Introduction

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The 9th biennial Congress of the ISRS took place in Seoul, South Korea on June 7–11, 2009. Dr. Dong-Gyu Kim, local Host and Head of the Scientific Committee put together an outstanding display of scientific production in radiosurgery.

Regional political instability, a peaking world financial crisis and yet another epidemic scare (this time the Mexican “Swine Flu”) resulted in this meeting being less well attended than its immediate predecessors. Nevertheless, the more than 400 professionals that gathered in Seoul could not have had a more powerful proof of the thrive of radiosurgery. In the mature subspecialty of cranial radiosurgery, several clinical studies with long-term follow-ups were presented, which consistently showed stable tumor control rates and a low complication incidence, cementing the central role of radiosurgery in the definitive management of intracranial pathologies. In the younger field of extracranial radiosurgery, techniques are maturing and availability is spreading so that information is beginning to reach a critical mass. Presentations on radiosurgery for spinal, chest, and abdominal disease had an important part in the scientific program and gathered much attention.

Dr. Linda Liao, Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology* has graciously offered to publish selected peer-reviewed papers from the 9th ISRS Meeting as in this special issue of the Journal. This is a wonderful opportunity. This issue will reach a very large community of professionals for whom radiosurgery is very relevant. Every article in this special issue has been selected by a standard peer-review process out of a host of papers submitted by presenters in the 9th ISRS Meeting.

I thank my Co-Editors, Drs. Mike McDermott and Dennis Shrieve (current ISRS President) and all our Reviewers, especially Drs. Dong-Gyu Kim, Jean Regis, and Samuel Ryo, for their dedicated work. The scope and the quality of the papers testify to the growing influence of radiosurgery, a treatment tool that has revolutionized the field of neurosurgery in the last 25 years, and certainly will continue to do so in the nascent areas of spinal and body radiosurgery well into the future.

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