

Contribute to Neurosurgery with an Opinion or Op-Ed

Russell Andrews

In January of this year, the journal *Nature* published a piece entitled, “Opinion Writing is a Win-Win: Sharing your perspective and ideas can benefit general readers and your career”.¹

During the April 15 webinar of the WFNS Research Committee, Anil Nanda made the point that young neurosurgeons – especially those in LMICs with limited opportunities for traditional research publications – should write about other topics of interest to fellow neurosurgeons. As an example, he suggested writing a history of neurosurgery in their home country (assuming this has not been published previously).

The gold standard of research – a multi-center, double-blind, randomized clinical trial (“MCDBRCT”) – can be challenging for neurosurgeons in both HICs and LMICs. And – like ChatGPT – MCDBRCTs will not innovate. They may set a higher bar for the gold standard but they will not identify a new diagnostic or therapeutic option. An insightful case report can document such a novel intervention – potentially revolutionizing the treatment of a neurosurgical disorder. Similarly, the innovative neurosurgeon can create new instruments, new operations, and new neurosurgical support systems (infrastructure) – progress not dependent on the statistical analyses crucial to MCDBRCTs. Lars Leksell and radiosurgery (Gamma Knife) comes to mind; John Adler extended radiosurgery significantly (Cyberknife).

The WFNS Newsletter can be a forum for such innovative ideas by neurosurgeons from any location worldwide. And a piece in the Newsletter can be expanded into a peer-review journal article. Examples that come to mind are (1) the inexpensive EMR (electronic medical record) developed by Sudipta Mukherjee and colleagues; (2) the innovative private programs to expand neurosurgery in Pakistan and Indonesia by Tariq Khan and Eka Wahjoepramono, respectively.

Neurosurgeons everywhere – and younger neurosurgeons in particular – please contribute your innovative ideas/projects/programs as a report for the WFNS Newsletter. The guidelines are text length 1500 words maximum plus a few (no more than 3) figures or images. Email me: rja@russelljandrews.org.

¹ Palmer J. Opinion Writing is a Win-Win. *Nature* 2024;625:205-206.