

## **A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE SOUTHERN EEG SOCIETY**

In 1990, at the board meeting of the Southern EEG Society in Ashville, North Carolina, Dr. A. B. DevlescHoward, the president-elect, announced that Dr. Evelyn Ogle would present a historical review of the SEEEGS at the meeting in 1992, which would be the 45th annual meeting. My designation as the appointed volunteer to make this presentation was not a sudden decision on Al's part. We had discussed the subject and the fact that no extraordinary activities had occurred to mark the occasion of our 40th annual meeting which was in 1987. Needless to say, I agreed with Al that we were remiss in not making the 40th annual meeting a special occasion. Therefore, since his statement was recorded in the board meeting minutes and since I am historian of our society, how could I do anything but what the president-elect requested. I had to save my face!

At the SEEEGS meeting in Galveston in 1963, Dr. Samuel C. Little and others who attended the meeting made an attempt to recollect the events and individuals involved in the organization of SEEEGS. It was noted at the time that memories were not as vivid as in years gone by and no one had any recorded facts available. Therefore, Dr. Little took it upon himself to write a letter to members of the SEEEG he remembered as being active in the early formation of the organization. In this communication, which I will read, he stated the facts which he remembered, recorded how the organization came into being, and enumerated the original founding members. He entitled it: "History of the Southern EEG Society". This was presentation at the SEEEG meeting in 1972, 25<sup>th</sup> year.

### **HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN EEG SOCIETY**

At the recent meeting of the Southern EEG Society in Galveston we were unable to accurately recall many of the former officers or the exact method or formation of the society. As the society has now been in existence approximately fifteen years, it would appear worthwhile to make a record of the early history of the organization. For this reason I am sending this note to a number of individuals who were active in the early formation of the organization with a request for any corrections or additions to the outline of the early history as I have set it forth.

As I was active in the founding of the organization I have the most knowledge of the very early details. At the first meeting of the American EEG Society in Atlantic City, June 1948 it was called to my attention that there were regional EEG societies in the East but there was no regional EEG society for the South. On return from this meeting I corresponded with a number of interested individuals and they felt that a need for such an organization existed. With the concurrence of these individuals who consisted mainly of all the individuals in the southern area using electroencephalography at that time, I agreed to serve as the executive secretary and undertake such an organization. I believe the actual first step taken in this direction occurred at a meeting of the Southern Psychiatric Association held in Birmingham. At that meeting I requested all individuals interested in the formation of a regional society to remain after the session for a short meeting. As I recall this meeting was attended by Dr. Richard Masland and myself and one or two other individuals. This preliminary meeting may have actually preceded my correspondence with other electroencephalographers in the southern area.

Following this meeting I carried out considerable correspondence and a temporary executive committee was organized with me serving as the executive secretary. I do not remember the entire complement of this temporary executive committee but as I recall it probably consisted of the individuals below:

E. Roseman, M.D., Louisville  
Paul Levin, M.D., Dallas  
Martin Towler, M.D., Galveston,  
Richard Masland, M.D. Bethesda,  
Hans Lowenbach, M.D., Durham.

After considerable correspondence a list of individuals interested in the formation of the society was prepared. At the next meeting of the American EEG Society in Atlantic City, members of the temporary executive

committee met to discuss the matter and to prepare a proposed constitution. This meeting was attended by Dr. Robert Schwab who was then the president or president-elect of the American EEG Society. The date and place of the first meeting was scheduled and plans made to prepare the program. This meeting of the temporary executive committee is referred to in the presidential address given by Dr. Hollowell Davis at the meeting of the American EEG Society. The temporary executive committee also acted as a nominating committee.

Following this meeting further correspondence was carried on and a scientific program organized. The society was officially organized at a mass meeting of interested persons held December 5; 1948 in Dallas, Texas at the Adolphus Hotel. At that time the constitution proposed by the temporary executive committee was adopted, the organization officially constituted and officers elected. Martin Towler of Galveston was elected as the first president and I was elected as the first secretary. I do not remember the individual who was elected vice-president or who was elected to council with the exception that Dr. Hans Lowenbach was one of the council members.

As I recall, the second annual meeting was held in New Orleans at the Jung Hotel.

All of these matters were recorded in some detail in the early minutes of the organization, but I believe these minutes have been lost. It is for this reason that I believe it is worthwhile to attempt to reconstruct the early history of the organization and to record it permanently for future reference. From the material above, I probably have omitted the names of many individuals who later became president of the organization, such as James Ward of Nashville, Sam Clark of Nashville and others. I hope that individuals whose memory is more accurate than mine will send me such additions and corrections as appear to be indicated.

I'm sending copies of this letter to as many of the past secretaries of the organization as I can remember in the hope that they may be able to locate the early minutes of the organization, and in addition am sending it to as many of the earlier past presidents of the organization as I can remember.

Sincerely,

Samuel C. Little, M.D.  
Director of EEG Laboratory  
Professor of Neurology  
Medical College of Alabama

cc: Dr. Masland  
Dr. Martin Towler  
Dr. James Ward  
Dr. E. Roseman  
Dr. Donald Bickers  
Dr. William Wilson  
Dr. Douglas Hawkes  
Dr. Don Winfield  
Dr. Peter Kellaway  
Dr. Paul Levin  
Others

I wish to add a footnote to Dr. Little's history. In going through the volumes of minutes and correspondence, I found a letter to Dr. Mary Andriola from Dr. Peter Kellaway. In the letter, which was dated November 9, 1981, he made reference to "Drs. Lowenbach, Masland and Towler, who with me, are the sole surviving members of the original group who met in Dallas in 1948 at Dr. Little's urging to found the Southern EEG Society". Therefore, it appeared that Dr. Peter Kellaway was also one of the founding members and was omitted in the list of the members. However, Dr. Kellaway was included in those who received a copy of this history.

In the original constitution of the SEEEGS, there were two categories of members, full members and associate members. The full members were defined as "persons working in or otherwise qualified in electroencephalography or closely related fields who hold any of the following degrees: MD, MB, DSC, PHD, or any equivalent qualifications as may be approved by the council". Therefore the EEG technicians who belonged to SEEEGS were associate members and there was no organized association such as the Southern Society of EEG Technologists (SSET).

The SEEEGS meeting in Atlanta in 1959 was attended by Drs. John Knott and Charles E. Henry who were instrumental in assisting the technicians in laying the groundwork for the formation of what was to be SSET. The SEEEGS program for the 1960 meeting in Louisville, Kentucky noted on Friday, November 4 at 3:30 p.m. a business meeting, members only, for preliminary organizational meeting SSET. On Saturday, November 5, 1960, at 2:00 p.m. the program noted "organizational meeting, SSET". Therefore, in 1960, the technologists had completed the formation of their organization. Marion Menzell was its first president. In 1961, at the SEEEGS meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, the program included a schedule and program for the SSET as well as SEEEGS.

At the council meeting in 1974, it was the feeling of the president and other members of the council that the society should proceed in developing educational courses for the 1975 meeting with AMA approval for CME credit. Dr. William P. Wilson was appointed chairman of the education committee with Drs. Robert Maulsby, Mary Andriola and Hoosang Hooshmand as members. At the 1975 board meeting, the education committee report was as follows and I quote: "A letter of Dr. William P. Wilson was read offering explanation for not being able to put together an education program for the current meeting because of difficulty of obtaining accreditation by the AMA. The board accepted the explanation but requested that whoever chairs the program for next years meeting be required to put together such program regardless of accreditation". Therefore, in 1976 the first annual course was held in conjunction with our annual meeting in Winston Salem, North Carolina. It is interesting to note that there was no charge for this first course. Those members who were involved with this new venture did not have an easy task. In trying to work with the American EEG Society to get AMA, CME accreditation, they experienced trials, tribulations, and sometimes what appeared to be the run around. However, perseverance paid off and their goal was achieved, finally.

The SEEEGS announced in 1976 that the Caton Award, which is for a meritorious manuscript dealing with electro physical phenomena in the central nervous system either clinical or experimental, would be offered. This award will be offered on an annual basis beginning with the meeting in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, October 21 - 24, 1976. The members of the first Caton Award Committee were: Helio Lemmi, Herman F. Flanigin, and John C. Lee. The first award was given in 1977 to James J. Stockard. The recipients of this award since that time are as follows: 1980, Robin Gilmore; 1982, John F. Bolter; 1985, Rubens Reimao; 1986, Terrance D. Lagerlund; 1990, Diane Major.

In 1975, the revised constitution and by-laws was presented to the members at the general membership meeting. This was the first revision of the original document. One major change was the category of members. The associate member category was deleted and in addition to full members the following were added: Senior members - members of the society for over 25 years, in good standing. These members are exempted from paying dues; Honorary Members - unique or special individuals may be tendered membership in this category by the board of directors. These members are exempted from paying dues; Sustaining Associates - a corporation or organization which may have an interest in electroencephalography and clinical neurophysiology and wish to

contribute financially or otherwise to the society. Another significant change was the term, Board of Directors was substituted for Council. In the original document no committees were listed. However, in the new document the following committees and the purposes for each were listed: credentials, site selection, education and constitution and bylaws.

Since I have been a member of this society, I have attended meetings when the society met with the section on Neurology and Psychiatry of the Southern Medical Association. However, I was not aware of the number of joint meetings with this section in years gone by. Joint meetings with the section on Neurology and Psychiatry of the SMA were held in 1952, 1953, 1954, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1960 and 1970. Apparently the 1970 meeting was the last joint meeting with this group.

I also was not aware of joint meetings with other regional societies prior to the first which I attended in 1984. In reviewing the programs of previous meetings, I learned that the 1951 meeting was a joint meeting at the Georgetown University Medical Center with the Eastern Association of Electroencephalographers. In 1954, the SEEEGS and the Central EEG Association met jointly with the section of Neurology and Psychiatry of the SMA in St. Louis. More recently, in February of 1984, our society had a joint meeting with the Central Association at the South Sea Plantation in Captiva Island, Florida. Naturally, the central members thought this was a great meeting since the weather in their area was totally different from that in Florida at that time of the year. In January, 1987 the Western EEG Society met with our society in San Antonio, Texas. The Central Association thought the first meeting was such a great one at Captiva Island that a joint meeting with this group was held again in January, 1991.

The meeting in 1972, which was the 25th anniversary of our society, was held in Williamsburg, Virginia. This meeting honored all previous past presidents and each one participated on the program for this special occasion.

The title of Dr. Little's paper for the 25th anniversary meeting was "The History of The Southern EEG Society". There was no doubt about the fact that he contributed much to the history of our society and was considered to be the historian of our society. At our meeting in 1976, he was honored for his contributions to our society, not only as a founding member but as one who continued to contribute and show interest in the society. He was presented a plaque on which was a map of the SEEEGS area with the SEEEGS certificate of his membership. It was Dr. Neil Brown's suggestion that Dr. Little be honored at that meeting. This was most fortuitous since Dr. Little died in 1977. I am indebted to Dr. Brown for his slides of the occasion. He was most kind to lend them to me for this presentation.

This presentation today would not have been possible without the assistance of all of you. -When I was secretary and treasurer and trying to collect the programs for all previous meetings, quite a few years were missing. I made a plea in the newsletter for these programs; and the response was most gratifying. Now, only the programs for 1949 and 1955 have not been obtained.

About five or six years ago, I mentioned to Dr. Chip Epstein -that since I was historian of our society, I should be doing more than I was doing at that time, which was nothing. Chip was most delighted to hear this since he had several boxes of material which he had received when he was secretary and treasurer, but had not sent them to Robin Gilmore who succeeded him. It was not long before I learned why Chip was so elated. I received two boxes, not very small ones, containing correspondence, minutes, programs and other information from years gone by.

I must admit that going through all of this material did take time, which somehow was enjoyable. I was delighted to discover that Dr. Helio Lemmi, when he was secretary and treasurer, being the compulsive person that he, is had collated all-of the council and general membership meeting minutes from 1950 - 1975. Having this information at my fingertips made the search less time consuming. As you can see, many of you have assisted me directly or indirectly in-obtaining the information for this historical review. I have attempted to

record information and events which I felt were significant ones. If anyone can contribute additional information or embellish what has been presented, I welcome you to do so.