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practices. And, of course, no studies have been done on the influence of the programs themselves on drug prescribing. Few of these programs, if any, would lend themselves to such study. Surveys are done to determine if physicians watch our programs and find them useful. But although our audience attendance figures appear to us gratifyingly high, the sincerest form of flattery is the fact that 700 hospitals, including many of the nation's important clinical centers, pay their own money to subscribe. Perhaps I should add here that NCME has rendered assistance to the National Library of Medicine, has disseminated information to physicians at the request of the National Center for Disease Control and for many years supplied programs without cost to VA and other government hospitals and institutions.

8. AVENS

Audio Visual Education In Neurosurgery (AVENS) is a videocassette, monograph, and slide service, in popular terms, a multi-media system. Subjects and their presenters are chosen by the Society of Neurological Surgeons which began the project with the support of a grant from the John and Mary R. Markle Foundation. The programs are sold to neurosurgical training centers and to individual neurosurgeons. But as the number of subscribers is small (about 125 have bought the first series of 10 programs), the project is far from self-sustaining. Because the distribution and production apparatus constructed for NCME is available to us, we can continue AVENS at our own expense and we are doing so. Some of the programs are said to be among the better teaching of any sort ever done in neurosurgery. Without foundation support, however, AVENS could not have been begun and without our own assistance, I am not sure it could continue.