروفسور سمیعی از شهر تبریز

بخش دوم

مطالب برگرفته از مجله جهانی جراحی مغز و اعصاب به مناسبت انتخاب پروفسور مجید سمیعی به عنوان مرد برتر جراحی مغز در سال ۲۰۱۲

World Neurosurgery

November 2013 80 (5)

۲۳

نامه ادیتور مجله جهانی جراحی مغز و اعصاب درباره پروفسور سمیعی - 3 / نامه رئیس انجمن جراحی مغز و اعصاب جهان درباره پروفسور سمیعی - 4

خود زندگینامه پروفسور مجید سمیعی - 6 / سخنان دانشمندان و اساتید مشهور جراحی مغز و اعصاب درباره پروفسور سمیعی - 10

خدمات هنری و فنی:

طراحان هزاره سوم

(۰۴۱) ۳۵۵۴۰۰۳۸

مدیر هنری: حمیدرضا خیری / ناظر فنی چاپ: سیدمهدی یونس‌زاده

هنر بهره‌گیری از فرصت‌های ارزشمند جهت اعتلای دانشگاه

پیام ریاست دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تبریز به مناسبت حضور استاد سمیعی

زندگی صحنه‌ی یکتای هنرمندی ماست
هرکسی نغمه‌ی خود خواند و از صحنه رود
صحنه پیوسته به جاست
خرم آن نغمه که مردم بسپارند به یاد

از بدو خلقت تلاش برای یادگیری و تربیت انسان‌های علاقمند در عرصه سلامت، خاطراتی مبارک و ارزشمند را در صفحات روزگار ثبت کرده است. چشمانی که نور خود را در مسیر خدمت به خلق از دست می‌دهند، موهایی که در تربیت نسل بشری رنگ می‌بازند، گواهی صادق از مجاهدت عالمان می‌باشد. خوشبختانه استاد ارجمند جناب آقای پروفسور مجید سمیعی مصداق بارزی از این ارزش‌ها هستند.

بدینوسیله حضور گرم ایشان را در جمع مشتاقان تعلیم و تعلم در دانشگاه با قدمت علوم پزشکی تبریز، ارج نهاده و هنر صحیح بهره‌گیری از فرصت‌های ارزشمند ایجاد شده برای اعتلای دانشگاه را برهمکاران و دانشجویان عزیز یادآور می‌شوم. باشد با تلاش جمعی، راه دشوار ولی پرامید توسعه دانشگاه، در کمترین زمان ممکن پیموده شود.

دکتر محمدحسین صومی

رئیس دانشگاه علوم پزشکی و خدمات بهداشتی درمانی تبریز

حضور استاد سمیعی، طلیعه‌ای بر توسعه و ارتقای ارتباطات علمی

خیر مقدم مدیر امور پژوهشی دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تبریز

جناب آقای پروفسور سمیعی، چهره‌ی ماندگار، دانشمند فرهیخته و شخصیت شهیر جهانی در عرصه جراحی مغز و علوم اعصاب هستند که به عنوان الگویی برجسته از جهان علمی مطرح می‌باشند. اندیشه در زندگینامه ایشان به ما می‌آموزد که چگونه می‌توان اوج گرفت و به قله‌های علم و دانش رسید، چگونه می‌توان مأموریت‌گرا بود و در مسیر ترقی علم و خدمت به نوع بشر قدم‌های ماندگاری را برداشت و مورد اقبال جهانی قرار گرفت و ...

ایشان در عین رسیدن به جایگاه‌های عالیه علمی جهانی، هرگز وطن خویش، ایران را فراموش نکرده و با جان و دل و مشتاقانه در عرصه توسعه میهن عزیزمان قدم برداشته‌اند و اکنون نیز با حضور در جمع دانشگاهیان و دانشجویان دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تبریز ما را مفتخر ساخته‌اند.

امید است این حضور گهربار، طلیعه‌ای بر توسعه و ارتقای ارتباطات علمی دانشگاه بویژه در زمینه علوم اعصاب، در عرصه جهانی باشد.

دکتر مهدی فرهودی

رئیس مرکز تحقیقات علوم اعصاب

و مدیر امور پژوهشی دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تبریز

تکریم مقام معلم، همانا ارج نهادن به ارزش های والای انسانی است

خیرمقدم توسط ریاست محترم دانشکده پزشکی

لیس منّی الّا عالمٌ او متعلّمٌ

از من نیست مگر کسی که دانشمند باشد یا دانشجو رسول خدا ﷺ

اگر آموزش در دانشگاه پژوهش محور نباشد منجر به نتیجه مطلوب نخواهد شد به گونه ای که نوآوری و خلاقیت باید محور اصلی آموزش در دانشگاه ها گردد.

کار اصلی دانشگاه تولید علم، تحقیق و پژوهش است و فرق دانشگاه با آموزشگاه در نوآوری است. قطعاً دانشگاه اگر بخواهد در علم حرفی برای گفتن داشته باشد، این مهم بدون نوآوری علمی میسر نخواهد شد.

متأسفانه در ایران، فرهنگ پژوهش برخلاف فرهنگ آموزش، گسترش نیافته و نهادینه نشده است. اما فارغ از این نقاط ضعف در زمینه مسائل پژوهشی، آنچه در این بحث حائز اهمیت است، استفاده مفید و مؤثر از ظرفیت های موجود تحقیقاتی کشور به منظور انجام اقدامات مدبرانه در بهبود تولید ملی در کشور است.

مطلب مهم دیگری که اشاره به آن را واجب دانسته و آن را به عنوان یکی از برنامه های اساسی و راهبردی خود به عنوان ریاست دانشکده پزشکی می دانم، ارج نهادن به مقام استاد و دانشجو بوده و بنده معتقدم هرجا انسان موفق در طول روزگاران وجود داشته و دارد، از برکت تربیت و تعلیم مربی و معلم خوب او بوده است و در واقع تکریم و ارج نهادن به مقام معلم، همانا ارج نهادن به ارزش های والای انسانی است. لذا در این راستا یک حرکت بزرگی که در دانشکده پزشکی شروع شده است دعوت از اساتید بزرگ و صاحب نام میهن عزیزمان می باشد که بردن نام آنها باعث افتخار هر ایرانی در سراسر جهان می باشد. به شرط برنامه ریزی دقیق و مستمر، یقیناً استفاده از این دانشمندان موفق ایرانی که در فیلدهای مختلف حضور دارند باعث مباهات و منشاء خیر و برکت برای ایران اسلامی خواهد بود.

بی شک استاد و دانشمند فرهیخته، جناب آقای پروفسور مجید سمیعی، بهترین مثال از این قبیل افراد می باشند که با تشریف فرمائی خود در دانشکده پزشکی تبریز و دومین دانشکده پزشکی ایران از نظر قدمت، برگ زرینی به افتخارات این دانشکده اضافه نمودند.

اینجانب ضمن تشکر فراوان از این استاد علم و اخلاق، امیدوارم که این همکاری علمی باعث رونق و شکوفائی بیشتر استعداد های جوانان کشور عزیزمان گردد.

دکتر سید کاظم شکوری

رئیس دانشکده پزشکی دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تبریز

پیشرفت و توسعه، نتیجه سرمایه‌گذاری در امر پژوهش

دست‌نوشته معاون تحقیقات و فناوری دانشکده پزشکی

يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ مِنكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُواْ الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ

خداوند کسانی را که ایمان آورده‌اند و کسانی را که علم به آنان اعطاء شده درجات عظیمی می بخشد. (مجادله،۱۱)

یکی از عوامل اساسی پیشرفت در کشورهای توسعه یافته، توجه خاص به امر پژوهش است. اصولاً هر نوع پیشرفت و توسعه، ارتباط مستقیمی با تحقیقات علمی داشته و رشد و توسعه کشورهای پیشرفته، در نتیجه سرمایه‌گذاری در بخش پژوهش بوده است، به گونه‌ای که حجم وسیع پژوهش های علمی در کشورهای توسعه یافته صنعتی، گویای این واقعیت مهم می باشد. کشورهای پیشرفته صنعتی بخش قابل توجهی از تولید ناخالص ملی را به سرمایه‌گذاری در امور پژوهشی و تحقیقاتی اختصاص داده‌اند. به گفته کارشناسان، این رقم برای کشورهای صنعتی ۵ درصد بوده، حال آنکه در ایران این رقم حدود نیم درصد می باشد. با نگاهی به سابقه پژوهش و کار پژوهشی در ایران، خواهیم دانست که کشورمان در این حوزه، جایگاه مناسبی ندارد. توجه به آمار تعداد محققان کشور، سهم بودجه در نظر گرفته شده برای پژوهش، تعداد مراکز تحقیقاتی و... در مقایسه با کشورهای توسعه یافته، لزوم تدبیر هرچه بیشتر متولیان علمی و پژوهشی کشور را در این خصوص، می طلبد.

در این دست نوشته، با توجه به حضور ارزشمند دانشمند بزرگوار پروفسور مجید سمیعی در دانشکده پزشکی دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تبریز، به نقل از استاد، به تجربه کشور آلمان در این زمینه اشاره می نمایم که ایشان فرمودند: «... در سال ۲۰۰۸ که بحران اقتصادی در دنیا به وجود آمد، بسیاری از کشورها در تنظیم بودجه خود با چالش مواجه شدند، به همین خاطر در تمامی بخش ها تا ۵۰ درصد بودجه خود را کاهش دادند، در این میان کشور آلمان نیز در تمامی بخش ها به جز بخش مربوط به تحقیقات و پژوهش بودجه خود را کاهش داد.» یقیناً حضور استاد سمیعی، نابغه جراحی مغز و اعصاب جهان در محیط مقدس دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تبریز منشاء خیر و برکت خواهد بود و کوشش های فراگیر این دانشمند برجسته بین المللی در گسترش علم جراحی مغز و اعصاب، مایه افتخار تک تک ایرانیان است.

دکتر حسن سلیمانپور

معاون تحقیقات و فناوری دانشکده پزشکی دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تبریز

بخش اول

مطالبی که در این ویژه نامه مشاهده می نمائید، برگرفته از وبسایت اداری
پروفسور مجید سمیعی می باشد.

زندگی

پروفسور مجید سمیعی در تاریخ ۲۹ خرداد ۱۳۱۶ در شهر تهران و در خانواده ای فرهیخته چشم به جهان گشودند. ایشان پس از اتمام تحصیلات دوره دبیرستان در ایران راهی کشور آلمان شدند و در دانشگاه ماینتز در رشته پزشکی مشغول به ادامه تحصیل گردیدند. نظر به موفقیتهای علمی ایشان در دوران تحصیلات پزشکی و کسب عالیترین نمرات ممکن در امتحانات پایان دوره پزشکی، جایزه ویژه وزارت علوم ایران برای برترین دانشجویان ایرانی مقیم اروپا به ایشان تعلق گرفت. پس از فراغت از تحصیل در رشته پزشکی و همچنین اتمام تحصیلات ثانوی در بیولوژی، ایشان تحصیلات تخصصی خود در رشته جراحی مغز و اعصاب را در دانشگاه ماینتز آغاز نمودند و در سال ۱۹۷۰ موفق به دریافت مدرک بورد تخصصی این رشته از کشور آلمان شدند.

در آوریل ۱۹۷۰ و تنها در سن ۳۲ سالگی ایشان موفق به دریافت عنوان دانشیاری در رشته جراحی مغز و اعصاب گردیدند و فعالیت خویش را بعنوان معاون دپارتمان جراحی مغز و اعصاب دانشگاه ماینتز ادامه دادند. یکسال بعد و در سال ۱۹۷۱ ایشان موفق به دریافت عنوان استادی (پروفسور) در رشته جراحی مغز و اعصاب گردیدند. در این سال پیشنهاد عنوان استادی و ریاست دپارتمان رشته جراحی مغز و اعصاب در دانشگاه ملی ایران (دانشگاه شهید بهشتی کنونی) به ایشان داده شد. لیکن ایشان جهت ادامه فعالیت علمی خود در دانشگاه ماینتز از پذیرش این سمت مهم امتناع نمودند. در سال ۱۹۷۷ ایشان ریاست دپارتمان جراحی مغز و اعصاب در بیمارستان نورداشتات در هانوفر آلمان را پذیرفتند، سمتی که ایشان تا سال ۲۰۰۳ عهده دار آن بودند. پس از چندین پیشنهاد برای ریاست دپارتمان های جراحی مغز و اعصاب از طرف دانشگاههای لایدن هلند و ماینتز آلمان، ایشان در نهایت سمت استادی جراحی مغز و اعصاب دانشگاه پزشکی هانوفر (MHH) را در سال ۱۹۸۸ پذیرفتند. از سال ۱۹۹۶ ایشان ریاست هردو دپارتمان جراحی مغز و اعصاب در بیمارستان نورداشتات و دانشگاه پزشکی هانوفر را عهده دار شدند. در سال ۲۰۰۰ پروفسور سمیعی موسسه بین المللی علوم اعصاب را در هانوفر بنیان نهادند و ریاست آنرا برعهده گرفتند. در سال ۲۰۰۳ ایشان بازنشستگی خود از ریاست دپارتمانهای جراحی مغز اعصاب در بیمارستان نورد اشتات و دانشگاه پزشکی هانوفر را اعلام نموده و خود را وقف توسعه موسسه بین المللی علوم اعصاب نمودند. در سال ۲۰۰۴ پروفسور سمیعی همچنین ریاست موسسه بین المللی علوم اعصاب چین واقع در دانشگاه پزشکی پایتخت (Capital Medical University) در پکن را نیز تقبل نمودند. در سال ۲۰۱۰ ساخت موسسه بین المللی علوم اعصاب ایران در تهران برنامه ریزی و عملیات ساختمانی آن آغاز گردید. پروفسور مجید سمیعی بیانگذار و رئیس موسسه بین المللی علوم اعصاب ایران میباشند که در آینده نزدیک راه اندازی خواهد شد.

اهتمام پروفسور سمیعی به آموزش و پیشبرد رشته جراحی مغز و اعصاب یکی از جنبه های بسیار مهم و برجسته در فعالیتهای علمی ایشان می باشد. ایشان از آغاز فعالیتشان بعنوان پروفسور جراحی مغز و اعصاب، کوشش و توجه ویژه ای به آموزش جراحان مغز و اعصاب در سراسر جهان داشتند. ایشان از سال ۱۹۷۱ دوره های منظم سالانه یا دوسالانه آموزش جراحی میکروسکوپی مغز و اعصاب (میکرونوروسرجری) را در دانشگاه ماینتز برگزار می نمودند. پروفسور مجید سمیعی همچنین در سال ۱۹۷۹ نخستین دوره آموزشی جراحی قاعده جمجمه در جهان را در هانوفر پایه گذاری نمودند. علاوه بر دوره های منظمی که ایشان در آلمان برگزار می نمودند، دوره های آموزشی مشابه دیگری نیز در سایر کشورها در سراسر جهان جهت ارتقای دانش جراحان مغز و اعصاب توسط ایشان پایه گذاری و برگزار گردید. در سال ۲۰۰۴ ایشان بعنوان رئیس موسسه بین المللی علوم اعصاب چین دوره بین المللی سالانه جراحی مغز و اعصاب بالینی را سازماندهی و بنیانگذاری نمودند. در سال ۲۰۰۴ سازمان تامین اجتماعی ایران ریاست دپارتمان جراحی مغز و اعصاب بیمارستان میلاد تهران

نامـــه

را به پروفســور مجید سمیعی پیشنهاد نمودند. ازآن پس وبه رهبری ایشان، دوره های آموزشی منسجم و جامعــی برای کارکنان دپارتمان برنامه ریزی و اجرا گردید که نتیجه آن تبدیل این دپارتمان به یکی از توســعه یافته ترین و پیشــرفته ترین مراکز جراحی مغزواعصاب بوده اســت. از ســال ۲۰۰۶ پروفسور ســمیعی ســمپوزیوم بین المللی جراحی مغزو اعصاب را بطور مستمردر تهران و به رهبری خود بنیاد نهادند.

پروفســور مجید سمیعی ریاست و عضویت در گروه بنیانگذاری بسیاری از جوامع و موسسات بین المللی را برعهده داشــته اند. پروفسور ســمیعی در طی دوران زندگی علمی خویش مقامهای علمی بســیاری را در قالب اســتادی افتخاری، دکترای افتخاری و اســتاد میهمان ازدانشگاههای سراسر جهان کسب نموده اند. ایشان همچنین سخنرانی های افتخاری و سخنرانی های یادبود بسیاری نیز ایراد نموده اند. ایشان عضویت افتخاری بسیاری از آکادمیهای ملی علوم پزشکی وهمچنین جوامع جراحی مغزو اعصاب ملی، بین المللی و قاره ای را دارا می باشــند. ایشان تا کنون جوایز، افتخارات ومدالهای ارزشمند و گرانبهای ملی و بین المللی بسیاری را کسب کرده اند. ایشان میهمان افتخاری دربســیاری از گردهمایی های جراحی مغزو اعصاب بوده اند و به عنوان سخنران ویژه و مدعو، بیش از ۱۰۰۰ سخرانی در کنگره های بین المللی ایراد نموده اند.

پس از انتخاب پروفســور سمیعی به ســمتهای ریاســت درجامعه جراحی مغزو اعصاب آلمان، جامعه جراحی قاعده جمجمه آلمان، جامعه بین المللی جراحی قاعده جمجمه، گروه بین المللی مطالعات قاعده جمجمه و جامعه جراحی پلاســتیک و ترمیمی آلمان، ایشــان در سالهای ۱۹۹۷ تا ۲۰۰۱ به ســمت ریاســت فدراســیون جهانی انجمنهای جراحی مغزو اعصــاب (WFNS) انتخاب گردیدند. در سال ۱۹۹۸ ایشــان بنیاد فدراسیون جهانی انجمنهای جراحی مغزو اعصاب (WFNS) را بنیان نهادند. پروفسور سمیعی از سال ۲۰۰۱ به عنوان رئیس افتخاری فدراسیون جهانی انجمنهای جراحی مغزواعصاب (WFNS) و همچنین رئیس بنیاد این مجمع ایفای نقش نموده اند.

در ســال ۲۰۱۱ فدراســیون جهانی انجمنهای جراحی مغزواعصاب (WFNS) پروفسور سمیعی را بعنوان سفیراین فدراسیون درآفریقا منصوب نمود که بنیانگذاری پروژه بسیار مهم «آفریقا ۱۰۰» جهت ارتقای دانش جراحی مغزواعصاب در سراسراین قاره از ابتکارات ایشان در این سمت بوده است.

پروفســور ســمیعی ادیتور، عضوگروه ویراســتاری و ادیتور افتخاری بســیاری از مجلات پزشکی هســتند. ایشان تا کنون ۱۷ کتاب در رشــته جراحی مغزو اعصاب منتشرنموده اند. کارهای علمی ایشان همچنین در قالب بیش از ۵۰۰ مقاله علمی منتشرشده است.

یکی از مهمترین دســتاوردهای مهم پروفسور ســمیعی، آموزش بیش از ۱۰۰۰ جراح مغزو اعصاب از سراســرجهان می باشد که اغلب این جراحان در کشورهای خود دارای مراتب بالای علمی، اجرایی و آموزشی هستند. در سال ۲۰۰۲ دوستان و شاگردان ایشان جامعه بین المللی جراحی مغزو اعصابی به نام «کنگره بین المللی جراحان مغزو اعصاب پروفسور مجید سمیعی (MASCIN) را بنیان نهادند. این جامعه سپس به «جامعه بین المللی جراحان مغزو اعصاب پروفسور مجید سمیعی (MASSIN)» تغییرنام یافت.

در ســال ۲۰۱۱ فدراســیون جهانی انجمنهای جراحی مغزواعصاب (WFNS) در اقدامی بیسابقه، مدال افتخار این فدراســیون به همراه جایزه ۱۰۰۰۰ یورویی خود که هردو ســال یکبار به برجسته ترین جراحان مغزو اعصاب از سراســرجهان اهدا خواهد شــد را به افتخار پروفسور مجید سمیعی «مدال افتخار مجید ســمیعی (Madjid Samii Medal of Honor)» نامگذاری نمود. نخستین جایزه و مدال افتخار مجید ســمیعی در ســال ۲۰۱۱ در کشــور برزیل و همزمان با برگزاری مجمع این فدراسیون به پروفسور Maurice Choux از کشور فرانسه و استاد دانشگاه مارسی اهدا شد.

جوایز، مدال ها و افتخارات

جوایز

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پروفسور مجید سمیعی:

به اعتقاد من هیچ دانشمند و محققی بدون حس مسؤولیت اجتماعی برای همنوع خود به جایی نمی رسد؛ بنابراین باید در انتخاب افرادی که می خواهیم بر روی آن ها سرمایه گذاری کنیم علاوه بر استعداد علمی به شخصیت آنها نیز توجه کنیم.

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پروفسور مجید سمیعی:

دانشجویان مهم‌ترین اعضای کشور هستند و هر کدام باید بدانند که با ورود به دانشگاه افتخاری بزرگ نصیب‌شان شده است، بنابراین نباید خود را دست کم بگیرند.

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پروفسور مجید سمیعی:

کشورهای حوزه خلیج فارس سعی کرده‌اند که با ساختمان‌های بلند و رنگین، هویت خود را به نمایش بگذارند، ما باید تلاش کنیم برج‌های بزرگ را در مغزها ایجاد کنیم. ساختن برج‌های بزرگ در مغز باید فرهنگ ایرانیان شود، باید تمام اساتید هیئت علمی این هدف را دنبال کنند.

Appreciation Letter

To Professor Madjid Samii

We would like to express our appreciation and gratitude for your outstanding efforts and achievement and pure thoughts and deeds in the way of humanitarianism. We wish your well thoughts and accomplishments continued. May God be with you at every step.

Prof. Seyed Kazem Shakouri
Head of Medical Faculty,
Tabriz University of medical sciences, Tabriz, Iran

Dr.Hassan Soleimanpour
Deputy of research and Technology, Medical Faculty
Tabriz University of medical sciences, Tabriz, Iran

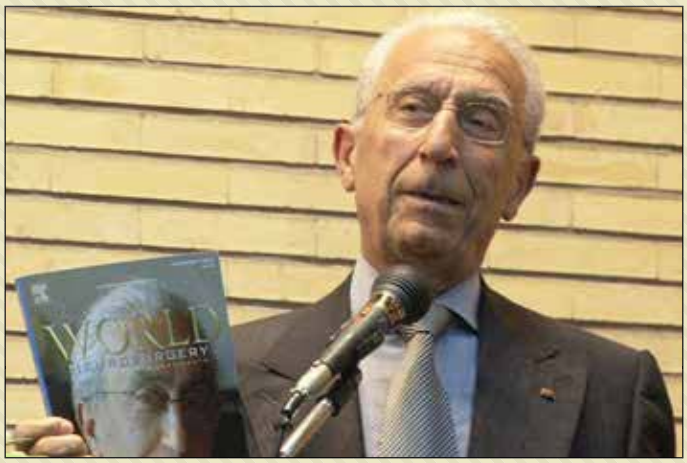
متن لوح تقدیمی به استاد سمیعی توسط ریاست دانشکده پزشکی و معاون تحقیقات و فناوری دانشکده پزشکی

اهداء لوح سپاس به پروفسور سمیعی توسط جناب آقای دکتر شکوری ریاست محترم دانشکده پزشکی تبریز

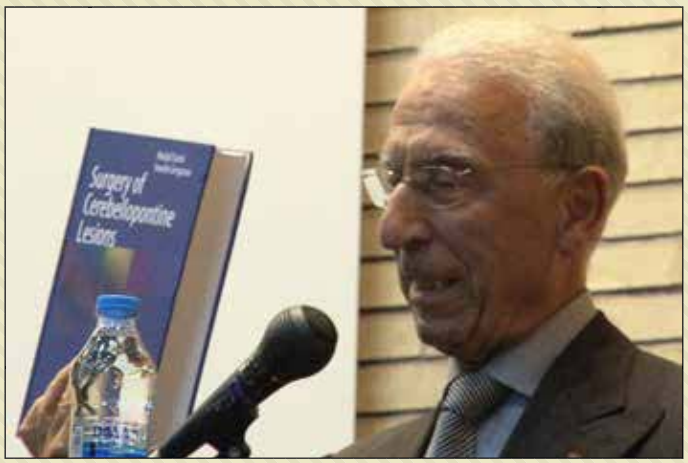
گزارش تصویری
دیدار پروفسور سمیعی از شهر تبریز
شهریور ۱۳۹۳

دیدار با استاندار آذربایجان شرقی

دیدار با استاندار محترم آذربایجان شرقی، جناب آقای دکتر جبارزاده



اهدای مجله جهانی جراحی مغزکه درآن پروفسور سمیعی به عنوان مرد برتر جراحی مغزدر سال گذشته معرفی شده است به جناب آقای دکتر صومی ریاست محترم دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تبریز



اهدای کتاب تألیف شده توسط استاد سمیعی به پروفسور سعید پناهی، ریاست سازمان نظام پزشکی تبریز

دیدار با اساتید منتخب دانشکده پزشکی دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تبریز

تالار شهید شایانمهر دانشکده پزشکی - دیدار با اساتید منتخب دانشکده پزشکی

تقدیر از اساتید پیشکسوت

تقدیر از اساتید پیشکسوت

پروفسور پناهی رئیس سازمان نظام پزشکی تبریز و پروفسور سمیعی

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تالار شهید شایانمهر دانشکده پزشکی (پانل دانشجویی)

دیدار پروفسور سمیعی
از دانشکده معماری و شهرسازی دانشگاه هنر اسلامی تبریز

ساختمان بهنام

تالار بهنام

تالار بهنام

(دکتر کی نژاد رئیس دانشگاه هنر اسلامی تبریز و پروفسور سمیعی)

اهداء فرش دستبافت نقش الحمدلله توسط
ریاست دانشگاه هنر اسلامی تبریز به پروفسور مجید سمیعی

تالار بهنام

دیدار از جمعیت خیریه نوبر تبریز

دیدار از جمعیت خیریه نوبر تبریز(پروفسور سمیعی- دکتر شربیانلو)

درخشش یازدهمین نشان تبریز بر سینه پروفسور سمیعی

اهدای نشان تبریز به پروفسور سمیعی توسط شهردار محترم تبریز جناب آقای مهندس نجفی

در این مراسم، پروفسور سمیعی به دستاوردها و پشتوانه های علمی تبریز و آذربایجان اشاره و خاطرنشان کرد: آذربایجان، قطب بزرگ علمی کشور است و در این اصل، هیچ شک و شبهه ای نیست.

وی اضافه کرد: تمام دوستان آذری ام شخصیت های بزرگ، اصیل و تاثیرگذار بوده اند.

وی با بیان اینکه دریافت «نشان تبریز» افتخار بزرگی است که مسئولیت علمی و اجتماعی ام را بیشتر می کند، تاکید کرد: تا وقتی زنده ام، از هیچ تلاشی برای کمک به شهر تبریز فروگذار نخواهم بود؛ چرا که از امروز، شهروند این شهر پرافتخار هستم.

پروفسور سمیعی همچنین یادآور شد: نیاکان ما اهل تبریز بوده و خوشحالم که امروز «نشان تبریز» دریافت می کنم.

جراح مغز و اعصاب با اشاره به نشان دادن عملکرد مغز در جراحی مدرن خاطرنشان کرد: brain mapping عملکرد مغز را در ناحیه ای که ما می خواهیم جراحی کنیم نشان می دهد و امروزه در مراکز مهم مغز و اعصاب جهان تمامی تغییر و تحولات مغز و تارهای عصبی قبل از عمل جراحی به صورت کامل روشن می شود.

وی با اشاره به راه اندازی مرکز تخصصی مغز و اعصاب مدرن در تهران طی آینده ای نزدیک گفت: همچنین در تبریز نیز با نشستی که با مسئولان استان داشتیم از آنان قول گرفتیم که مرکزی به این شکل را در تبریز راه اندازی کنیم.

بخش دوم

تمام مطالب این بخش برگرفته از مجله World Neurosurgery November 2013 80 (5) به آدرس اینترنتی WWW.WORLDNEUROSURGERY.ORG می باشد که در آن پروفسور مجید سمیعی به عنوان مرد برتر جراحی مغز جهان در سال ۲۰۱۳ معرفی شده است و چهره های سرشناس و مشهور جراحی مغز جهان (رئیس فدراسیون جراحی مغز جهان، سردبیر مجله و سایر صاحبنظران این رشته) در رابطه با این انتخاب ارزشمند، مطالبی را عنوان نموده اند که خواندن آن خالی از لطف نمی باشد.

قابل ذکر است یک نسخه از این مجله، توسط ایشان به ریاست محترم دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تبریز، جناب آقای دکتر محمد حسین صومی تقدیم گردیده است. (مرقومه پروفسور در صفحه ۳ این ویژه نامه درج گردیده است). در ادامه توجه شما بزرگواران محترم را به اهم مطالب مندرج در این مجله جلب می نماییم.

NOVEMBER 2013
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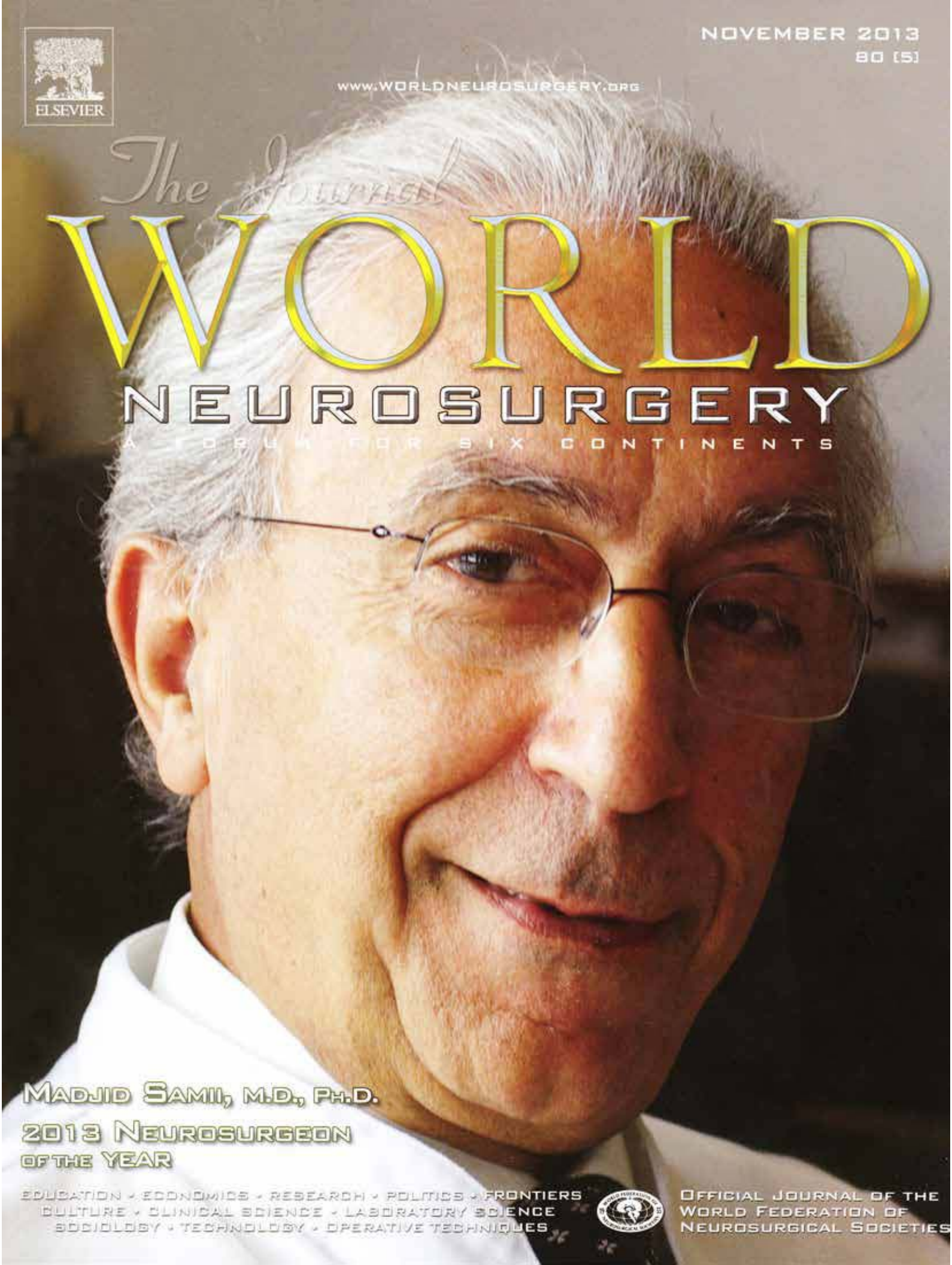

The Journal WORLD NEUROSURGERY

A FORUM FOR SIX CONTINENTS

Madjid Samii, M.D., Ph.D.
2013 Neurosurgeon of the Year

EDUCATION • ECONOMICS • RESEARCH • POLITICS • FRONTIERS
CULTURE • CLINICAL SCIENCE • LABORATORY SCIENCE
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Official Journal of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies

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NOVEMBER 2013 VOLUME 80 NUMBER 5 PAGES 439 – 674

CONTENTS

A14 – A15 **EDITOR'S CHOICES**

439 **EDITOR'S LETTER**
An Insatiable Advocate: *Michael L. J. Apuzzo*

440 **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**
Madjid Samii: Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013: *Peter M. Black*

442 – 448 **NEWS:** *Edited by Felipe C. Albuquerque and Issam Awad*

- From Narcotics to Antibiotics: Evolving Concepts in the Treatment of Lower Back Pain: *Kaith K. Almefty, Jay D. Turner, Nicholas Theodore*
- Evaluating the Role of CCM1 Loss-of-Function–Induced Endothelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition in Cavernous Malformation Development: *Jian Guan and William T. Couldwell*
- Spinal Deformity? There's an App for That!: *Faiz Ahmad and Michael Y. Wang*
- Translation Experiments in Traumatic Brain Injury . . . Is it Time to Renew Pharmacologic Therapy?: *Leonardo C. Welling, Eberval Gadelha Figueiredo, Almir Ferreira de Andrade*

BOOK REVIEW: *Edited by Christopher M. Loftus*

449 *Case-Based Brain Imaging:* *Jordan Rosenblum*

450 – 451 **UPCOMING EVENTS:** *Karl Schaller*

2013 NEUROSURGEON OF THE YEAR

452 – 455 *2013 Neurosurgeon of the Year: A Personal Statement:* *Madjid Samii*

456 – 463 Madjid Samii: "A la Mémoire d'un Grand Artiste": *Rudolf Fahlbusch*

464 – 466 "Quidquid Agis Prudenter Agas et Respice Finem"—Whatever You Do, Do It Wisely and Consider the End: *Klaus Rüdiger H. von Wild*

467 – 475 **COLLEGIAL COMMENTARIES**
Neurosurgeon of the Year:

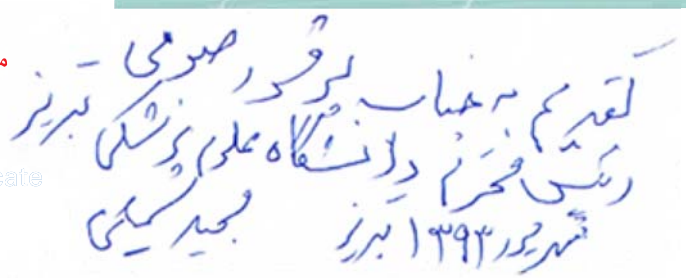
Armando Basso
Jacques Brotchi
Alexandru-Vlad Ciurea
Stephen J. Haines
Roberto C. Heros
Eiji Kohmura
Alexander Konovalov
Alexander Potapov
Jacques Morcos
Pierre Rabischong
Ricardo Ramina
Albert L. Rhoton, Jr.
Kintomo Takakura
Francesco Tomasello
Keki E. Turel
M. Gazi Yasargil

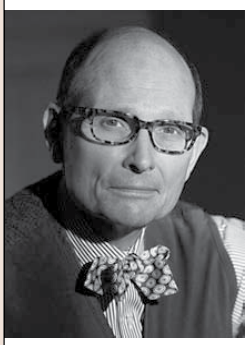
Continued on page A2

ON THE COVER

Madjid Samii, M.D., Ph.D., WORLD NEUROSURGERY's Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013. See Apuzzo p. 439, Black p. 440, Samii pp. 452-455, Fahlbusch pp. 456-463, von Wild pp. 464-466, Basso p. 467, Brotchi pp. 467-468, Ciuera pp. 468-469, Haines p. 469, Heros pp. 469-470, Kohmura p. 470, Konovalov and Potapov p. 470, Morcos p. 470, Rabischong pp. 471-472, Ramina p. 472, Rhoton pp. 472-473, Takakura p. 473, Tomasello pp. 473-474, Turel pp. 474-475, Yasargil p. 475.

مرقومه پروفسور سمیعی خطاب به دکتر صومی
(ریاست محترم دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تبریز)

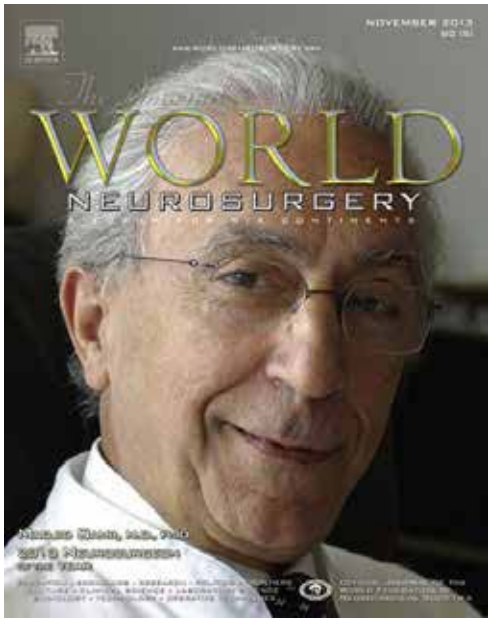




An Insatiable Advocate

For many reasons, it is a privilege to be a neurosurgeon.

As a young doctor, I personally was attracted to the discipline for a variety of reasons, among which was the presence of the larger than life characters that provided excitement to its social landscape. As a resident applicant, I recall the enormous presence of Paul Bucy, Wilder Penfield, Larry Pool, and others. Later, as a resident, I recall the urbane Donald Matson, the ebullient William Scoville, the unique personages of William Sweet, Thomas Langfitt, and JT Robertson. As a young staff surgeon at the Los Angeles County General Hospital, I was fascinated by the charisma and personal power of Theodore Kurze, Robert Rand, Milton Heifritz, Aiden Raney, and other legendary neurosurgical figures. Later, the presence of Gazi Yasargil, Leonard Malis, Charles Wilson, Bennet Stein, Thoralf Sundt, and Albert Rhoton loomed large. Considerably more than "local heroes," these names represent only a few of the unique and powerful personas that populated our field. They provided life and energy to the discipline and inspiration to my generation of neurosurgeons.



Many would argue that those times and people have passed and that, reflecting these times and a more mature discipline, the "new neurosurgery" is more sterile and perhaps sober in its population of practitioners. The array of the truly charismatic iconic personages has dwindled to perhaps a very precious few.

Madjid Samii has been a major factor in our landscape for nearly 4 decades, and through his activism as a surgeon, champion of ideas, initiator of progress, and motivator for improvement of neurosurgical care delivery on the world stage, he has provided inspiration and energy for neurosurgery.

A product of a high achieving Iranian family living in Germany, he found personal inspiration from his uncle, one of Iran's earliest neurosurgeons, and Kurt Schurmann, his Professor at Mainz. An early advocate of microsurgery, he honed his skills in complex and refined peripheral nerve surgeries that he later transposed to the development of cranial base surgeries. His boundless energies championed the concept of the field of skull base surgery as he founded societies and educational activities that fostered its development. He embraced and popularized the inclusion of advanced technology to the field while strongly endorsing interdisciplinary activities for the neurosurgeon—an endeavor that would catalyze progress.

A combination of force of will, intelligence, and inexhaustible energy propelled him in political arenas that enhanced progress in both scientific and educational-social areas related to our field. His activities have been international in scope and on a truly grand scale. Most recently, the complex project *Africa 100* has been organized under his direction to elevate the level of neurosurgical care on the African continent.

I first met Madjid more than 30 years ago and have engaged a unique friendship with him in which I have had insight to many of the unusual aspects of his complex persona as a colleague, husband, father, leader, and inspirational figure. I have no reservation in conveying that I consider that Madjid Samii is one of those truly iconic figures in our history who has energized and provided uniquely positive movement in our field. A multifaceted individual, at times polarizing and at times with touches of controversy, he is undeniably a positive force and a powerful tribute to the concept of the possible benefits of insatiable advocacy—a model for us all.

WORLD NEUROSURGERY is proud to announce that the unique Madjid Samii is its Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013!

Michael L. J. Apuzzo

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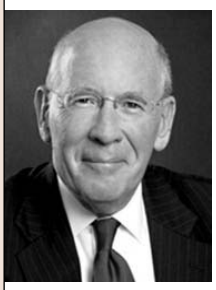
نامه ادیتور مجله جراحی مغز و اعصاب جهان درباره پروفسور سمیعی



Madjid Samii: Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013

Peter M. Black, M.D., Ph.D., President, WFNS, 2009–2013

No one in neurosurgery today can match Madjid Samii's surgical skill and judgment, excellence in teaching, administrative accomplishments, and world understanding. He has richly earned the title of **WORLD NEUROSURGERY** *Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013*.

Like the Greek king Midas, Madjid turns everything he touches to gold. Consider his clinical career. In the early 1970s, he was a primary force in the development of skull base surgery, and he remains a virtuoso practitioner. He continued to evolve, recognizing the importance of simple approaches that minimize disfigurement and focus on the patient rather than on total removal of the tumor. He embraced early on the importance of image-guided surgery and is a recognized expert in functional and structural imaging in cortical surgery. His experience is unparalleled in vestibular and other cranial nerve schwannomas; gliomas, meningiomas, and brain tumors of all types; peripheral nerve surgery; and lumbar and cervical surgery; his volume alone is staggering. He has operated safely on more than 12,000 patients in his career.

His dedication to training neurosurgeons is also unparalleled. Through his lectures around the world, his teaching programs in Hannover, and his enthusiastic willingness to share his experience and opinions everywhere, he is the model of a great educator.

In addition to being a gifted surgeon and teacher, he has repeatedly proven himself to be a very capable administrator. Creating the International Neuroscience Institute in Hannover and then replicating it in Beijing, Tehran, and other sites; hosting as many meetings and travelling as he does; and serving as President of the German Neurosurgical Society and Academy, World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS), and many other groups are remarkable accomplishments.

It is in his world understanding, however, that Madjid steps into his own today. He has been an integral part the WFNS for over 20 years. He created the WFNS Foundation and began the practice of donating instrument sets to neurosurgeons in need, designing the first sets himself with Aesculap. He helped found the first complete training center for African neurosurgeons in Rabat, Morocco, and conceived of the Young Neurosurgeons Forum to recognize young people. More recently, he became WFNS Ambassador to Africa and helped unify the neurosurgical community there to create a cohesive continental society. He conceived of the Africa 100 initiative that will train 100 African residents and change the face of neurosurgery on that continent. The Madjid Samii medal, given through the WFNS as a career award to the best neurosurgeons of the world, is a fitting tribute to his legacy.

Throughout his career, Madjid has remained committed to his family and friends. His son Amir, also a spectacular neurosurgeon, daughter Mimi, and wife Masheed are testimony to his commitment to family values. For his friends and for what he thinks is right, he speaks his mind fearlessly and with great integrity. For his clinical skill, dedication to education, and thoughtful world view, Madjid has become a hero to thousands of neurosurgeons of all ages.

In Persian, "Majid" means glorious and "Al-Majid" is one of the names of God. Perhaps his mother got it exactly right from the beginning.

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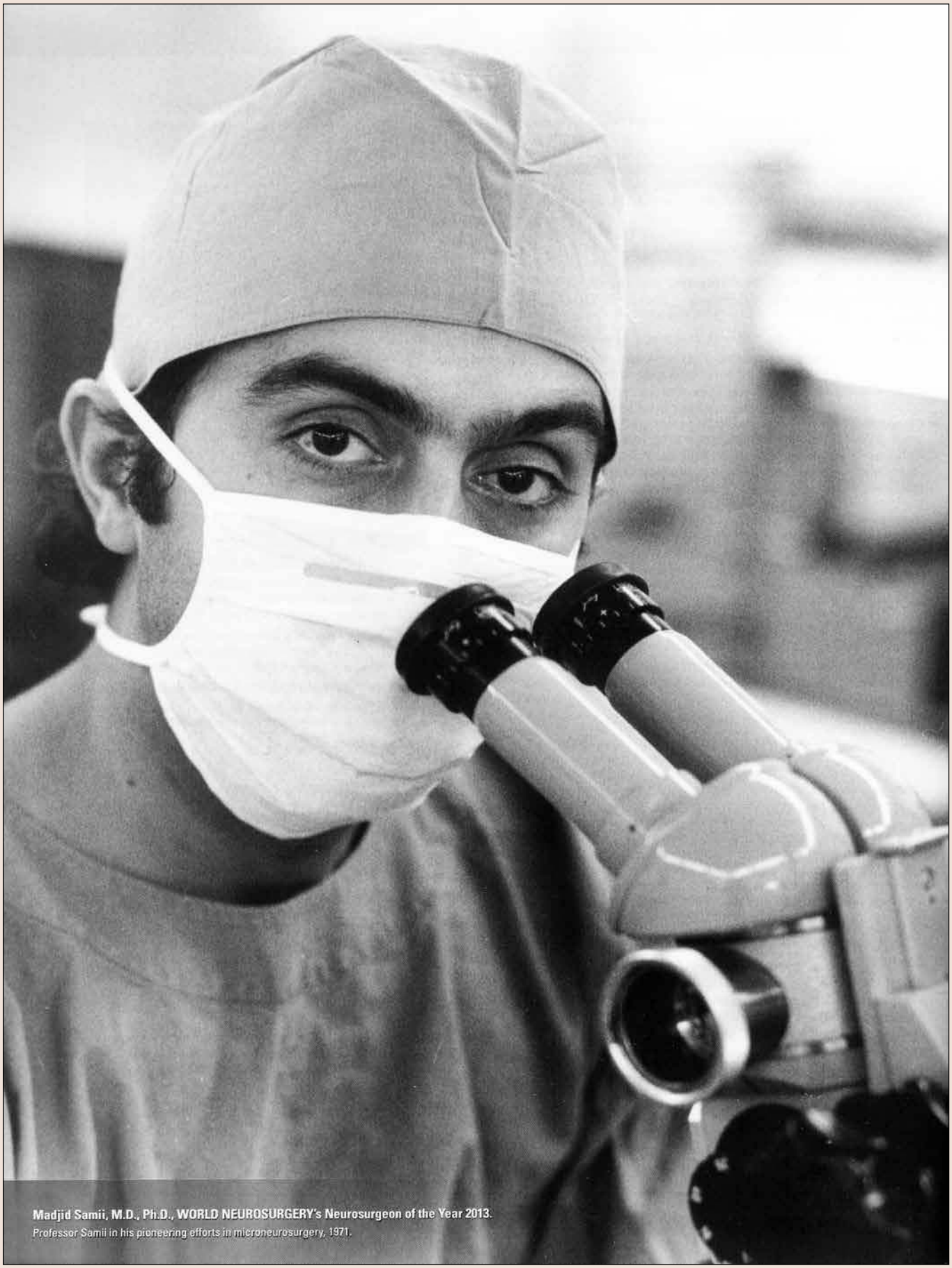

Madjid Samii, M.D., Ph.D., WORLD NEUROSURGERY's Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013.
Professor Samii in his pioneering efforts in microneurosurgery, 1971.

2013 Neurosurgeon of the Year: A Personal Statement

Madjid Samii

I was born in Tehran, the youngest child in our family. I had one sister and five brothers; the youngest was 3 years old and the eldest, 12 years old. My father studied in Paris and Brussels; he graduated in political sciences and afterward specialized in statistics. When returning to Tehran he worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and later was appointed in the National Statistic Organization. He accomplished the first scientific estimation of the Iranian population, which allowed for the introduction of the modern identity cards. He also established a school for statistical education.

My father died from complications of a stomach perforation when I was 5 years old and my mother took the responsibility for the education of the children. All children studied at different universities; my older brother and my sister were sent to France. They graduated in medicine. My brother later became a professor of dermatology at the Paris University and my sister moved to Germany where she specialized in pediatrics. My eldest brother studied law and became a judge, an attorney, and later on, a member of parliament. Another brother studied agriculture in Montpellier, France, but his main interest was writing and poetry, for which he received national literature awards. The last brother made a career as a sportsman, winning multiple medals.

In the Samii family, which consisted of more than 5,000 relatives at that time, there have been many physicians. One of them—Ebrahim Samii—was a neurosurgeon. He went to school in Germany, graduated in medicine in 1937 in Munich, and specialized in general surgery at the University of Munich. During the Second World War he had to work as a surgeon in the hospital of Bad Aibling (Bavaria), where he acquired extensive experience with the management of wounded patients. At that time his interest in the surgery of brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves awakened. Therefore, at the end of the war he decided to specialize in neurosurgery. He moved to Zürich, Switzerland, where he trained from 1945 to 1948 under Professor Krayenbühl. In 1948 he returned to Iran and became professor and chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at Tehran University. In the same year, a second chair for neurosurgery was established at the same university under Professor Nasrollah Ameli, who had trained in England.

Professor Ebrahim Samii did his first brain surgery when I was 11 years old. I could follow his successes and progress and was so deeply influenced that my enthusiasm became permanent, which led me to search for and read available books on anatomy and physiology. Since that time I was convinced that I would become a neurosurgeon.

In school I learned English and it seemed reasonable to study medicine in the United States. I decided on Stanford University in California and was about to organize my travel arrangements when my sister persuaded me to study in Mainz, Germany. At that time she had moved to Germany to specialize in pediatrics at the University of Mainz and was very excited by its academic and social life. In addition, the high scientific level in Mainz was an additional advantage to be in proximity to my sister.

On January 11, 1957, I arrived in Germany and after a few days in Mainz I decided to study and work in Germany. I enrolled at the Medical Faculty of the University of Mainz and 1 year later started to study parallel biology. In March 1963 I graduated in medicine with the highest results and received the medical price from the Iranian government for the best medical graduate in Europe.

During my study in Mainz I was happy to meet Professor Kurt Schürmann, director of the Neurosurgical Department. He accepted to be the tutor of my doctoral thesis. During my internship I rotated in general surgery, internal medicine, and obstetrics/gynecology, finishing with neurosurgery in 1964. On April 1,1965 I was appointed resident at the Department of Neurosurgery of Mainz University and could acquire the board certification within 5 years. Meanwhile I continued my scientific work and wrote my doctoral thesis. In 1970, at the age of 32 years, I became Privatdozent (associate professor) and in the same year was appointed by Professor Schürmann as his deputy chief of the neurosurgical department. My responsibilities included not only the surgeries but also the organization of all coworkers and the coordination of the scientific work. In 1971, at the age of 33 years, I was appointed full professor of the University of Mainz.

Another crucial factor in my professional life was my interest in the operating microscope, which began in 1966. The microscope was already in use by ophthalmologists and ear, nose, and throat (ENT) surgeons, but not in neurosurgery. Worldwide there were few people who started its systematic utilization. I started with the experimental setting of fascicular nerve sutures after microsurgical dissection of individual nerves and anastomosis of vessels with a diameter of less than 1 mm using 15-μm sutures. The clinical application of the microscope was really fascinating; we did not have teachers in the area of microsurgery with more experience. I could exchange ideas only with the ENT surgeons who used the microscope when drilling the petrous bone. Internationally, I was happy to have the opportunity to share my personal experience and advances with two friends—Professor Gazi Yasargil in Zürich and Professor Leonard Malis in New York—who begun using the microscope in neurosurgery around the same time period. We always had fantastic discussions and could learn from each others' experience, sharing ideas and practical tricks. We met at various international congresses

where all three of us were frequently invited at the same time. An important event, in 1968, was to meet Professor Hanno Millesi—a plastic surgeon from Vienna—who motivated me to perform nerve transplantations in peripheral nerve or brachial plexus injuries. Having 5 years of microsurgical experience I decided to teach annual practical courses and workshops at the University of Mainz to spread and share my experience with other colleagues. Later on, I organized similar courses worldwide.

Neurosurgery is completely different when using an operating microscope. During procedures, on various lesions in delicate areas, I had to develop and imply new strategies and concepts. The operative approaches had to be refined and new microsurgical instruments had to be designed and optimized. My extensive experience in microsurgery of peripheral nerves allowed me to develop strategies for cranial nerve preservation during removal of intracranial tumors. With skull base tumors, which became a major area of interest, I could study the microanatomy of cranial nerves and vessels and use this knowledge during tumor removal.

I was lucky to meet an ENT surgeon with whom we could operate on complex lesions that have been regarded as borderline between neurosurgery and ENT. Professor Wolfgang Draf had a position similar to mine at the ENT Department of the University of Mainz. Thus, we could operate together at least once or twice a week on lesions that have been previously considered as inoperable. Professor Draf was not only a top-class surgeon of the petrous bone but also in the paranasal sinus surgery area, where he implemented both the microscope and the endoscope. During the same time period I met two other excellent petrous bone surgeons—Professor Jan Helms, director of the ENT Department of the University of Mainz and Professor Malte Wigand, director of the ENT Department of the University of Erlangen—who later joined our group. Our activity expanded and the number of surgeries grew constantly. Professor Wigand traveled from Erlangen to Mainz—a distance of approximately 250 km—two to three times per month to take part in our surgeries. In 1975, with Wigand I could perform the first facial nerve reconstruction using intracranial-intratemporal sural nerve transplant in a patient with facial nerve damage—a technique that is still used in selected cases. My excitement with skull base surgery—a term that I introduced to describe the surgery of skull base lesions, whether primarily intracranial or extracranial—grew steadily. It was obvious that I have to share my experience with all other colleagues.

Having 10 years' experience, Professor Draf and I organized the first historic course on skull base surgery, including other specialties such as anatomy, neuroradiology, maxillofacial surgery, ophthalmology, and of course, neuroanesthesiology and neurophysiology. I must not forget to mention two outstanding maxillofacial surgeons—Professor Horst Scheunemann, director of the Department for maxillofacial surgery at the University of Mainz and his deputy, Professor Erich Hausamen, who later became director of the department at the Hannover Medical School. We operated as a team on those lesions that extended and involved the face and/or the maxilla.

The establishment of this new surgical field would not be possible without the support of my teacher, Professor Kurt Schürmann, as well as that of Professors Klei and Scheunemann, directors of the ENT and maxillofacial surgery departments. One is blessed by fortune to meet people with great personality, who besides enjoying their own success can promote and be proud of the development of their pupil.

The breakthrough of skull base surgery was our first historic course in 1979. We could demonstrate our experience and persuade the participants that this field could advance only if the principle of interdisciplinary work is followed. In 1980 we founded The International Skull Base Study Group together with Wolfgang Draf, Kurt Schürmann, Pierre Rabischong, and Jan Helms—a decision that we took at a meeting in Montpellier, France. In addition to the annual skull base courses we organized international skull base meetings every 2 years. From 1982 to 1990 these meetings were held in Brussels, Mainz, Hannover, Monte Carlo, and Siena. In 1988 a very important decision was taken by me and Professor Ugo Fisch, director of the ENT Department at the University of Zürich: organize the first world skull base congress in 1992 in Hannover. In the next 4 years I attempted to convince my colleagues that neurosurgeons and ENT surgeons, together with maxillofacial and eye surgeons, as well as other close fields, should organize national skull base societies, which could found a world federation of skull base societies in Hannover. I was so happy to witness that all my pupils and friends could organize such national but also continental societies of skull base surgery. In 1992 in Hannover there were participants from 55 countries and almost 1000 scientific presentations. After the inaugural meeting in Hannover, World Skull Base Congresses were held in the United States, Brazil, Australia, Canada, and United Kingdom.

At present, we have many national and continental skull base societies as well as major medical units with outstanding skull base centers in many countries. Wolfgang Draf and I systemized our experience in skull base surgery in the book *Skull base surgery: an interdisciplinary approach*, which was published in 1989. In the 1990s many other articles and books on various skull base approaches were published. The interest in the field grew further and advanced with the input from all adjacent fields. Having the experience with thousands of various skull base surgeries and the knowledge of the corresponding microanatomy, I realized that the extended approaches that were regarded as a prerequisite for good outcome were essential. To remove a skull base tumor safely and completely we do not need to expose and visualize all adjacent neurovascular structures. For me, the art of neurosurgery is to use simple approaches and evaluate which allows for sufficient access to the tumor and avoid any risk to the cranial nerves and other critical structures. A fundamental principle is that dissection of the tumor capsule from surrounding structures should be performed only when sufficient internal decompression has been achieved. The functional outcome could be thereby improved and the operative time could be reduced significantly. Of course, to apply successfully these concepts, one has to possess detailed knowledge of the surgical microanatomy with its possible variations caused by the expanding tumor. The number of the previously applied complex skull base approaches has been reduced to a few basic approaches. This does not mean that we should not seek for the most appropriate technique for each lesion—the selection of the approach is crucial for the outcome. Still, I do not like such slogans as "keyhole approaches." It is essential to select the appropriate

approach for each lesion according to its location, size, and extension.

In the 1970s I became increasingly aware of the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation. The establishment of the skull base surgery showed convincingly that other neurosurgical fields would profit and advance more rapidly if a similar working atmosphere was created. I noticed again and again that the leading neuroscience experts are scattered—not only worldwide but even within one country in different facilities. These thoughts stimulated me to plan the creation of a center that would be independent from the existing structures. When in 1976 I was asked to take the position of director of the Neurosurgical Department at Nordstadt Hospital in Hannover I insisted on an added a passage in the contract that allowed me to also become the future head of another neuroscience center. The ensuing years were devoted to my new department and the further development of skull base surgery. In my mind, however, I started planning the new neuroscience center.

Gerhard Schröder became prime minister of Lower Saxony in the 1990s. He invited me for a discussion on the topic of the further progress of medicine in our province. He was fascinated by my idea to create an international neuroscience center and motivated me to work in that direction. Fortunately, Hannover was selected as host of the world exhibition EXPO 2000 and I was elected as a member of the Advisory Board as the only physician. This helped me fulfill the dream of creating a new autonomous neuroscience institute. In addition I decided to build it in a special shape—the shape of a brain—as an architectural part of the world exhibition. I was so happy to see how the architects designed and accomplished the project, which not only corresponded perfectly to my vision but possessed optimal functionality.

Thus we created for the first time in the history of architecture and medicine a building in the shape of a brain and equipped it with the most advanced technology—the International Neuroscience Institute (INI). The INI was inaugurated on July 21, 2000. In the period 2000 to 2002 I was the head of three neurosurgical departments (at Nordstadt Hospital, Hannover Medical School, and INI), but from 2003 I only concentrated on the INI. In 2004 the Chinese government asked me to create a similar project at the Capital Medical University in Beijing. I was honored and proud to take the responsibility to lead the institute. My appointment as president of China International Neuroscience Institute allowed me to initiate an extensive program of training of Chinese colleagues, which continues even at present. Many Chinese doctors and other medical personnel were trained in Hannover. Somewhat later we created the China INI Union with neurosurgeons from many Chinese provinces. In the next 8 years we trained more than 1000 local colleagues.

I was really excited and touched when a group of Iranian sponsors came to me in 2008 and asked me to found a similar institute in my home city—Tehran—and associate it with Tehran University. Few years later—in October 2012—we celebrated the completion of the external structural work of the building and expect that within 1.5 years the Institute will be opened. I strongly believe and hope that this concept of bringing together various experts and give them the chance to work for the sake of the patients will gain worldwide acceptance. Similar INIs should be founded in different countries and play a leading role in training, science, and patient care.

In my professional life a highlight of another nature was my election as president of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS). After my nomination, of course, I felt a great honor but much more I felt an obligation and responsibility. The major issue was how to make neurosurgical care better for all patients worldwide. I realized that the future trends or big challenges for the coming generations are: 1) to develop and apply technologies to improve our diagnostic abilities and optimize the surgical results; and 2) to elevate the basic standard of care in developing countries.

The utilization of technology is unfortunately limited due to the enormous expenses but is crucial for the advancement of neurosurgery. The creation of the INI in Hannover, in which all high-end technological facilities could be introduced due to the support of the industry, was the response to the first challenge. Finding solution for the second factor turned out to be more difficult. According to my personal experience, around the world with regard to the level of neurosurgical care I am convinced that Africa needs a special solution. I asked my second vice president, Professor El Khalmichi, to make an analysis of the situation of neurosurgery in the entire continent of Africa. When he gave me the first report regarding the number of neurosurgeons in Africa and I was surprised to realize that only 79 neurosurgeons served the whole population of Sub-Saharan Africa—almost half a billion people! That meant a ratio of 1 neurosurgeon for 6.6 million inhabitants (compare this to the ratio in Europe: 1 neurosurgeon for 200,000 people). In 1998 I decided to initiate several projects. I created the WFNS foundation to support the education of young medical doctors in Africa. Initially, many people were not very enthusiastic with that idea. But I received support from some colleagues, particularly from Dr. Martin Rodriguez from Madrid, and some medical companies. I could create basic neurosurgical instrumental sets with a price of 3000 US dollar (Aesculap AG) and an operative microscope with a price of 10,000 US dollar (Karl Zeiss AG). In addition, I initiated a forum for young neurosurgeons to include the coming generation in the future activities of WFNS. The major purpose of the foundation was and still is promoting the worldwide development of neurosurgery. The major problem was the fact that many young African medical doctors who had been trained in Europe or America are not able to go back and create neurosurgical departments in their countries due to different obstacles. We decided to support such educational efforts in Africa at already established departments that have a very serious training program. I was extremely happy that the department of Professor El Khamlichi in Rabat, Morocco, fulfilled all criteria. We have nominated Rabat as reference centre for such education. In the meantime approximately 20 young African medical doctors have started the neurosurgical training in Rabat; some have already graduated and proceed with establishment of neurosurgical facilities in their home countries. Although the number of neurosurgeons and the ratio neurosurgeon-to-population has not changed significantly in Africa, at present we have an average of 1 neurosurgeon for 5 million people (in some places—even 1 to 15 million people). Therefore, in September 2011, during the WFNS Interim Meeting in Brazil, we had a long and serious discussion on how to increase our activities in Africa. At the meeting the current WFNS president Dr. Peter Black asked me to accept the position of Ambassador for Africa. I accepted this nomination with pleasure in the hope to change this existing situation in a relatively short time. It was clear to me that we need much more trainees and training

centers for full education in neurosurgery in Africa. I have created the Project Africa 100, which aims at improving the quantity and quality of neurosurgery across Africa, particularly in its Sub-Saharan part. I invited my African colleagues for a meeting on January 27 to 28, 2012, in Nairobi, Kenya, where I announced the vision and goals of the Africa 100 project. Our plan is to train 100 young intelligent African doctors in neurosurgery for 5 to 6 years. In this first step a committee of African neurosurgeons was established.

This committee announced the project and the criteria for candidates' selection, as well as the centers for education. In the meantime we received enough applications to start, in 2013, with the first candidate. I have accepted the responsibility for financial support for these 100 candidates at the same level as we have organized for the previous educational activity in Rabat. The following countries have accepted to take over the responsibility of education: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, and South Africa. Other countries have shown their interest in supporting the project. I am very happy that my friends in Germany are supporting this activity in Africa. I express my gratitude to the former president of Germany, Professor Horst Köhler and former chancellor of Germany, Dr. Gerhard Schröder, who supported this project from the beginning. I am convinced that in short time this project will expand and we will be able to change the situation of neurosurgery in Africa.

Looking back to my life, I realize that I would not be able to achieve anything without the continuous support of my family. My wife Maschid belonged to the large Samii family—my second cousin. She went to school in Germany and came back to Iran. I was fortunate that I met her again during my last months in Iran and we decided to plan our future together in Germany. In 1961 we married. She graduated successfully but after the birth of our daughter Amireh and our son Amir she decided to commit herself to the family and the education of the children, which she pursued with extraordinary dedication. In addition, she participated actively in the organization of the social program of our scientific meetings. I was blessed to have a wonderful family and at the same time to have the option to concentrate fully in my work.

Last but not least I am grateful to all my pupils and friends worldwide for their constant support and involvement.

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Special gift to Madjid Samii from a grateful patient, who is an artist, who wished to express that Professor Samii had operated with not only his mind, but also, with his heart.

See Apuzzo p. 439, Black p. 440, Samii pp. 452-455, Fahlbusch pp. 456-463, von Wild pp. 464-466, Basso p. 467, Brotchi pp. 467-468, Ciuera pp. 468-469, Haines p. 469, Heros p. 469-470, Kohmura p. 470, Konovalov and Potapov p. 470, Morcos p. 470, Rabischong pp. 471-472, Ramina p. 472, Rhoton pp.472-473, Takakura p. 473, Tomasello p. 473-474, Turel pp. 474-475, Yasargil p. 475.

خود زندگینامه پروفسور سمیعی (ادامه)

Madjid Samii: "A la Mémoire d'un Grand Artiste"

Rudolf Fahlbusch

INTRODUCTION

"A la Mémoire d'un Grand Artiste"

This subtitle for the homage to the outstanding personality of Madjid Samii is also the title of a music composition dedicated by the composer to a highly honored personality. Is it possible, among all the many facets of Madjid, to discern the key features that have been the foundation of his uniqueness, success, and impact? The task is challenging as well as intriguing, justifying initial hesitation to contribute. Words alone are inadequate, so I found Tchaikovsky's music and words that I have borrowed from poets to convey my appreciation.

It was only when I happened to hear this trio in A-Minor, Opus 50, for piano, violin, and cello, by Piotr Ilyitch Tchaikovsky (1840–1893), at a live concert, that I was inspired to set about writing this contribution for Madjid Samii. This is music that stirs intense emotions, telling of human and world history. Tchaikovsky was reluctant at first to compose a work for these 3 instruments, and it was only a year later that his enthusiasm and admiration for Nikolai Rubinstein led him to create this invaluable composition. Rubinstein was an important contemporary Russian pianist, composer, and the first Head of the Moscow Conservatory of Music. The work arouses in the listener feelings of admiration, enthusiasm, jubilation, sympathy, and compassion.

I had a similar experience in a different cultural setting while hearing an instrument called the Tar, which is the Persian guitar, played by the famous Persian artist Farhang Sharif. Madjid Samii likes to play this instrument himself. His friendships with artists, such as the above-mentioned, and the internationally renowned Persian composer and pianist Anoushiravan Rohani, are manifold, and even included Herbert von Karajan, who was a frequent guest in the Samii home.

Tchaikovsky's composition reflects episodes from several phases of life and ends with painful grief; however, grief is something Samii has only had to suffer in the face of the loss of very good personal friends, or, in his capacity as physician, of special patients, and he always allowed his closest friends to sympathize with him. May Madjid Samii be with us for a long, long time to come!

"A la Mémoire d'un Grand Artiste"

Tchaikovsky's trio has an unconventional structure. Fortunately, Editor-in-Chief Michael Apuzzo has allowed me liberties in writing this article, upon his request.

THE BEGINNING

My first encounter with Madjid Samii was on the occasion of a symposium on "Injury of Peripheral Nerves" in Kassel-Wilhelmshöhe in 1972. Together with his superior, Kurt Schürmann of Mainz, he represented autologous nerve transplantation to bridge nerve defects. Being a young co-assistant of my then–head physician in Munich, I was positioned on the side of transplantation using lyophilized nerves. A downright scientific dispute ensued, which was decided, in the end, in favor of autologous transplantation; and at a later point in time, definitely. Throughout dinner and thereafter, we continued the discussion. We were committed but unemotional. Madjid Samii had indeed already been active in neurosurgery 4 to 5 years longer than I; nevertheless, he did not use this advantage, but rather listened to what the younger, inquisitive colleague had to say, explained his further-reaching experiences, all the while showing interest in the person sitting across from him. This is a situation that is still the same today; indeed, our personal relationship has been enriched even more through familiarity and friendship. This trend intensified further when, coming from peripheral nerves, particularly the facial nerve, Madjid Samii began devoting himself to surgery of the base of the skull. At that time, specialized fields, especially completely new ones, had to first develop out of the as-yet-unsolved daily demands of general neurosurgery.

Whereas I began to dedicate myself from then on to the center of the skull base, the pituitary, Madjid Samii rapidly gathered experience with acoustic schwannomas, among other skull base lesions. Hence, I was drawn repeatedly, sometimes for weeks at a time, to the Hanover Nordstadtkrankenhaus, where I also visited my "pituitary friend," Klaus von Wild, Madjid Samii's first senior head physician. I spent almost all the day, however, assisting Madjid Samii in operations of large acoustic schwannomas: rinsing, suctioning, enucleating, letting the capsule shrink, and, only lastly, preparing the nerves—*the* universal principle of operating technique—on until late evening. Around 10 o'clock, at their home, his wife, Mahschid Samii, still whipped up an array of delicious dishes for us to eat. Mahschid Samii, exemplary in her understanding, admirable in her support, always created space for Madjid Samii yet remained a critical observer and true to herself in the circle of her large family.

STATIONS

Madjid Samii (1, 8) grew up in Tehran, studied medicine in Mainz from 1957 to 1963, and received his neurosurgical training from Kurt Schürmann, a pupil of Wilhelm Tönnis of Cologne. My teacher, Frank Marguth of Munich, came from the same school. Local "fellow travelers" of the time in Mainz neurosurgery were Hermann Dietz, later of the Medizinische Hochschule Hannover

Figure 1. Cornerstone Ceremony China International Neuroscience Institute 2006 (Gerhard Schröder and Madjid Samii, middle).

(MHH), Mario Brock, via the MHH, later of the Freie Universität Berlin, and Hans-Jürgen Reulen, via Ravensburg and Bern, later of Munich's LM University. Already early on, Samii established interdisciplinary contact with, among others, the ear, nose and throat (ENT) physicians Malte Wigand of the University of Erlangen and Wolfgang Draf, Mainz, later Fulda, and finally, International Neuroscience Institute (INI), and later with the maxillo-facial surgeons, Horst Scheunemann of the University of Mainz, and his pupil, Jarg-Erich Hausamen, later of the MHH. In this way, the new project, surgery of the base of the skull, could be approached systematically and in an interdisciplinary fashion.

It is to Kurt Schürmann that he owes the discovery of his many talents, the opportunity to work independently on his own projects, benevolence, and continuous support.

The foundation for treatment of nerve defects, and nerve regeneration, was laid via the facial nerve and introduced into surgery of the skull base and general neurosurgery and adapted accordingly. Many of the guidelines that were established already at that time were presented at a total of 3 international skull base surgery congresses in Hanover, discussed, and later published. This all took place, as it still does, in the capital city of Lower Saxony, Hanover. At his bastion, the Hanover Norstadt Clinic, Madjid Samii solidified international relations early on; soon, he received worldwide recognition. In the late 1990s, his task became one of double leadership due to the additional position as Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery of the MHH. Neurosurgery of the highest level was crowned by the opening of an autonomous neuroscience institute, the International Neuroscience Institute (INI) in 2000 (inauguration, July 21, 2000). Upon his suggestion, the outer shape of this impressive piece of architecture is that of the brain itself, and it has prompted replicas in China (to be opened in 2015/2016) and Tehran (opening in 2014).

Madjid Samii likes to point out that *family* and hospitality are the pillars of culture. Of his family, it is Amir Samii who has entered the world of neurosurgery. A faithful son, pupil of his father, and clinic organizer, he is now beginning to set out on his own path in neurosurgery as well.

Madjid Samii gained *friends* all around the globe, even before he started winning them over in Hanover. Through his own characteristic personal warmth, he succeeded over and over again in motivating people in such a way that they "declared both with heart and mind their willingness to participate in development, to accompany, and to be there" (Samii M, personal communication). Then came public figures, whom he always knew how to integrate and incorporate. This included journeys, such as that to China for the "Cornerstone Ceremony" of INI China on June 10, 2008 (**Figure 1**), which Gerhard Schröder (former Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany), Ferdinand Piech (Chairman of the Board, VW), and Klaus Meine (frontman of the band Scorpions) attended and helped realize.

With these individuals and many others, *institutions* have been created, such as the Stiftung Neurobionic (Neurobionic Foundation) in 1991, into which Madjid Samii has integrated various public figures with whom he has entrusted sharing responsibilities on a council and board for the last 20 years. The fundamental attitude of being of service to the patient, doing for him or her everything possible, forms the basis. The foundation's foremost aim is neuroregeneration, whereby the focus is on bridging neuronal defects via biological and mechanical means. Madjid Samii coined the term neurobionics himself. It became possible to give financial support to numerous studies, start-up aid for new projects, as well as for larger ones, and renowned scientists could be given deserved awards.

Madjid Samii's participation in the scientific advisory committee of the Hanover Expo (1996) enabled the long-cherished idea of an institution unique in the world of neurosurgery and medicine to become reality: the International Neuroscience Institute (INI) as Center of Excellence. There, an expert team of scientists and clinicians are at work at the highest level and on a par for the welfare of the patient. Here he stays, the man pupils and co-

Figure 2. (**A**) International Course on Clinical Neurosurgery, Beijing 2006. last row, standing, left to right: Anton Valavanis, Ezi di Rocco, Neill Martin, Tetsua Kanno, Rudolf Fahlbusch, Jaques Brotchi, Shizuo Oi, Kil Sun Choi. Seated, first row: Albino Briccolo, Peter Black, Yoko Kato, Madjid Samii, Ling Feng, Armando Basso, Maurice Choux. (**B**) Istanbul, above the Bosphorus, the site of the WFNS Congress 2017. Left to right: Helmut Bertalanffy, Rudolf Fahlbusch, Inga Samii, Madjid Samii, Amir Samii, Ieridun Acar.

workers like to call "PS" in a double meaning, which refers to his boundless energy. ("PS" stands not only for Professor Samii, but, in German, also for "pferdestärke," or "HP," horsepower!)

A lot of co-workers came through the clinic of the Nordstadtkrankenhaus, the Medizinische Hochschule, and INI. Often, co-workers who received advance praise, including already established personalities, made expectations run high, then came and went again without leaving lasting impressions. Many others, however, stayed on and are now to be found in leading positions in all parts of the world.

The scientific society MASSIN, the Madjid Samii Society of International Neurosurgeons, was founded by his pupils during the active professional time of their teacher and is in its kind an extraordinary institution, devoted to the cultivation of a life's work

Figure 3. Professor Samii with participants of his annual neurosurgical educational courses.

in neurosurgery (3, 7). Gazi Yasargil compiled incomparable lessons in surgery in standard works and operative surgery textbooks from his own school. Madjid Samii trained and taught his pupils—also via manifold publications—to carry on in his way. The number of international institutions, especially those in the field of skull base surgery, that have or have had Madjid Samii as their President or Chairman is not insignificant.

THE WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES (WFNS)

Madjid Samii is provided with a very important platform by the WFNS, whose President he became in 1997. Many initiatives have been born through tireless teaching at international courses on clinical neurosurgery in Hannover, Beijing and other parts of China, and in Teheran (**Figure 2A** and **B**), as well as during countless visits to neurosurgical and related societies, and through personal contacts. The initial introduction of surgical instruments with a microscope (Zeiss Co.) and basic neurosurgical instruments (Aeskulap Co.) to third world countries, which Madjid Samii initiated, is remarkable and unique. The WFNS Foundation, another one of Madjid Samii's lasting initiatives, supports neurosurgical activity in indigent countries. The newest initiative, called Africa 100, shall give 100 African candidates the opportunity to receive the neurosurgical training enabling them to help needy patients in their country to a greater extent than heretofore. The fact that in this issue of **WORLD NEUROSURGERY**, Madjid Samii has devoted a third (!) of his own contribution to the subject of Africa shows how much this project means to him. With great intuition and sensitivity, he still succeeds today in finding important individuals to take on positions in the WFNS. Furthermore, he gives support and helps to place the World Congresses in venues having significance for the future.

Many senior neurosurgeons worldwide regard Madjid Samii as the most influential neurosurgeon of the century, a standing which would hardly be conceivable were it not for his extraordinary specialized contributions.

Figure 4. Madjid Samii in the operating theater.

MODERN TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN NEUROSURGERY

As enthusiastically as Madjid Samii delved into the introduction of the surgical microscope—the time was right for him when he began performing his first microsurgical nerve sutures in 1966—he was and still remains today critical toward modern technical developments. The assurance in his surgical work has its source in his profound knowledge of anatomy. Still today, he initiates and leads "cadaver courses" at INI with enthusiasm, inspiring enthusiasm (**Figure 3**). His productive friendship with the anatomist Johannes Lang of Würzburg is unforgotten, without whom a chapter on neurosurgery was hardly ever opened at a congress. Up until today, the anatomist Pierre Rabischong of Montpellier is still considered "the professor of all professors"—unthinkable that seminars or congresses under Madjid Samii's leadership could take place without his "functional" anatomy. Madjid Samii reveres them both, especially in view of the fact that each was excellent at microsurgical preparation of the anatomic situs. Peter Jannetta (6) calls Madjid Samii one of the most brilliant technicians in the operating theater. Numerous guests and visitors are witness thereof still today: accuracy of preparation and "escape" from difficult situations, rapidly but patiently. With perseverance and resilience, 2 or 3 acoustic schwannomas a day still present no problem for him, even in addition to all the other demands within and outside the operating theater (**Figure 4**).

Early on, the young Madjid Samii captured the attention of American colleagues. William Scoville invited him as guest of honor to the Postgraduate Course in Microsurgery in Maine in 1973 (**Figure 5**). Later, over decades of honorary invitations to congresses in the Unites States, American Association of Neurological Surgeons, and Congress of Neurological Surgeons, this circle of American neurosurgeons, pioneers of microneurosurgery, who are still renowned today, met with him again and again for fruitful exchange of ideas. One of these individuals

Figure 5. Madjid Samii, Honored Guest, at Colby College post graduate meeting, Maine, USA, 1973. Pictured, standing back row: Jannetta, unknown, Hendrick, unknown, Wilson, White, Hardy, Alexander, unknown, Tew, Ransohoff. First row, seated: Madjid Samii and William Scoville, in the middle.

is Gazi Yasargil, *the* pioneer of microneurosurgery, who, having been active in neurosurgery for a longer time, had been honored in Maine the year before.

In the early 1960s, neuromonitoring using evoked potentials was introduced for intraoperative functional control by mutual friends in Pittsburgh, neurosurgeon Peter Jannetta, neurologist Aage Möller, and neurosurgeon and neurophysiologist Robert Sclabassi; a milestone back then. At almost the exact same time, we introduced SEPs and AEPs for use in surgery in Germany. A strong monitoring group still remains today at INI. At first, Madjid Samii had misgivings regarding the bubbling enthusiasm. In time, the significance of indications possessing general validity established itself, especially for cerebellopontine angle surgery.

Figure 6. Burdenko Institute: Amir Samii, Shizuo Oi, Madjid Samii, Alexander Konovalov, Rudolf Fahlbusch, and Volker Sturm.

Madjid Samii was one of the first neurosurgeons to use computer-supported operation planning and navigation, and always keeps it upgraded to the newest level. He held the first medical telecommunications conference involving 5 continents back in 1983. Time and again, international teleconferences are still held at INI; particularly impressive was a congress between Hanover and Belgrade with the Serbian Society for Neurosurgery.

In the beginning, Madjid Samii critically observed from a distance the development of intraoperative magnetic resonance tomography using low field magnets in Erlangen in the mid-1990s, which initially proceeded somewhat laboriously. However, with wise foresight, 4 years later, he left one operating theater in the newly erected INI empty, pending future developments in intraoperative magnetic resonance tomography. Therewith, the INI Brain Suite with a 1.5-T high field MRI was opened. Following his initial skepticism regarding the true benefit for the patient, Madjid Samii became an active advocate at the front line: we plan to have a 3-T MRI device that can be docked on directly in operating theaters accessible from both sides. In I-INI in Teheran, 4 MR-linked operating theaters are in planning.

Even though Madjid Samii initiated experimental steps toward neurotransplantation at his own clinic (and Björklund of Stockholm began performing neurotransplantation for Parkinson's syndrome at the end of the 1970s/beginning of the 1980s) and he is still a member of the Neurobionic Foundation's council, he remains skeptical as far as clinical use is concerned. He would hardly overlook a real breakthrough, should there be one.

Thanks to close and continuous collaboration with colleagues and friends in the field of ENT, especially Wolfgang Draf, and later,

Figure 7. International Neuroscience Institute, Tehran, surrounded by Professor Madjid Samii Street.

with neurosurgeons such as Bernhard Bauer, Madjid Samii was already well acquainted with endoscopy early on. However, he restricts truly useful employment thereof to application in the ventricle, sinus region, and clivus. There is always an endoscope ready in every operating theater at INI, and he also uses it for the suboccipitolateral approach to achieve an optimum view, to "see around the corner." This applies, among others, supramеatal to the area of Meckel's cavity, inframeatal to the area of the jugular foramen, and sphenoidal especially to the lateral sella region.

Madjid Samii's by now historic contributions to surgery of the skull base are highly esteemed internationally, be they pertaining to institutions or to operations themselves: starting with the initial meetings of the interdisciplinary Skull Base Study Group in Mainz (1970), later in Hanover, up to the International Skull Base Society, later the German Society for Skull Base Surgery. Madjid Samii experienced every diverse approach to the skull base from the very front line. He participated in the development of some of them himself, testing them later on, abandoning them again, and tirelessly taking part in the discussion for the umpteenth time. Finally, however, aside from some special approaches, Madjid Samii recommends in an almost puristic manner small approaches to the skull base: frontolateral, suboccipital, subtemporal, as well as nasal. These stand in opposition to the larger trepanations required for proximal control.

The small frontolateral trepanation Madjid Samii has propagated for several years for surgery of larger craniopharyngiomas requires great, decades-long personal experience. Madjid Samii no longer considers larger bifrontal trepanation, which was previously advocated for this intervention, and even for supra-sellar meningiomas, to be what one should strive for.

The first International Skull Base Congress in Hanover in 1992 had something very unique in store: a special skull base surgeon game. Each player was required to make his entrance through his very own anatomic region, appear through a particular foramen, and say something characteristically witty at the same time. The things we thought up during all the trips to conventions we took together! In the end, the carpentry workshop of the Hanover Opera House built a more than 10 meter tall 2D replica of the skull base, which was set up as a type of scenery on the stage

behind the projection screen. One had to enter the skull base from the back to be able to ascend it in order to make one's appearance through the pre-perforated holes (foramina). What fun we had during the rehearsals! "The Skull Base Twins," Laligam Sekhar and Ossama Al Mefty, had an unexpectedly hard time reciting the sentence, "We are the skull base twins," in unison. The master, however, was elevated last of all by a semiautomatic hydraulic lift through the foramen occipitale "magnum" into the circle of his colleagues. Wearing tails, top hat, and white scarf—and the only one not to join in the singing—he received our musical tribute, "Praised be the day that you appeared to us," from Lortzing's opera, "Zar und Zimmermann" ("Tsar and Carpenter").

Madjid Samii is ambitious, in the operating theater and outside it, and enjoys being so. Once during a trip to a convention, he felt "run-down" (maybe a burn-out syndrome at the time?) and had some circulatory trouble. So, he decided on the spur of the moment to get active in sports—golf, to be exact. He got a lot of other people involved in the project too. He hardly ever had a trainer, but rather, taught himself from books. He knows what he does wrong in the game and is able to correct himself (reasonably well). Madjid Samii brings a great finish; there are quite a number of players who end up defeated when they get to the final hole. Who of the neurosurgeon golfers and competitors has not had to hand over a signed souvenir of the defeated? Yes, he is goal oriented and enjoys it. He was able to make full use of this during the phase of the INGA, the so-called International Neurosurgical Golf Association, with Lindsay Simon of London as President. He managed to include mention of this, his favorite area of superiority, on the occasion of INI's 10th anniversary, during a birthday tribute to me. He said, "If we are talking about competition, dear Rudolf, one thing is certain: in golf, I am (almost) always one step ahead."

"Samiiology" would not be complete would there not also be those who are envious and critical, who do not trust him in everything, nor trust him to be able to do everything. Woe be he who allows him to go into a monologue: such people have been known to become enchanted, provided they possess the inner willingness to do so. One afternoon, I asked him to hypnotize my ENT friend, Hans Scherer of Munich, later Berlin. Scherer lay in my living room for 5 minutes impervious to pain, and upon Madjid Samii's wake-up command, gave an account, as his hypnotist had persuaded him to do, about an entire operation he had performed, in exact detail, including his subsequent doctor's rounds in the ward.

Madjid Samii—a magician, a "magus?" Magi were originally members of a Persian priestly caste, "keepers of a true religion," who were "strongly influenced by philosophical matter," so that even the Greek philosophers later described themselves as their successors (2).

Madjid Samii is a neurosurgeon who is a citizen of the world. And yet, he has especially close ties to 2 cultures: the German and the Persian. He regards both the European and the Asian cultures as having great future potential. He was born into a large, important family, highly esteemed—especially today—idolized in Iran and by Iranians around the world, where his charisma is particularly effective. In Germany, it took a long time for him to become accepted, recognized, and respected. Established professors, who found it hard to acknowledge his successes and unorthodox approach at first, boycotted some aspects in his early development in their society. It is with great satisfaction that today, Madjid Samii considers his membership in the German Society for Neurosurgery as the most significant of all scientific associations worldwide, and his election as President and Honorary Member thereof.

It is an experience to see how Madjid Samii thrives in his home country at invitations and tributes, these taking place practically one right after the other. Receiving and bestowing honors is a matter of course for Iranian people. I witnessed this myself during enthusiastically experienced excursions we took together to historic sites of antiquity: the ancient capital, Persepolis, the tombs of the Persian kings, Xerxes and Darius, and the tombs of the famous poets, Hafez and Saadi, in Shiraz, which are visited by the young Persian population.

In his later years, Johann Wolfgang Goethe was inspired by Hafez' verses, "which were very close to his heart and mind," to write the "West-Easterly Divan" (5).

Talisman
Gottes ist der Orient!
Gottes ist der Okzident!
Nord und südliches Gelände
Ruht im Frieden seiner Hände.

Er, der einzige Gerechte,
Will für jedermann das Rechte,
Sei, von seinen 100 Namen,
dieser hochgelobet! Amen!

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
"West östlicher Diwan"
Mogeanni Nameh
Buch des Sängers

From: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
"West Easterly Divan"
Mogeanni Nameh
Book of the Singer

Talismans
ALLAH'S is the Orient!
Allah's is the Occident!
North and South, the countries stand
In the quiet of His hand.

Justice out of each one's claim
He, the Only Just, will frame:
Of His hundred names, we laymen
Praise this most, the Just One! Amen.

Translated by John Weiss, Boston 1877

Wenn der Orientale, seltsame Wirkung hervorzubringen,
das ungereimte zusammenreimt,
so soll der Deutsche, dem dergleichen wohl auch begegnet,
dazu nicht scheel sehen"

Die persische Dichtkunst aber, und was ihr ähnlich ist,
wird von dem Westländer niemals ganz rein,
mit vollem Behagen aufgenommen werden.

(H J. Weitz, Anhang Goethe,"West Östlicher Divan")

When the Oriental poet, to conjure a wondrous effect
Rhymes together that which does not rhyme,
The German who encounters it
Should not cast a disapproving eye.

But Persian and similar poetry
Will never be received by Western eyes
With complete relish.

Honor and bestowing honor have much closer ties in the Orient than in the Occident. Many just sow. Madjid Samii reaps—and takes great delight in the honors that acknowledge this; often, consistently, and ever more frequently, in the form of "special invited lecturer," honorary memberships, gold medals, honorary doctorates, professorships, academic honors, and awards from governments all around the globe (**Figure 6**). His own WFNS medal (Madjid Samii Medal of Honor) and society (MASSIN) have been established. In Iran, there are public institutions named after him: among others, a school, a university hospital, a boulevard in Rasht, a Prof. Madjid Samii Street encircling the INI in Teheran (**Figure 7**), a postage stamp, and a neurosurgical clinic in the Milad Hospital. In Beijing, the Skull Base Training Center in the Neurosurgical Clinic of the Medical Capital University is named after him. In Hannover, the Nordstadt Clinic named the auditorium of the Neurosurgical Department, after a 25-year period of its chairman, the "Madjid Samii Auditorium."

He is a great collector, and he keeps in chronological order every award—certificates, gifts, medals—at his home, which now already houses a mini museum. Together therewith, a more extensive neuroscience documentation shall be created at some later date in or at INI Hanover, in Teheran, and in Beijing. It is a type of recollection of past achievements from which he draws strength for future projects. However, as a sign of his esteem, he also includes others in the glorifying recollection. He celebrates his successes and INI's 10th anniversary together with the world and with others. The honoring of friends should not be seen as adornment or frills, but rather as true, heartfelt esteem. *Honesty* is the basis of his friendships, but he also regards it as an indispensable inner attitude in his daily professional dealings that must withstand any external pressures.

Madjid Samii lives and is absorbed in his world of neurosurgery, whereby he regrets spending ever less time enjoying other worthwhile things: vacationing at his beloved home in the South of France, golfing in the early morning or late evening hours, skiing with friends, or taking private excursions during conventions.

In 1991, Madjid Samii and I were honored to be named Sano Lecturers. There is a poem by Theodor Fontane (4) that we both like, that I read to Prof. Keiji Sano of Tokyo, who understood German well.

Es kann die Ehre dieser Welt
Dir keine Ehre geben,
Was Dich in Wahrheit hebt und hält,
muss in Dir selber leben.

Wenns Deinem Innersten entspricht,
an echten Stolzes Stütze,
ob dann die Welt Dir Beifall spricht
ist all Dir wenig nütze.

Das flücht'ge Lob, des Tages Ruhm
magst Du dem Eitlen gönnen!
Das aber sei Dein Heiligtum:
Vor Dir bestehen können.

Roughly translated, it reads thus:

All the honor of this world
Cannot give you honor.
What in truth elevates and supports you
Must live within yourself.

When in your innermost being,
Your house of pride begins to crumble,
Whether or not the world bestows acclaim
Is of little worth.

The fleeting word of praise, the fame of a day,
Grant it to the vain one!
This, however, keep as sacred:
It is yourself to whom you must answer.

Madjid Samii has had an extraordinary impact on the world of neurosurgery. Its zeitgeist, its spirit of the times, is reflected in him and in his work. For this reason **WORLD NEUROSURGERY** honors him as one of the greats.

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"Quidquid Agis Prudenter Agas et Respice Finem"—Whatever You Do, Do It Wisely and Consider the End

Klaus Rüdiger H. von Wild

I am very happy about this honor, and I together with my wife Monika congratulate Madjid Samii with all my heart.

There is an ancient Roman saying, "Whatever you do, do it wisely and consider the end." This seems to me to have been the tacit motto of Madjid Samii.

It was in 1971 that Prof. Samii organized his first training course in microsurgery for German full professors at the Neurosurgical University Department in Mainz. He was so kind as to allow me, as an intern at the neighboring neurosurgical university hospital in Frankfurt Main, to attend. I was amazed to see how young this professor was, how self-assured (hardly any older than I myself), convincing, polite, and always ready to help, sparing no effort to instruct his "arrived" students in a way so characteristic of him to this day, full of patient understanding and compassion. What a teacher! It was interesting to see how some full professors endeavored to learn microsurgical procedures under the operation microscope, whereas others were quite obviously not yet prepared to follow this promising path to the future (**Figure 1**). Prof. Samii opened my eyes to what the future held in store. From this experience, cooperation with our clinic was born, and Prof. Samii helped me to establish his technique in Frankfurt.

In the summer of 1977, having finalized my postdoctoral qualification (Habilitation), Prof. Samii invited me to Hanover to be First Consultant and Vice Director. His intention was to enlarge the neurosurgical clinic at Nordstadtkrankenhaus and make it an international center of excellence, including neurointensive care and neuroradiology (4, 9, 11).

Figure 1. First course in microneurosurgery, Mainz, 1971. The author (*left*) assisted by a resident performing a sural nerve graft under microsurgical conditions with the interfascicular perineural suture technique. (Photograph gift from Dr. Samii, 1971.)

Previously, as he himself was not able to go, he had entrusted me with his main lecture on the subject of reconstruction of brain and peripheral nerve lesions at the First World Congress for Microsurgery in Rio de Janeiro (1). In the course of the negotiations in connection with his call and later when construction of the new clinic

Key words
- Brain stem surgery
- Madjid Samii
- Microsurgery
- Modern neurosurgery teacher
- Reconstructive neurosurgery

Abbreviations and Acronyms
CCT: Computerized cranial tomography
EEG: Electroencephalogram
ICP: Intracranial pressure
WFNS: World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies

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Figure 2. Operating room at the Department of Neurosurgery, Nordstadtkrankenhaus Hanover, 1979. Prof. Madjid Samii (*right*) filming the operative field for documentation after successful total resection of skull base tumor; a transdisciplinary approach together with the late Wolfgang Draf, ENT (*left*); the author (*middle*) assisting to focus the light. (Photograph gift from Dr. Samii, 1979.)

had been approved and begun, and also when dealing with political and economic issues, I came to admire the extraordinary diplomatic dexterity of Prof. Samii, a talent that, among others, distinguishes him even today. Finally all three political parties of the city and state, despite different governments, equally welcomed him, and at his request allowed him to run two more neurosurgical clinics. This original concept was in fact realized when he received a call for professorship at the Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, MHH, and he took over the chair of the International Neuroscience Institute in 2003.

I was asked to help Prof. Samii to build up the department in Hanover. My eagerness in the initial phase was countered with his words: "Dear Mr. von Wild, believe me, even if we pitched a tent in the desert, it would not be long and people would come in flocks." He proved to be right. During the subsequent 5 years he gave me the opportunity to assist in almost all of his surgeries as a first assistant, and he arranged that a special binocular attachment was added to the operative microscope to allow simultaneous surgery (four hands). Photographic and film documentation was self-evident (**Figure 2**). He wanted to and had to take in the eternal skeptics at national and international congresses and training courses and to convince them of the extraordinary new and hitherto-unknown functional results of operation (3). Those were absolutely exciting times for me as well. The new building of our clinic met the highest standards, and still does. Together with acquainted experts from the specialties ear-nose-throat, ophthalmic, maxillofacial, and plastic reconstructive surgery, new concepts for transdisciplinary skull base surgery were designed and published (10), based on functional neuroanatomy by J. Lang, Würzburg, and P. Rabischong, Montpellier. Training courses from 1979 served as a means of teaching, demonstration, and incitement.

From 1986 to 1988, Prof. Samii was President of the International Society of Skull Base Study Group (5). In 1989, he became President of the German Society for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. In my opinion, in addition to his outstanding manual dexterity, key to his success were his professional competence, his capacity for strategic thinking, his curiosity combined with unconditional reliability and truthfulness—no rotten compromises, and the ability to explain complicated procedures. Never have I heard anything negative from third parties, not even from those who envied him. When people confronted him in an adverse manner, he reacted with calmness.

The very same year that we met for the first time, 1971, the occasion of the general assembly of the German Society of Neurosurgery in Duesseldorf saw the beginning of a scientific dispute between Prof. Samii and the Munich-based work group led by Dr. Jacobi regarding the functioning ability of the lyophilized homologous nerve graft then in use. The argument escalated further the following year at the annual meeting in Hamburg. Only a scientific commission ended the dispute: "Follow up studies of 8 peripheral nerve injuries over 1 and 1 1/2 years after implantation of a homologous nerve graft have been performed ('Muenchen'). In none of these cases a restitution of the operated nerve could be demonstrated" (1). In the years to come, notwithstanding his complete rehabilitation and international reputation, some senior representatives (not to mention names) in our society treated Prof. Samii as an unwelcome person. As a companion and confidant, I also felt the embarrassment during the years of our close cooperation, 1977–1982, before I moved to Muenster to become a professor and the head of Neurosurgery and the Department of Early Neurosurgical Rehabilitation at the academic Clemenshospital, where I continued his surgical and educational program (8). These circumstances may explain to the outsider the background of his academic career in German neurosurgery. It was only after the change of generation; a visiting professorship at the medical faculty of Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, in 1982; and a professorship of neurosurgery at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands, in 1986 that he was offered a chair in Germany at the Medical School of Hanover in 1988. In 1996, he was elected President of the German Society of Neurosurgery, and from 1997 to 2001, as President of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS), he set new goals for which in 2001 he was honored to be Honourable President (**Figure 3**).

It was in 1997 when Prof. Samii established the new WFNS Committee for Neurorehabilitation that I successfully chaired with delegates from 44 WFNS societies all over the world for the following years (6, 7).

On July 19, 2002, on the occasion of Prof. Samii's congress and the unforgettable party to honor his 65th birthday in Hanover, I had the opportunity on behalf of his international pupils to establish the Madjid Samii Congress of International Neurosurgeons (MASCIN) (2). At our second congress in Curitiba in 2010, we decided to change the name to Madjid Samii Society of International Neurosurgeons (MASSIN) and thus express our personal esteem.

Friendships made by Madjid Samii mean to him and his friends a treasured asset. I know whereof I speak (**Figure 4**). His elegant,

Figure 3. 12th World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies Congress, Sydney, Australia, September 16-21, 2001. The two Honorary Presidents of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies. The late Prof. Keiji Sano, Professor Emeritus of Tokyo University (*left*), and Prof. Madjid Samii (*right*).

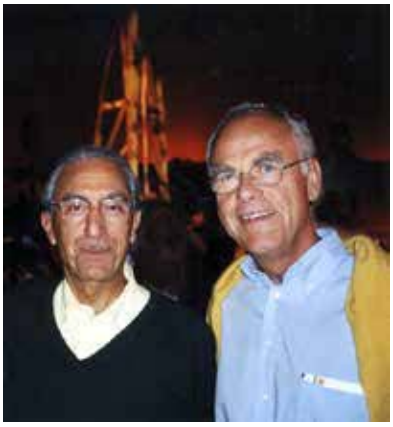

Figure 4. Two friends on the occasion of the 12th World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) Congress, Sydney, September 20. Prof. Madjid Samii, WFNS Honorary President (*left*), and Klaus Rüdiger H. von Wild, Chairman WFNS Committee for Neurorehabilitation, Senior Delegate of the German Society of Neurosurgery (*right*).

caring wife, Mahschid Samii, was and is his biggest support and the soul of the family. She has been a wonderful hostess during unforgettable official invitations at congresses and informal private gatherings at their home, when it may happen that Prof. Samii plays a tune from his home country on the Persian lute.

There is a Persian proverb that Prof. Samii taught me at the beginning of our collaboration: "One should only take as many melons as one can carry." Approached thereupon during his many exhausting and time-consuming activities, he responded with his winning, astute, still youngish smile: "The number of melons depends on how skillfully you can juggle with them." He was right, as practically always.

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I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Madjid Samii for the first time in 1973 on the occasion of the Brazilian Congress of Neurosurgery in Fortaleza, Brazil. At that time I was impressed by this young German neurosurgeon, of Iranian origin, not only because of his deep knowledge of new techniques but also for his clarity of thought and communication facility. Since that first meeting, his career has been an accumulation of immense personal successes thanks to his multifaceted contributions in every field of neurosurgery. These successes were actually successes for the thousands of patients who have undergone surgery in his hands for pathologies considered inoperable. With unparalleled technique, Samii has saved the lives of his patients and especially their quality of life.

Samii is a great teacher as evidenced by the dozens of direct disciples who are now dispersed throughout the world spreading the message of modern neurosurgery and the basics of neuroscience that have always been the foundation on which Samii has developed his new techniques. His scientific contributions embodied in hundreds of publications, books, and conferences in national and international congresses have earned him worldwide recognition and prestige, as evidenced by awards, honorary nominations, and other honors.

One of the most important characteristics of the personality of this remarkable man is his deep humanism, which inspires him think of a patient as his brother suffering. Samii is inspired to solve the patient's problem with the most sophisticated techniques producing the least possible damage. This priority of avoiding inflicting further damage on a patient is the most important quality that distinguishes him from many colleagues, who place their personal brilliance in performing a technique before the quality of life of their patients.

Last but not least, his deep sense of friendship, ease of communication, and sense of humor—features surpassing all language, religious, or political barriers—have made Madjid Samii a permanent universal ambassador of science and technique. His technique is not only neurosurgical because I have never met anyone who has progressed so much in such a short time on the golf course. The main support of this personality is his wonderful family, his wife, children, and grandchildren, who are the ultimate goal of transcendence in his personal life.

Dr. Samii is definitely deserving of his nomination as *Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013*, although he is a master who will transcend for generations as one of the greatest neurosurgeons of all time.

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I met Dr. Madjid Samii many, many years ago. He was already a star at the time. I was only a humble neurosurgeon. You should be aware that he has always worked very hard, day and night, to succeed in his professional career. Early on, he invested himself in a neglected topic by neurosurgeons: peripheral nerve repair. Very soon, he became well known in that topic in Germany and elsewhere, but that was only the beginning. Very quickly he jumped from peripheral to cranial nerves, and he became a worldwide well-known and respected master in all fields of difficult and delicate microneurosurgery.

In Iran, the country where he was born, he is very popular. Madjid Samii is not an Ayatollah, however; he is much more. He knows how the brain functions, and he knows how to cure illnesses that no one else can; he is more than a prophet, he is like a god for several thousands of patients. I have been in Iran with him, and I may testify that being his friend is much more important than holding a diplomatic Belgian passport. Dr. Samii never stops. He runs from home to operative theater, from operative theater to airport, from airport to convention center, from convention center to golf course, from golf course back to convention center, and from airport directly to operative theater and finally to home where his wife, Mahschid, is waiting for him with love and tenderness.

I have traveled with Dr. Samii in many countries. He is always warmly welcome and deeply respected. Everybody knows him. He knows everybody! There is no country where he has not operated on somebody. He has devoted his life to his patients, his friends, and his family. He is very proud of his family, his daughter, his grandchildren, and his son Amir who is following his father's path in neurosurgery at the International Neuroscience Institute in Hannover.

His life has always been a competition to learn and to teach, to be the best in neurosurgery, and he has succeeded so well that he is unanimously recognized as a pioneer, a master, and a giant in neurosurgery fighting to preserve the best quality of life. He has been one of the most prestigious presidents of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS). Under his leadership, the WFNS expanded and was innovative in many fields. He gave me the virus. At the present time, we are proud in the WFNS to say that we have a Foundation, inspired by Dr. Samii, to help neurosurgeons in the developing world. In developing countries, 1 million brain and spinal cord injuries occur every year and leave patients dead or heavily handicapped for the rest of their lives. Nondiagnosed and nontreated brain tumors account for hundreds of thousands of new cases every year. Children disabled as a result of a neurosurgical illness account for 40% of the population in the developing countries. This is the main reason why, under the leadership and presidency of Dr. Samii, the WFNS decided to create a Foundation to help in accomplishing its aims in education and the promotion of neurosurgery as well as the implementation of neurosurgery where no access to the population exists to be able to treat them. This is

a big humanitarian project, which needs the help and support of everybody to be successful.

When I have been president of the WFNS, I have followed the steps of Dr. Samii. I have also invested my time and energy in implementing tolerance and respect of identity and in favoring personal relationships between neurosurgeons living in conflict areas, showing that the WFNS can contribute toward peace, love, and respect of one another whatever their religion, race, or color may be.

Today, we celebrate a giant, a master in neurosurgery for all of us, a man who has always been an example not only in professional life but also in fidelity, friendship, and generosity. Madjid Samii is a neurosurgeon of exception, an outstanding researcher, and a brilliant teacher. I am so proud he has been elected *Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013*.

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It gives me great pleasure and is a tremendous honor to write and share my thoughts about my dear friend and my distinguished teacher, my brother in medicine and in Hippocrates, Dr. Madjid Samii. More than a doctor of the brain, Madjid Samii is first a doctor of the soul, a relief and a glimpse of hope for all people who bring before him for healing their brothers, sisters, wives, husbands, and children. A daily miracle maker, he uses his God-given talent, skills, and knowledge and swipes battered souls from the clutches of death. His mind is the shield and his hand and scalpel are the sword in a fight against death.

Born in Iran, his Persian roots and his religion led Madjid toward excellence, precision, commitment, honesty, and love for the patient, guiding him to pursue medicine and the sciences of life. He left for Germany, a country whose medicine (neurosurgery) he would radically reshape forever. He learned neurosurgery "the hard way" from Emeritus Professor Dr. Med. Kurt Schurmann, the chief of Neurosurgery in Mainz, proving that the Cushing family motto "Through Valor and Divine Aid" is one that should apply to every neurosurgeon in the world. His hard work and strenuous efforts toward continuous self-improvement and development for the benefit of the patient did not go unnoticed, and the German Government decorated him with the German Merit Cross, First Class, as a token of appreciation.

Madjid became a professor of neurosurgery at 33, an age when young doctors still have no clue about their road through life, an age at which professorship is seen with reluctant eyes by some, and an age at which mistakes in life can easily be made. Nevertheless, he jumped over prejudice and proved his worth by attacking only the hardest and most difficult cases with extreme determination.

In all his restless activity, Dr. Samii managed to fulfill every neurosurgeon's dream since Cushing—that of creating a comprehensive neurosurgical unit. At the World Expo 2000 of Germany, the International Neuroscience Institute (INI), Hannover, was officially inaugurated and became the best available neurosurgical treatment center in the world (**Figure 1**). Soon after, INI of China and INI of Iran followed, completing, together with his son, daughter, and wife, the Samii family.

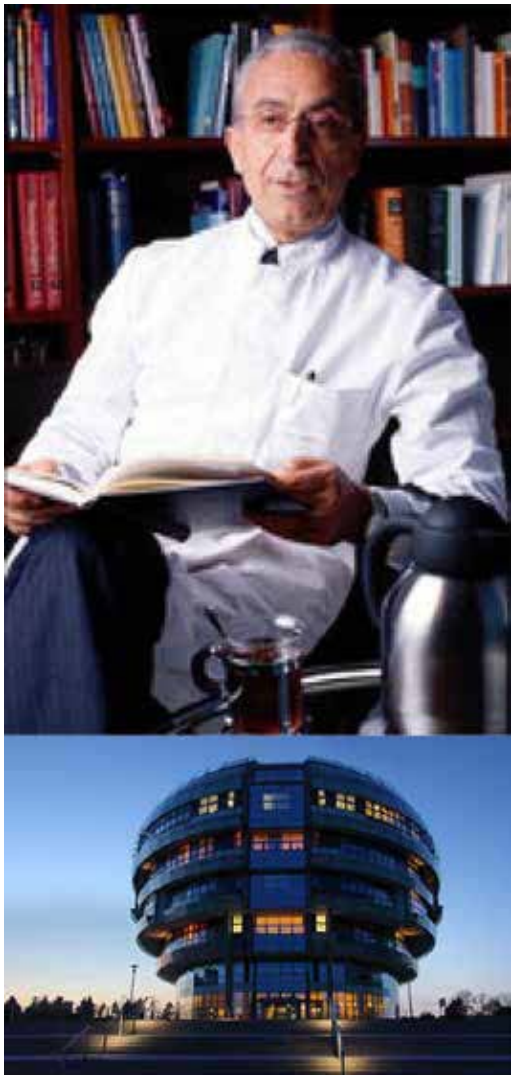

Figure 1. Dr. Madjid Samii and his creation, the International Neuroscience Institute (INI), Hannover.

Madjid Samii managed to conquer all of the world not only through his surgical activity but also through his innovative and observational spirit, publishing an astonishing statistic with >4000 acoustic schwannomas with great results and exceptional exeresis. His lectures motivated surgeons from around the world and represent an incommensurable contribution to the progress of medicine. He is a true leader and an innovator

in the fields of multiple intracranial lesions, skullbase tumors, brainstem tumors, craniopharyngiomas, intraventricular tumors, and basal nuclei tumors.

For his dedicated activity on all planes, including the education of future neurosurgeons, he was nominated as president of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS). His presidency brought in a new spirit and offered the WFNS the strength and energy it needed. In the mandate of Madjid Samii, the activity of the WFNS bloomed, and our notoriety as neurosurgeons grew exponentially.

Besides being an exceptional surgeon he is a dedicated, old-school teacher, a schoolmaster who gets involved in the education of all young neurosurgeons bearing his clinical and spiritual legacy. Through his experience, the patients he saved, his teaching activity, and his activity as president of the WFNS and not least through his noble life, Madjid Samii, similar to Cushing, Dandy, Yasargil, and all the titans of neurosurgery, is more than a man; he is a living legend, whose company makes us, neurosurgeons everywhere, stand proud and always search for our inner better self. If he didn't exist, Madjid Samii would've had to be invented.

We salute you, Dr. Samii, and we wish you a long neurosurgical life for the benefit of your patients and the international neurosurgical community.

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I first met Dr. Madjid Samii when I was a resident in Pittsburgh. He was visiting his good friend, Peter Jannetta, and shared his early experience with surgery of the peripheral nerves, acoustic neuroma, and other skull base lesions with the department. We all were impressed with his skill, precision, thoroughness of presentation, energy, and enthusiasm for complex intracranial microsurgery.

Dr. Jannetta encouraged me to spend a year in training with Dr. Samii, and the arrangements were begun. Dr. Samii was open and inviting and tolerated my letters in poor college German. In the end, I was awarded the Van Wagenen Fellowship and went to England instead. My fellow resident, Laligam Sekhar, went to Hannover the following year, and the rest of that relationship is history.

In the subsequent 30 years since our first meeting, Dr. Samii has remained my teacher, become a professional colleague, and is an occasional golfing partner. He welcomed me to visit him in Hannover as I began my clinical concentration in skull base surgery. We have shared the stage and been copanelists at national and international meetings, and he has always been gracious, helpful, and kind while holding to his high standards. He sets the standard for technical excellence in complex intracranial microsurgery, travels the world to share his teaching, and has been an important innovator not only in the technique of surgery but also in the organization of resources to support neurosurgery of the highest quality. People who visited his department and subsequently the International Neurosurgical Institute in Hannover have seen what is possible when a visionary leader with substantial resources has control of the design and management of the organization that delivers professional services.

But for all his technical expertise and international acclaim, he remains, in my estimation, first a teacher. He shares his insights freely with his professional colleagues. His lessons have raised the technical standards for neurosurgery throughout the world. He has made me a better surgeon; he has made many neurosurgeons around the world better surgeons. His legacy of international teaching clearly justifies the honor of *Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013*.

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It is truly an honor to be asked to write a short note celebrating Dr. Madjid Samii's selection by **WORLD NEUROSURGERY** as *Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013*. Clearly, when considering the sum of his personal achievements as a "master of masters" technical neurosurgeon, his contributions to the education of all neurosurgeons as a true "maestro," his remarkable scientific productivity as the ultimate "surgeon-scientist," and his enormous societal and humanitarian contributions worldwide through his work in the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) and its Foundation and his dedication to improve medical and neurosurgical care worldwide and particularly in developing and underdeveloped countries, Dr. Samii richly deserves not only the honor of being named *Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013* but also of legitimately being considered "best neurosurgeon" in active practice in the world today.

I remember well the first time that I met Madjid personally; of course, no one can forget the circumstances of a first encounter with such a giant of a man. We were both invited guests at a South American congress, he as the Honored Guest and myself as a Junior Professor. When I arrived at the lecture hall, a few minutes before 8:00, when Dr. Samii was scheduled to give the first talk, he was the only one in the lecture hall. Gradually, over the next 10–20 minutes, a few participants began to arrive slowly, and several of them started reading the newspaper. I tried to reassure Madjid that this was "the Latin American way," but he did not appear to be too amused. I feared that when he was finally introduced to start his lecture about 40 minutes late, he would not be too pleasant. Contrary to my expectations, he was the most gracious of guests, elegantly complementing his hosts and the audience and proceeding to give one of his usual phenomenal lectures. I learned much from him that day, and I have never stopped learning from Madjid much about neurosurgery and many other things through his formal lectures and personal conversations and interactions, particularly through the years that we have overlapped in leadership positions at the WFNS.

Although I cannot claim the privilege of having been a direct surgical disciple of Dr. Samii, all my residents through the years can bear witness to how much I have learned about neurosurgical techniques from Dr. Samii. Whether doing a combined subtempo-

ral/presigmoid exposure, drilling the suprameatal crest to approach a petroclival meningioma, or attempting to preserve the elusive "arachnoid plane" in a vestibular schwannoma and in innumerable other surgical situations, residents have heard from me the comment, "this is the way Samii does it." This comment of course is pretentious because there is no way I could do any of this "the way Samii does it." I suspect that most neurosurgeons throughout the world have as much to thank Dr. Samii as I have for all we have learned from him about neurosurgical techniques and judgment.

It would be naive for me to try to produce even an abbreviated list of the honors that Dr. Samii has received through his long and productive professional career. Undoubtedly, he is justifiably proud of these honors and recognitions, but, knowing the man, I suspect that his greatest pride is in the knowledge of the innumerable lives that he has saved or improved throughout the world not only through his personal neurosurgical ministering but particularly through what he has taught the world neurosurgical community. Even more satisfying for him should be the knowledge that these contributions will survive him through the work of his many direct and many more indirect disciples.

Congratulations, Madjid, on the great and well-deserved honor of being the *Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013*!

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I sincerely congratulate Professor Madjid Samii on the award of Neurosurgeon of the Year for 2013. From 1984 to 1987, I worked in Nordstadt Krankenhaus Hannover and learned a lot from him. Every day was for me a big surprise. I observed 3 acoustic neurinoma operations or other difficult skull base operations in a typical day, which was beneficial because the number of surgical cases in a Japanese neurosurgical clinic was not large in general. What I have learned is not only the surgical skill but also his philosophy. He always tried to satisfy patients and make them happy. He has educated not only at his clinic, but also at many meetings to expand his philosophy. For example, he never touched the tumor within the cavernous sinus, whereas the extracavernous part was removed completely. Many active skull base surgeons attacked the tumor and presented their results. Professor Samii raised his hand to explain that this kind of surgery does not make the patients happy. This philosophy is today clearly accepted by every neurosurgeon.

Professor Samii is open-minded and gives a chance to everyone who is willing to advance their education. He has accepted many foreign young doctors, and those who have learned from him have returned to their home countries and become leaders. His contribution to neurosurgery is not only the tremendous number of difficult surgical cases treated by himself but also the large number of neurosurgeons educated and influenced by him. With the purpose of bringing a larger group of Samii's pupils, colleagues, friends, and their fellows to share Dr. Samii's vision and philosophy in neurosurgery, MASSIN (Madjid Samii Society of International Neurosurgeons) has been created. The next meeting will be hosted in 2013 in Kobe (http://www.massin2013.jp/). I sincerely hope Professor Samii cuts a brilliant figure forever.

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It is a great honor and pleasure for us to celebrate Dr. Madjid Samii for being selected as *Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013*. Madjid Samii is a great personality and an outstanding neurosurgeon of our century. He has achieved fantastic results in his professional career as a result of his personal qualities and great professionalism. In addition to his neurosurgical practice, for many years he successfully headed the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS). Dr. Samii is an honorary member of many neurosurgical societies throughout the world and has been awarded with different medals; as a visiting professor, he takes an active part in education and training of young neurosurgeons in different countries including Russia. He founded and is head of a unique International Neuroscience Institute (INI) in Hannover, and similar brain-shaped institutes have been opened in other countries.

We have a long-standing professional cooperation between the INI in Hannover and the Burdenko Neurosurgery Institute in Moscow. Dr. Samii has taken part many times in international and local scientific conferences in Russia. He participated in the 4th Congress of Neurosurgeons of Russia in 2006. He was an initiator of Joint Russian-German Neurosurgical conferences in Moscow in 2007 and in Hannover in 2008.

Madjid has special and very warm feelings toward Russia and has always supported Russian neurosurgery. Dr. Samii is an Honorary Professor of the Burdenko Neurosurgery Institute, and in 2012 he was elected an honorary member of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences. We applaud the selection of Dr. Madjid Samii as *Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013*.

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Elegance and vitality, charm and charisma, creativity and passion, and superlative surgical skills; leadership by inspiration not by demand, uncanny ability to energize the unmotivated, to teach the unambitious, to befriend the uninspired, and perhaps to humble even the most talented; unparalleled drive to move mountains, to convert potential into actual, to

defeat skeptics, to smile through the heat of battle, to never doubt victory. These many traits, any one of which would be ample adornment for its fortunate bearer, only begin to describe the surface of the deep and complex character of one of the giants of neurosurgery, one of its last "aristocrats," one with a rare dual distinction of being regarded simultaneously a knight and a king, the product of a unique blend of Iranian determination and German ingenuity—who else but Dr. Madjid Samii.

I was never directly trained or mentored by Dr. Samii, and I have visited his brain-shaped International Neuroscience Institute only once to lecture 10 years ago (his office was naturally in the "hypothalamus"—seat of furious fight, flight, and upheaval!) Yet I have had the privilege of catching repeated glimpses of the man through the years. Through these exchanges, he has gained my most sincere respect and admiration for his global stature, his worldwide achievements, his writings, his love for the craft, and, above all, the essence of what he will always be remembered for, as long as neurosurgery will be relevant—his glorious success in elevating skull base surgery to a stratum of expertise that very few will ever possess.

Perhaps it is the force of his persona, the authenticity of a character that "walks the walk" and "talks the talk"; perhaps it is the elegance of the gloved hands that magically tease clarity out of obscure tissue planes; perhaps it is the fact that he knows not what faltering means, yet rarely does he err. Perhaps it is because he has discovered (and not shared!) the secret of renewed youth and vitality at an age when most humans—let alone practicing jet setting neurosurgeons—have long settled into sedentary existence, contemplating mortality, an age when most live in the past, by the past, and for the past, ignoring the challenges of the present and the uncertainties of the future. Not Madjid, not now not ever. His plans to expand, build, recruit, organize, attract talent, foster excellence, travel, globalize, and operate on more heads in more countries than ever simply multiply on a daily basis. He makes slobs of people half his age. Perhaps it is because we conjure up the image of a Hannibal of Neurosurgery, the conqueror of the Alps of the skull base, yet a victor who braved new frontiers not with the might of an army but with the determination of a prophet and the delicacy of a Midas touch; perhaps it is because his very existence forces us to redefine and elevate—way up—the concept of "surgical excellence" and "neurosurgical statesman." His is the realm of superlatives, and each is thoroughly deserved.

This man, like any pioneer who acquires a dimension larger than life, has had a few detractors, peers driven to criticism by incredulity for what he has achieved. Perhaps they were driven by envy, perhaps it was their survivalist instinct to humanize him for their own sanity, or perhaps they truly could not fathom that talent can be so extreme. These skeptics sometimes stand at meetings and question his lack of humility, for he says it like it is, is uncompromisingly dogmatic, abhors mediocrity, and does not suffer fools gladly. I say he has very little to be humble about. A lesser man with the same behavior should be called arrogant and put in his place; but for Samii, it is forceful conviction, it is tales from the frontiers, it is the passion for discovery, it is the romantic notion of utterly loving what he does, it is the cry of the victorious warrior, it is the unbridled drive to tell others he's been there, he's done it and—for God's sake—learn from what he has done.

The sad truth is that his "powers" are quite unique. His mere presence, at any venue, on any continent, becomes a rock star event. Of course he does not enjoy speaking to a half-empty room. Who would? Luckily he rarely has to worry about this possibility. His lectures imply standing room only to the dismay of the unfortunate concurrent speakers next door! Like a magnet among iron filings, he attracts legions of fans, in the third world and the first world, hungry souls hoping to become better neurosurgeons by simply talking to him for a few minutes. Perhaps his proximity will rub off some talent onto them. Their naivety is refreshing, yet many of them indeed will, because of his advice, become better surgeons. If he has the urge to condemn hypocrisy, to shout down the misguided; if he is elated to realize that his own surgical skills are still on the rise in his eighth decade; and if such supreme confidence creates the power to inspire a follower, energize a group, or transform a discipline; if all this is what is called arrogance, I say let's have more of it, lest our specialty fester in the hell of ordinariness.

We all owe Dr. Samii an immense debt of gratitude. He has established a unique school and generated through the decades legions of admiring trainees who have become incredible pioneers in their own right. His is a story of utter and enviable self-made success, yet I see one failing: the teacher has fostered, mentored, and released many stars from his "nest" but has not managed to produce one that shines—yet!—brighter than himself. But that is a failing many are happy to forgive, especially the trainees themselves. To them, each transformed by his molding, the news of his selection by **WORLD NEUROSURGERY** as *Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013* will come as a great surprise; after all, for them, like many others, he has been and remained for the last few decades the "Neurosurgeon of Every Year."

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My first contact with Dr. Madjid Samii was in 1975 for a course on hand surgery, with Jacques Michon from Nancy, in Teheran, during which Madjid presented a brilliant demonstration of his technique to restore brachial plexus lesions. We immediately became friends, and I had the privilege to be associated with almost all the meetings and projects he organized and managed so efficiently as well as his wonderful family, solidly structured around a great woman, his wife Mashid.

Madjid's career has been a progression to the highest level neurosurgeon, starting in Mainz under the intelligent guidance of his master Kurt Schurman and continuing in Hannover first at Nordstadt Hospital and then at the International Neuroscience Institute (INI), which he created with such unique technical originality. He has received all the degrees and existing international distinctions, and his presidency of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) was one of the best, showing clearly his outstanding qualities as a manager and organizer.

Madjid's personality is very rich, and I am very impressed by three particular aspects. First, he is a wonderful neurosurgeon with an exceptional hand skillfulness and a very precise diagnostic ability based on a comprehensive knowledge of anatomy and

pathology. To be convinced of his abilities, all that is needed is to see Madjid operating on an acoustic neurinoma in an uncomfortable "hands up" position. His surgical gestures are fast, precise, and without any trembling. His drilling of the temporal apex bone is really a piece of art with the two facial and acoustic nerves so close. The tumor is progressively resected perfectly respecting the nerves, and the clinical results are excellent. This outstanding surgical skill allows him to approach successfully any part of the brain, brainstem, spinal cord, or peripheral nerves.

Second, Madjid is a visionary leader. When he announces a project, it always means a success story. Building the INI in Hannover was not a simple undertaking, and many people were doubtful about the issue of the project. But it is now the most original neurosurgical and neuroscience institute; copies are under construction in China and in Iran. He is still planning new projects; examples are improving neurosurgery in Africa and creating an international top-level group of masters in neurosurgery.

Third, as a man, Madjid has a profound sense of friendship. He is surrounded by a close circle of friends, and fortunately he is not abnormally sensitive to the jealousy of some colleagues. He knows how to introduce a speaker in a meeting perfectly, and he is always a very good discussion moderator never displaying any aggressiveness.

Madjid Samii as *Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013* is a perfect choice fully justified by his exceptional career.

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Dr. Madjid Samii earned his medical degree from University of Mainz, Mainz, Germany, in 1963. He completed his neurosurgical residency at the same university under Dr. Kurt Schürmann and received his board of neurosurgery in 1970. In 1977, he became chairman of the Neurosurgical Department at Nordstadt Krankenhaus, in Hannover, Germany, and in 1988, he accepted the chair of Neurosurgery at Hannover School of Medicine. Under Samii's leadership, Hannover has evolved into an internationally recognized center of excellence for advanced neurosurgery. In 2000, Dr. Samii founded the International Neuroscience Institute in Hannover. In 2004, he accepted the presidency of the China International Neuroscience Institute at the Medical University in Beijing. He was elected president of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) from 1997–2001. Since 2001, he has acted as honorary president of the WFNS and honorary president of the WFNS Foundation. He is one of the best technical neurosurgeons in the history of neurosurgery, if not the best.

I have known Dr. Samii since 1979, initially as a resident, then as his associate ("Oberarzt"), and I have treasured his friendship all this time. His scientific contribution is amazing. He has published >500 scientific articles and 17 books in the field of neurosurgery, has received several awards and medals from many countries, holds 14 university honorary professorships and doctorates around the world, and has given >1000 lectures in international congresses. As a neurosurgeon, teacher, and investigator, he has deeply influenced the education of a large number of neurosurgeons who have become today's leading neurosurgeons across the five continents.

In 2002, former pupils of Dr. Samii founded the Madjid Samii Congress of International Neurosurgeons (MASCIN). The aim of MASCIN was to give continuity of Samii's philosophy, operative technique, and management principles in the different fields of neurosurgery. The first MASCIN meeting occurred in 2007 at the castle of Wittenberg, Germany. In 2009, during the second MASCIN meeting in Curitiba, Brazil, the participants founded a society in honor of Dr. Samii. MASCIN was changed to the Madjid Samii Society of International Neurosurgeons (MASSIN). The third meeting took place in July 2011 in Seattle, Washington, USA. The fourth meeting will be held in 2013 in Kobe, Japan.

On a personal level, Madjid is a very gentle and elegant man but very exigent. He never tolerates negligence and disrespect, especially with patients. Many years ago, I can remember a statement he made to his staff and residents: "The only real treasures a neurosurgeon can have in his life are his patients." Through the >33 years that I have know Madjid, I can testify that he cares for each patient, regardless of his or her status, with the same respect, dedication, and tenderness. He cherishes family, heritage, culture, art, music, and friendship. He handles everyone with honesty, justice, and a tender heart. He is an inspirational optimistic man with a tremendous passion for what he does. He has the ability to make you believe in yourself.

During his brilliant career, he has set very high standards of ethical, moral, and professional practice. Individuals who have been touched by Madjid Samii continue to share his dream and will carry his legacy into the future.

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Master surgeon, world leader, outstanding educator, great humanitarian, neurosurgical architect, and treasured friend. These and many other iconic references are well deserved by Dr. Madjid Samii. Madjid is one of the most outstanding practitioners in the history of neurosurgery, and he continues to build on his already distinguished clinical and academic career. His efforts have resulted in many legendary achievements, all of which have had a significant impact on neurosurgery around the world. Among his greatest achievements are conceiving, planning, and building the International Neuroscience Institute (INI), where he has recruited a world-class staff and built a great clinical service. The INI stands as a magnificent tribute to the brain and has led to the birthing of several similar brain-shaped institutes in other countries. He has made legendary contributions in peripheral nerve, skull base, acoustic neuroma, and cerebral surgery. His operative series of acoustic neuromas will probably never be matched in the future of the specialty. He has chaired the Neurosurgery Departments at the Universities of Leiden and Mainz and more recently in Hannover

where he also directed the neurosurgical department at Nordstadt Hospital before building the INI.

He was a pioneer in skull base and microneurosurgery. In 1977, he established the first microneurosurgical laboratory in Germany. The Skull Base Study Group that he founded grew into the World Congress of Skull Base Surgery now held every 2 years in countries around the world. He has been one of the most loyal and dependable educators to neurosurgical societies around the world, an effort that has led to frequent travel to all corners of the globe. He is one of neurosurgery's greatest leaders having served as President of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS). The Medal of Honor offered by the WFNS bears his name. He is a committed neurosurgical humanitarian. He was the originator of the WFNS plan to provide neurosurgical instrument sets for the treatment of patients in the world's poorest countries, and he founded the WFNS Foundation that offers fellowships especially for neurosurgeons in developing countries. His legendary and iconic contributions are reflected in the numerous honorary doctorates, medals, visiting professorships, and honors that have been bestowed on him. Among these is the Merit Cross First Class awarded by the President of Germany. Madjid Samii is one of the greatest neurosurgeons to walk on this earth. We are fortunate that, after decades of achievement, he is still a magnificent leader inspiring neurosurgeons around the world to provide their patients with accurate, gentle, and safe neurosurgery. Most of all to me, he is a treasured and respected friend who continues to inspire me.

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I would like to congratulate Dr. Madjid Samii on being selected as *Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013*. Dr. Samii is a pioneer of skull base surgery. He has been especially dedicated to the surgical removal of cerebellopontine angle vestibular schwannomas. He has established a method of removing schwannomas by the retrosigmoid approach with the patient in the semisitting position. By this approach and position, once sufficient internal debulking of tumor is achieved, bimanual preparation of the tumor capsule from the arachnoid plane can be performed systematically and safely in all directions. His surgical management and superb technique have demonstrated the best outcomes of the surgical removal of schwannomas.

Dr. Samii has shown us that the pursuit of a single goal brings success in life. Along with his surgical work, his dedication to the international exchange of knowledge and communication is enormous, and he has promoted global relationships. He has traveled all over the world (**Figure 1**) and has visited Japan many times to teach skull base surgery. He is also a kind and sensitive friend. When he invited our Japanese neurosurgeons group to his home in Hannover during a joint meeting of German and

Figure 1. Pictured at the educational course of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS), held in Beijing, China, in 1996 are Dr. Samii, Kintomo Takakura, Wan Chen Chung, and Chao-ya Du.

Japanese Neurosurgical Societies, he served very fresh sushi in his home, which is an example of his kindness and sensitivity.

When I was appointed the President of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Neurosurgical Society, I planned an international real-time television conference of neurosurgery. When I discussed this plan with Dr. Samii, he was very helpful and organized the European group to join this program. In October 1987, the Japanese Broadcasting Cooperation, NHK, produced this real-time television conference and connected Tokyo, New York, and Hannover. The conference started at 9 AM in Tokyo, 5 PM in New York, and 3 AM in Hannover. Center Hall and Second Hall in the Tokyo Congress Site were fully occupied by the members of the Japanese Neurosurgical Society with television monitors. The television image was clear, and all participants could discuss the topics because they were in the same hall. The success of this television conference was possible especially as a result of the kind cooperation of Dr. Samii.

Dr. Samii established the International Skull Base Study Group in 1980 and the International Skull Base Society in 1988. At that time, he talked to me about the importance of establishing a Skull Base Surgery Society in Asian countries. I organized the first Asian-Oceanian International Congress of Skull Base Surgery in 1991 in Tokyo. Dr. Samii also helped with this Congress. The Congress was well received, and the 11th Congress was held in Beijing, China, in October 2012. The successful development of skull base surgery in Asian and Oceanian countries can be attributed to Dr. Samii's long-term endeavors.

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It is a great pleasure to give my personal contribution to the celebration of the neurosurgical achievements of a master, Dr. Madjid Samii, a man whose charisma, creativity, culture, and special attention to educational and scientific issues are univer-

sally recognized. We are here emphasizing his recognition as *Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013*, but Madjid Samii is undoubtedly one of the most prominent neurosurgeons of the contemporary era.

The contributions of Dr. Samii to neurosurgery and neuroscience are innumerable. From the beginning of his career, he dedicated his efforts to education of neurosurgeons. He held regular courses in microneurosurgery at the University of Mainz beginning in 1971, and in 1979 he established the world's first educational course in skull base surgery in Hannover. Hundreds of neurosurgeons from all over the world have been trained by Dr. Samii.

In his extraordinary career spanning half a century, he has provided an amazing number of studies on many aspects of our discipline including technologic advances in neurosurgery; skull base surgery; and specific peripheral nerve, spine, and vascular surgical procedures. His work on acoustic neuroma will remain the fundamental literature on the issue for future generations. His contribution to the knowledge of this disease is considered the "gold standard" to which every modern neurosurgeon has to aspire. However, there is no specific aspect of neurosurgery that has not received his innovative signature.

As President of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) from 1997–2001, Madjid Samii established WFNS Neurosurgical Instruments Sets, a project set up with the aim of improving the treatment of patients in developing countries. He was also the organizer of the WFNS Foundation in 2000, which helps and supports neurosurgeons from developing countries. He conceived Africa 100, a project designed to train 100 neurosurgeons in Africa.

Dr. Samii retains a pristine creative enthusiasm in our discipline remaining a visionary man and a leader. He is a skilled neurosurgeon whose position in the world of science is recognized by the number and importance of international awards and acknowledgments. The German and the international neurosurgical community can be proud to have within their ranks such an eminent scientist and noble person.

It is well known that Dr. Samii has a great respect for his patients, and he has great intellectual honesty in reporting his surgical results. He shows awareness of his great skill as well as of the limits of surgery. His relationships with his patients and their family members are characterized by an extreme loyalty and compassion.

His opinions are always clear-cut and show a deep inspiration, looking at the future of neurosurgery, which he wishes to share with colleagues in the contemporary global environment. Neurosurgeons and patients around the world are indebted to him for his efforts in building advanced institutes of neuroscience including masters of neurosurgery and distinguished scientists. A fond friendship joins Dr. Samii and me, which is a special pleasure to me. On behalf of all us, friends and colleagues, I wish him even greater successes, and I am sure that he will continue to astonish us in his future endeavors.

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What a privilege to write about Madjid Samii. I don't need to elaborate on his prowess as a neurosurgeon—the whole world knows it. I feel great leaders are not known by the complex assignments they undertake and accomplish but by the simplicity of their being and by the apparently effortless manner of achieving their goals—minimum fuss, maximum results! That's why I call him Magic Samii! Everything he does is so lyrical, charming, and majestic, making it look so simple that it seems like anyone can do the same. That's the pitfall. I realized it when I ventured to practice what I saw and learned from him in Hannover on my return to Mumbai.

I spent the most fruitful 2 years (1983–1985) of the prime time of my life and realized I was beginning to learn a completely new kind of neurosurgery. The clinical assessment, the three-dimensional interpretation of radiology, and the translation of this information into the human brain was done in such a precise and uncomplicated manner that the superb surgical outcome, although mystical, was no surprise. I felt blessed and "reborn" in a new world of neurosurgery. Maintaining a close contact with him keeps me inspired and motivated; I wonder if our students would ever feel the same admiration about us.

As a neurosurgeon, he rides like a colossus over the entire spectrum of our specialty and excels in each subspecialty to surpass many others who have found their niche or limited their expertise to a certain subspecialty. It is not just neurosurgical technique that ranks him above the rest. Apart from being supremely gifted and talented, he is extremely hard-working and disciplined. He has an electric mind, a strong and untiring body, and mesmerizing mannerisms. His speech delivery, his sense of dress, and his whole demeanor are so endearing that he would have been successful even with half his surgical skills. At heart, he is a simple man, warm and sympathetic to the core and with genuine care and concern for the less privileged. Let me give just two small examples.

- Delivering a compact set of neurosurgery instruments (courtesy of Aesculap) that he introduced during his tenure as President of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) for the personal use of neurosurgeons who had no backing or support of a big institution, for a paltry sum of $3000

- Africa 100, a momentous task of training 100 African neurosurgeons to provide neurosurgery for a huge, neglected, and impoverished continent

Most people born on this earth die and are forgotten, some are remembered at the end of their lives and for a short while thereafter, but some exceptional gems like Madjid Samii become legends during their lifetime. Already an institution by himself, he has dreamed, designed, and commissioned an International Institute in Neurosciences, popularly known as INI, in Hannover. Not one to rest on his laurels, he has built a

second INI in Beijing. A still larger project is underway in his ancestral home of Tehran, and he is eager to set up some more institutes in other parts of the world.

The world has seen all kinds of successful people. Some are talented and skilled; some acquire greatness by hard work; some are steeped in science and academics; some are down-to-earth; some are dogmatic with their discoveries; some are open and flexible; some are brilliant but aloof; some are social yet seriously focused; some are keen to teach; some are masters still willing to learn; some stimulate your mind; some touch your heart; some work to earn (money, name, fame); some yearn to work; some peak for a decade; some influence for generations; some are eccentric and scientifically right; some are practical and politically correct. Dr. Madjid Samii has embodied all of these qualities of so many great people in less than a lifetime. Some people's lives can be measured in years; he counts life in days, each day with a new dream, rare motivation, purposeful for self, and meaningful for others. Having trained hundreds of neurosurgeons from all over the world, he has pervaded the entire planet through his students and teachings. And, needless to mention, he leaves a dynastic legacy in his equally handsome and capable son Amir.

Truly international, he possesses the gift of Persian sweetness and hospitality, German discipline, Swiss precision, Indian spirituality, British governance, Japanese politeness, Chinese philosophy, Arabic faith, French taste and aristocracy, Italian style, and American aggressiveness. Recipient of countless honors, accolades, and awards and an author of over 500 scientific articles, 17 books, and several thousand operations—one wonders if we are talking about one individual or a whole community of gifted and dedicated professionals.

Is it possible to have another Madjid Samii? To call him an international neurosurgeon of the year is an understatement when he has been a pioneer of neurosurgery in the last century and continues to reinvent himself and remain at the forefront in the present one!

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It was a great pleasure to learn the nomination of Dr. Madjid Samii for *Neurosurgeon of the Year 2013* by the **WORLD NEUROSURGERY** Committee. He well deserves this honor as a result of his well-focused, intense endeavors to serve neurosurgical patients during the past 40 years.

On his visit to the Department of Neurosurgery, University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland, in 1973 with his esteemed teacher, Dr. K. Schurmann, Dr. Samii reacted spontaneously and positively to a microsurgically explored moderate-sized ruptured middle cerebral artery aneurysm. As a result of his intense training in dissecting and suturing peripheral nerves using microtechniques in the laboratory of Dr. Milesi, in Vienna, Austria, and with his far-sighted vision, he immediately perceived the wide-ranging impact of microneurosurgery, which allowed a bloodless and cisternal exploration for complete removal of central nervous system lesions.

Dr. Samii's surgical dexterity, his "falcon-like" mental eye, and his strong will and stamina established him as a world-renowned neurosurgeon as chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery, University of Hannover. He was the initiator and stimulus behind the International Neuroscience Institute, also in Hannover, offering state-of-the-art services to neurosurgical patients and laboratory teaching facilities for neurosurgeons.

Dr. Samii has proved to be a highly talented teacher and unique orator. He has actively participated in national and international congresses, meetings, and courses. His attention is always focused on support for young colleagues in training on all five continents.

Dr. Samii's manifold activities and many contributions to neurosurgery and neurosurgeons worldwide are greatly admired and appreciated.

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