EDITORIAL

Sequential giants and the dawn of pediatric neurosurgery

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OUR November cover of the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics* displays Donald Darow Matson at the bedside of a young child who has undergone a neurosurgical procedure at the Boston Children's Hospital (Fig. 1). In this photograph, Matson is holding an ophthalmoscope and is about to examine the fundi of the child whose eyes are abnormally wide open. Matson's facial expression conveys concern for the child and a sense of duty that will not be arrested or relieved until he has determined what is troubling the child.

This photograph was selected for the cover from the third in a sequence of cover articles that chronicle the contributions of three neurosurgical giants to pediatric neurosurgery.⁴ These three neurosurgeons were similar in many ways but particularly so in their devotion to their patients, their exemplary clinical practices, their pursuit of knowledge through investigative inquiry and research, and their involvement as leaders in numerous neurosurgical organizations.

The first cover article adorned the pages of the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics* in 2004 (Fig. 2 left).¹ The photograph shows Harvey Cushing at the bedside of a child who is holding a doll while Cushing's right hand is supporting the back of the child. Interestingly, Cushing is dressed in an operating room gown and is still wearing gloves as he attends to the child. Cushing's contributions to pediatric neurosurgery are leg-

FIG. 1. November 2015 cover: Donald D. Matson holding an ophthalmoscope in his right hand to examine a child who has undergone a neurosurgical procedure. Cover image copyright Boston Children's Hospital Archives, Boston, Massachusetts. Published with permission.

endary and include his operations on children with posterior fossa tumors such as cerebellar astrocytoma and medulloblastoma, his use of needle drainage of cerebellar tumor cysts, and the introduction of electrocautery and silver clips for hemostasis in pediatric neurosurgical cases.¹

The second cover article, published in the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics* in 2013, highlights Franc D. Ingraham and the nascence of the subspecialty of pediatric neurosurgery (Fig. 2 right).³ The photograph on the cover depicts Ingraham at a later stage in his career, his left arm outstretched over the rails of the hospital bed, his hand touching the head dressing of a young child whose eyes are closed and who is resting. It was Cushing who convinced Ingraham to consider working full time at the Boston Children's Hospital and to care for children with conditions such as craniosynostosis, hydrocephalus, brain tumors, and spina bifida.³ Ingraham's contributions to pediatric neurosurgery, like Cushing's, are legion

and include the use of fibrin foam as a hemostatic agent in surgery, the use of steroids in children with craniopharyngioma, and novel treatments for hydrocephalus.³ With Matson, Ingraham wrote the first textbook in pediatric neurosurgery, published in 1954,² to herald the establishment of the subspecialty so that others could follow in their footsteps. Together, they trained a cadre of neurosurgery residents and fellows at the Boston Children's Hospi-

FIG. 2. February 2004 cover (**left**): Harvey Cushing at the bedside of a young child who has undergone a neurosurgical procedure. Cover image is considered to be in the public domain. June 2013 cover (**right**): Franc D. Ingraham at the bedside of a young child who has undergone a neurosurgical procedure. This photograph was taken in the latter part of Ingraham's career. Cover image copyright Boston Children's Hospital Archives, Boston, Massachusetts. Published with permission.

tal. One of their fellows, E. Bruce Hendrick, a Canadian, trained in Boston from 1952 to 1954, before returning to Toronto to be Canada's first full-time pediatric neurosurgeon. I had the distinct honor of training under Dr. Hendrick during my residency. As such, I consider myself a fortunate downstream beneficiary of the teachings and legacy of Ingraham and Matson.

Matson and Ingraham were members of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Neurosurgery*, and over the course of their professional careers they published numerous articles in the *Journal*. Ingraham was President of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) from 1944 to 1946. Matson took the reins of the AANS from 1968 to 1969; sadly, because of health issues, Matson was unable to preside over the annual meeting the year he was President.

Our debt of gratitude to these three giants in establishing the field of pediatric neurosurgery is incalculable. I am pleased we have been able to pay homage to them

in sequence through these cover articles that explore in detail the history of the birth of pediatric neurosurgery.

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Disclosure

The author reports no conflict of interest.