

Neurology Education and History of Taiwan Neurological Society

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Taiwan Neurological Society (TNS) was established on March 6, 1977, and it is still embarking in its 30th year. The society was originally named Neurological Society, the Republic of China, (Taiwan), and included specialties of neurology, neurosurgery, pediatric neurology, neuroradiology and basic neurology. In accordance with the changing of the times, in 1999 after the General Assembly Meeting, it was renamed as Taiwan Neurological Society (TNS). The main objectives of the society are to advance research and development in neurology in Taiwan and to increase communication and cooperation among the members of the society and other academic associations both in the country and abroad.

As neurology gains importance globally, the number of doctors specialized or interested in neurology has been increasing steadily—the number of our society members has

risen from 157 when it was first established to 1,822 today. In addition, the number of board-certified neurologists has grown from 65 in 1983 to 835 in 2009 (Fig. 1); this means that there is a neurologist for every twenty-seven thousand people in the country. The examination for becoming a qualified neurologist in our society is the first board examination to be commissioned by the Department of Health, Taiwan, and has a high standard and strict regulations which are fair and well-known to the public. In fact the examination has become a model for medical societies of other specializations in Taiwan.

The medical science of neurology encompasses a wide range. In recent years, to cope with the division of specializations and to facilitate joining international organizations, subspecialty societies are continuously being established, for ex-

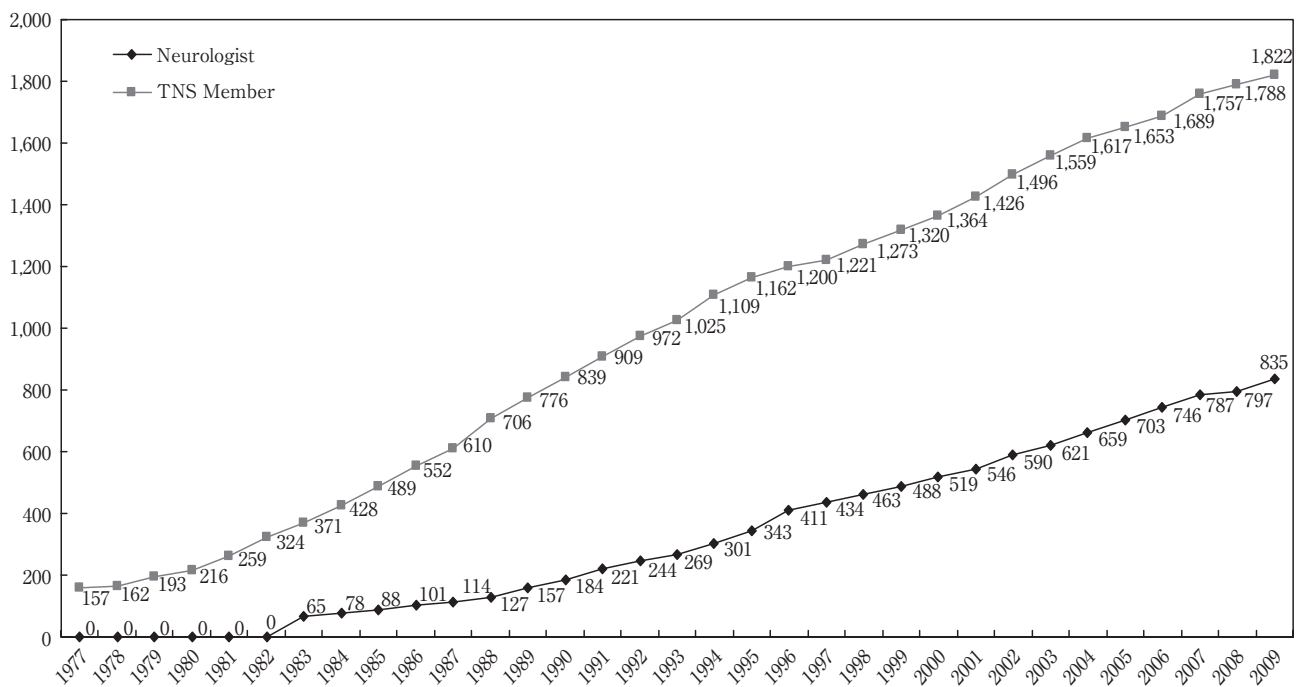


Fig. 1 Number of Members and Neurology Specialist in Taiwan Neurology Society over the years

ample, Taiwan Neurosurgical Society, Taiwan Epilepsy Society, Neuroscience Society, R.O.C. (Taiwan), Taiwan Stroke Society, Neuroradiological Society of R.O.C. (Taiwan), Taiwan Child Neurology Society, Taiwan Clinical Neurophysiological Society, and Taiwan Headache Society, etc.

TNS currently has twelve divisions and four committees. The divisions are: Neurology, Neurosurgery, Neuroradiology, Basic Neuroscience, Epilepsy, Neuromuscular Disorders, Neuropsychology & Psychiatry, Movement Disorders, Neurorehabilitation & Long-term Care, Headache, and Neurogenetics. The committees include Accreditation, Education, Practice, and Ethics. In addition, there is an official journal *Acta Neurologica Taiwanica* (ANT) for academic publication, and a TNS News Bulletin for members information and communication.

TNS's educational programs include a training course for new residents, a training course for intensive care of critically-ill patients, symposiums on neurology rehabilitation and long-term care, neurology and neuroscience joint symposiums and unscheduled continuing medical education symposiums. In the annual meeting more than 200 papers are presented, all of which are published in *Acta Neurologica Taiwanica*. To keep the members informed, since 1984, a society bulletin has been published every three months, in which members can know society updates, important official announcements, minutes of meetings, recent academic events, opinion on particular topics, and news from the training cen-

ters. In 2000, a society website was constructed (<http://www.neuro.org.tw>) so that the members can understand the activities of the society immediately and improve interaction between the members and the society.

In 1992, *Acta Neurologica Taiwanica* (ANT), was published in order to encourage members to actively participate in the neuroscience research. ANT is the official journal of TNS and other related societies mentioned above and its current chief editor is Professor Chu Nai-Shin. ANT, issued like other English journals, accepts papers on various clinical studies and basic researches on neuroscience. The journal is currently cited by the Embase Database and Medline Database. We work toward becoming part of other databases such as the Journal Citation Reports.

Since 1978, TNS has been a member of the World Federation of Neurology and has actively participated in various international conferences and operations. In 1983, it organized and hosted the 6th Asian and Oceanian Congress of Neurology. In the Society Annual Meeting, renowned neurologists all over the world are invited to give a lecture, to promote academic research, to exchange opinions, and to broaden the society's global outlook. In recent years, owing to problems pertaining to the country origin and name, the political issues have affected our participation in international academic conferences. We hope that the academic will simply remain academic, and we hope to receive more support from friends globally in affirmation of our past efforts.
