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Section on Neurological Surgery of the American Association of Pediatrics

From the Chairman

By Bruce Kaufman, MD, FAANS



*Bruce Kaufman,
MD, FAANS*

It has only been a few months since the conclusion of our American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)/Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery winter meeting at Amelia Island, Fla. I believe I speak for all when stating that the meeting was a great success! The venue was fantastic, the weather was good (with the fog perfect for keeping everyone in the meeting), and the meeting content was excellent. The attendance was again one of our top gatherings, with something to offer every level of participant. We owe lots of thanks to Phil Aldana, MD, FAANS, and his colleagues for organizing and running the show.

And it's not too far away (well, maybe a little bit) to plan your attendance at our next winter Pediatric Section meeting in Seattle. The meeting will be Dec. 8-11, 2015, and our local hosts are Sam Browd, MD, PhD, FAANS; and Amy Lee, MD.

The 2015 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting in Washington, D.C., is up next on May 2-6. This year, the Pediatric Section will have its afternoon sessions on Monday and Tuesday. There will be a brief Section business meeting at the completion of the session on Tuesday.

The annual Matson lecture will be on Monday afternoon. We have invited Mark Wietecha, president and chief executive officer of the Children's Hospital Association (combined from the old CHCA, NACHRI, and NACH in 2011). The title of his presentation will be "Current Health Care Trends and Implications for Pediatric Neurosurgery." Wietecha was

involved in the development of the document on "Optimal Surgical Outcomes for Children" and is knowledgeable about the associated program from the American College of Surgeons setting up voluntary certification for children's hospitals surgical services.

The Section hosts a reception for our lecturer, this year on Monday evening from 6-8 p.m. Everyone is invited, so please join us there to welcome Mr. Wietecha and gather with friends.

Over the past few years, there have been a number of endeavors that have directly or indirectly affected pediatric neurosurgery — such as the Fetal Myelomenigocele Consortium, the drive to certify children's hospitals' level of surgical care, and the standardization of neurosurgical fellowships through the Society of Neurological Surgeons' CAST program. As we have reported in the past, the section's leadership has been directly involved in or monitored these activities, and fortunately there is currently little to report. We will continue our involvement in these endeavors, and keep you abreast of any changes.

Presently, the section leadership and its committees are reevaluating several core and ongoing activities including resident training, our travelling fellowship opportunities, and our support of research at various levels. Our members participating in each of these areas are exploring and discussing with the section new ideas and opportunities to best serve the interests of the section and its members in the complex world of neurosurgery. I think there are some good ideas being considered. In addition, the section's leadership will soon be meeting with the leadership of the American Society of Pediatric Neurology to discuss appropriate coordination and avoid duplication of efforts.

From the Chairman (continued from page 1)

These are my last few months as the chair of the Pediatric Section, with our leadership officially “changing” at the conclusion of the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting. However, our next set of officers is defined, and transition planning for our committees has been underway for a while. As always, your participation in the work of the Section is always welcomed — please let us know if you wish to join any of our committees and help in any way.

As winter winds down (I really hope soon — it’s still too cold everywhere, with too much snow out east) I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Washington, D.C. at the AANS meeting.



Bruce Kaufman, MD, FAANS

Matson Lecturer

Mark Wietecha is president and chief executive officer of the Children’s Hospital Association (CHA), representing more than 220 hospital organizations and pediatric programs dedicated to improving child health. Prior to joining the CHA, Wietecha was the executive chairman of Kurt Salmon Associates, overseeing a global consulting firm of more than 2,000 professionals serving clients on five continents. A regular presenter on the future of health care and cited in media outlets, such as the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and National Public Radio, Wietecha has served as a strategic advisor to most of the *U.S. News & World Report* “Best Medical Centers,” including the majority of the nation’s top children’s hospitals.



He has been named among the country’s “Most Influential Consultants” by *Consulting Magazine* and as one of the “5 Healthcare Leaders to Know” by *Becker’s Review*. He also currently serves on the boards of the Council of Teaching Hospitals and Health Systems of the Association of American Medical Colleges; the Coalition to Protect America’s Health Care; Virtual PICU Systems, LLC, where he is the current board chair; and University of California, Los Angeles Health System’s board of overseers, where he is the current chair. Wietecha’s training includes a Master of Science from The Ohio State University and a Masters of Business Administration from Indiana University.

2014 Pediatric Section Annual Meeting Report

The 43rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)/Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery was successfully held on Dec. 2-5, 2014, at the beautiful resort isle of Amelia Island, Fla. This year’s theme was Advancing Pediatric Neurosurgery through Collaboration. The meeting co-chairs were Philipp Aldana, MD, FAANS; Nathan Ranalli, MD; and Alexandra Beier, DO, from the Wolfson Children’s Hospital/University of Florida-Jacksonville Program.

Attendance rates continued to remain high, with a total of 379 medical registrants attended the conference (four short of last year’s record!) The scientific program included high-quality research from diverse subspecialty topics, with 72 oral presentations and 121 accepted posters. The three plenary symposia on collaboration in pediatric neurosurgery; craniosynostosis and fetal myelomeningocele repair were complemented by related oral presentations and were very well-received. Practical courses on coding and craniocervical surgery were held and also similarly received. Measures to keep the program on time were effectively instituted and kept the program flowing smoothly.

Pascal Lee, PhD, lectured on the high level of collaboration needed in planning man’s mission to Mars, and David Wood, MD, PhD, gave a detailed talk about the process of transitioning neurosurgical patients to adult care.

Jack Walker, MD, FAANS, was awarded the highest honor for a pediatric neurosurgeon, the Franc Ingraham Award for Distinguished Service and Achievement. Other awards included the Schulman Award — Michael George DeCuyper, MD; Hydrocephalus Award — Jason Elliott Blatt, MD; AAP SONS Award — David Limbrick, MD, PhD, FAANS; Top Clinical Research Poster — Alexander Weil, MD; and Top Basic Science Poster — Amanda Muhs Saratsis, MD.

Advanced practice providers (APP) had more educational offerings to choose from, with two breakfast sessions in addition to the all-day course. This may have contributed to the 45-percent increase in the registrants for the APP course.

Preparations are underway for next year’s meeting in Seattle. Mark your calendars to attend what promises to be another outstanding meeting in 2015!



Pascal Lee, MS, PhD, the Raimondi Lecturer, signing books.

Note from the Editor

Since 2013, James Rutka, MD, PhD, FAANS, a long-standing member of the section and past-president of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, has been editor-in-chief of the Journal of Neurosurgery Publishing Group, which includes the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*. Dr. Rutka would like to encourage all Pediatric Section members to submit their work to the journal.

Quality Improvement Initiatives

Dear Pediatric Neurosurgical Colleagues,

The Pediatric Section of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)/Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) and the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons are developing a subspecialty-wide effort to promote outcomes research and quality improvement projects. The first step in this initiative is to determine how frequently the results of established quality improvement research are being incorporated into contemporary pediatric neurosurgical practice. This knowledge will inform further quality, outcomes and implementation research not only as it relates to hydrocephalus but to other clinical areas in our subspecialty.

As part of a quality improvement initiative, the Hydrocephalus Clinical Research Network (HCRN) has published a standardized peri-operative protocol designed to reduce the incidence of shunt infection (*Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*, 2011). This clinical support tool has been effective in decreasing the risk of shunt infection at institutions where it has been implemented.

A survey intended to capture current pediatric neurosurgical practice with respect to peri-operative strategies designed to minimize the incidence of shunt infection, as well as to identify potential surgeon- or institution-level barriers to implementation of standardized peri-operative protocols within various practice environments, has been designed.

Through *Pediatric ShortCuts*, it was circulated last fall and again at the 2014 annual meeting of the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery. Preliminary data suggests that there is significant practice variation and that our community is receptive to standardization and quality improvement initiatives going forward. An enhanced response rate will assist us in planning future endeavors.

If you have not already done so, we ask that you take 15 minutes from your day to complete the survey, located at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WTQ8JCN>. Your contribution to this initiative is important to us.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Mandeep S. Tamber, MD, PhD, FRCSC
University of Pittsburgh
HCRN Site Investigator and Study PI

John C. "Jay" Wellons, III, MD, MSPH
Vanderbilt University
Ad Hoc Joint Task Force on Outcomes and Quality
ASPN and Pediatric Section of the AANS/CNS
HCRN Site Investigator

Pediatric Craniocervical Society

Formed in 2005, the Pediatric Craniocervical Society (PCS) is a small focus group of pediatric neurosurgeons interested in disorders of the craniocervical junction (CCJ). Its yearly meeting was held during the 2014 Joint Pediatric Section Meeting in Amelia Island, Fla. Topics for discussion were:

- 1) review an ongoing effort to standardize measurements of the CCJ,
- 2) review of difficult cases,
- 3) the application of Park-Reeves data sets, and
- 4) review and respond to a forthcoming paper about Chiari malformations by Atul Goel, MD.

The next meeting of the PCS will be held in Seattle during the next Joint Section Meeting. Individuals interested in participating should contact Doug Brockmeyer, MD, FAANS, at douglas.brockmeyer@hsc.utah.edu.



Jeff Greenfield, MD, PhD, FAANS, after completing the highly competitive 5K run at the 2014 Pediatric Section annual meeting in Amelia Island.

National Meetings Subcommittee

Co-chairs: Benny Iskandar, MD, FAANS; and Cathy Mazzola, MD, FAANS

The pediatric program of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) 2014 annual meeting was quite successful, as all three sessions (concussion management, Chiari I updates, and hydrocephalus guidelines) were at capacity. In the fall 2014 *Pediatric ShortCuts*, we described the national meetings subcommittee's efforts at optimizing the pediatric program at the 2015 American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Annual Scientific Meeting, starting with the spring 2015 conference (coming up in May). One of our goals was to shift from long abstract presentations to shorter ones associated with digital posters, allowing the introduction of special courses and lectures on timely topics designed to appeal to the interest of not only pediatric neurosurgeons, but also general neurosurgeons and neurosurgical residents.

Monday afternoon Session (2-5:30 p.m.)

- Two-minute presentations of 12 abstracts: Moderators: Paul Klimo, MD, FAANS and Lissa Baird, MD.
- Matson lecture: Mark Wietcha, president and CEO of the Children's Hospital Association.
- Congenital topic for the adult neurosurgeon: Expert discussion on myelomeningocele closure surgery — Speakers: Sarah Gaskill, MD, FAANS; and Benjamin Warf, MD, FAANS.
- Topical reviews I (based on three-year cycle): This includes 20-minute presentations on shunt care by Jack Walker, MD; and Bob Keating, MD, FAANS, followed by a 20-minute case discussion period.

NERVES

The Neurosurgery Executives' Resource Value and Education Society (NERVES) is the only national neurosurgery administrator society in the United States. The organization is the result of an initiative by the Council of State Neurological Societies (CSNS) to help neurosurgery administrators to network, combine resources to gather information and to learn from their colleagues about how to run a successful neurosurgical practice.

Please encourage your practice administrator to join NERVES and attend its upcoming 2015 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., April 30-May 2, 2015. Highlights will include:

- Hearing from industry thought leaders
- Meeting and networking with other neurosurgery practice administrators
- Gaining the tools needed to bolster your practice

The keynote address will be delivered by Wayne M. Sotile, PhD, who directs The Center for Physician Resilience in Davidson, N.C. Dr. Sotile is an international thought leader on physician behavior and burnout.

Tuesday afternoon session (2-5 p.m.)

- Nine-minute presentations of five best posters – Moderators: John Myseros, MD, FAANS; and Elias Rizk, MD.
- Controversies and Face-off: This year, Dr. Keating moderates a session of speakers from other specialties, including cardiac surgery, who have successfully transitioned the care of children with congenital problems to adulthood.
- Topical Reviews II (based on three-year cycle): This includes 20-minute presentations on Chiari I and endoscopy by Cormac Maher, MD, FAANS; and Al Cohen, MD, FAANS, respectively, followed by a 20-minute case discussion session.

In addition, we are pleased to have obtained approval from the AANS for three new breakfast seminars: spasticity management, management of pediatric epilepsy, and molecular tumor diagnostics, moderated by Michael Partington, MD, FAANS; Jeff Ojemann, MD, FAANS; and Ian Pollack, MD, FAANS, respectively. As we transition the leadership of this subcommittee to Andrew Jea, MD, FAANS; and Joshua Chern, MD, PhD, we look forward for more creative efforts to improve the pediatric programs at the AANS and CNS.

Membership Report

Membership in the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery remains strong. Our current roster includes 329 active, 11 associate, 71 lifetime, 27 international and 27 resident/fellow members, for 465 total members.

Since the last edition of *Pediatric ShortCuts*, the newly approved Pediatric Section members are:

Active

Gregory W. Albert, MD, FAANS (Little Rock, Ark.)
Cesar Augusto Serrano Almeida, MD, FRCSC (Morgantown, W.Va.)
Markus Joseph Bookland, MD (Harford, Ct.)
Scott Daniel Wait, MD (Charlotte, N.C.)
Garrett K. Zoeller, MD (Morristown, N.J.)
Scellig S. D. Stone, MD, PhD, FAANS (Boston)
Phillip B. Storm, MD, FAANS (Philadelphia)
Amanda Muhs Saratsis, MD (Chicago)
Brent Randle O'Neill, MD, FAANS (Aurora, Colo.)

International

Ian D. Kamaly-Asi, MBChB, FRCS (Manchester, England)

For additional membership information, please visit the Pediatric Section website.

Pediatric Section Meeting 2015 Update: Seattle

Home to Fortune 500 companies, such as Costco, Microsoft, Amazon and Starbucks, Seattle is rated the “#1 Smartest City in North America” by *Fast Company* (November 2013). Seattle is the perfect city to explore the theme of “Innovation, Invention and the Future of Pediatric Neurosurgery.” The program the next Annual Meeting of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery will highlight speakers, such as pediatrician Dr. Wendy Sue Swanson, executive director of Digital Health and author of the *Seattle Mama Doc* blog. She is working to revolutionize health communication by using social and digital media to bridge the gap between parents and doctors. Our meeting program aims to inspire attendees to bring ideas to fruition through novel design and innovation to ultimately enhance the daily practice of the pediatric neurosurgeon.

The program will be enriched by several breakfast seminars focused on the legal implications of concussion and will introduce the business concepts of transforming ideas to product. The advanced practice provider seminars will also complement the general program, with discussions on spine clearance and assessment and management of concussions.

Seattle is a perennial favorite for food and wine and a premier travel destination. Our social program will capture the spirit of



Seattle and feature the best of Seattle’s culinary landscape.

The conference site, Sheraton Seattle Hotel, is located in Seattle’s safe, vibrant and compact downtown. It is centrally located near a variety of restaurants, bars and some of the best shopping in Seattle. Save the date for Dec. 8-11, 2015, and mark your calendar for the opening of the abstract center in May 2015. We promise a thought-provoking scientific program!

Pediatric Neurosurgery Education: Creating a Portal

Dear Section Members:

The American Society of Pediatric Nephrology (ASPN) and Pediatric Section leadership have developed a portal committee and curriculum committee for pediatric neurosurgery that is comprised of a team of leaders focused on pediatric neurosurgery education. The portal committee will determine the best content of our specialty that will be used by residents and fellows to complete their milestones at every level. The curriculum committee will continually ensure that the Matrix curriculum is comprehensive enough to reflect our scope of knowledge and practice.

The content for the portal will be gathered from multiple sources that already exist (i.e. journal articles, book chapters, YouTube videos) and will populate the new educational portal for pediatric neurosurgery housed on the ASPN website. The Matrix curriculum, which was developed by leaders of the Society of Neurological Surgeons (SNS), will be the source for organization of the portal content. *Guide for Pediatric*

Neurosurgery by Rick Abbott, MD, FAANS, will be closely linked to the matrix curriculum and will be a treasured portal resource that will continually grow and be updated over time. The ASPN is collaborating closely with members of the Pediatric Section to centralize this effort to develop the most comprehensive portal resource of any subspecialty. If you have an interest in resident education and would like to be involved in shaping the resident education for current and future generations, this effort would be a great way to get more involved in the section.

If you would like to learn more about this initiative and how you could help, please contact Ann Ritter, MD, FAANS (education chair for Pediatric Section), at aritter@mcvh-vcu.edu; Gerry Grant, MD, FAANS (ASPN education and portal committee chair and education vice-chair for Pediatric Section) at gerald.grant@stanford.edu; or Marike Lee, MD, FAANS (curriculum committee chair), at marike.z.lee@gmail.com to join our team.

Fellowships and Research Awards

The Pediatric Section actively sponsors fellowships and research awards to promote and advance the field of pediatric neurosurgery. Two types of awards are sponsored independently by the section, in addition to our support of a specific pediatric-focused Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation (NREF) award available by application to the NREF program. The travelling fellowship is designed to facilitate North American and international residents to travel to sponsoring programs in North America of their choice (see applications in this edition of *Pediatric ShortCuts*). The research awards are small seed grants to help investigators get research projects off the ground.

Traveling Fellowships

The 2014 awardees are:

Domestic Traveling Fellowship Awards

1. Christine Hammer, MD (Thomas Jefferson University), to be spent in Boston
2. Jason Blatt, MD (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), to be spent in Birmingham, Ala.
3. Annie Drapeau, MD (University of Sherbrook), to be spent in Vancouver, Wash.
4. William Titsworth, MD (University of Florida), to be spent in Boston

International Traveling Fellowship Awards

1. Jose Montejo, MD (Cuba) to be spent in Miami
2. George Alexiou, MD (Greece) to be spent in Boston

Research Awards

The 2014 Pediatric Section Research Award was given to Ann Ritter, MD, FAANS, for her project, titled “RNA sequencing in the sequential fusion of non-syndromic craniosynostosis.” Dr. Ritter will present the results of her work at the annual Pediatric Section meeting in 2015.

International Traveling Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)/ Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery has established an international traveling fellowship for neurosurgeons who at the time of their application are either training in a residency program outside the United States and Canada, or who have completed residency training outside the United States and Canada within the past five years.

The fellowship will cover the traveling and living expenses for a three-month period to be spent observing the activities of an established pediatric neurosurgical service of the applicant's choosing in the United States or Canada. Up to two fellowships will be awarded yearly on the basis of a competitive evaluation by a committee of the Pediatric Section at the annual meeting in December. The maximum fellowship stipend is \$7,500.

The application must include:

- 1) A statement defining the purpose of the proposed fellowship;
- 2) A letter of recommendation from the applicant's current neurosurgical program director;
- 3) A letter of acceptance from the institution where the applicant intends to take the fellowship, confirming the description of the fellow's potential activities during the period of the award; and
- 4) The applicant's current curriculum vitae.

The strict deadline for application submission is Nov. 1, 2015.

The completed application should be emailed to:

David.I.Sandberg@uth.tmc.edu

David I. Sandberg, MD, FAANS

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

6431 Fannin Street | MSB 5.144 | Houston, TX 77030 |

Phone: 713.500.7370 | Fax: 713.500.7352

Secretary's Report

By Mark Proctor

This edition of *ShortCuts* will be my last as secretary of the Pediatric Section, and it has been an honor to serve. This edition is coming out in advance of the May 2015 American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Annual Scientific Meeting, and during that meeting I will pass the reins over to our treasurer, Mark Krieger, MD, FAANS. We look forward to Mark's wit and creativity in future editions.

The AANS meeting should be an exciting week held during a beautiful time of year in Washington, D.C. Our national meeting subcommittee co-chairs, Benny Iskandar, MD, FAANS; and Cathy Mazzola, MD, FAANS, have outlined some of the scientific highlights of the meeting in another section of this newsletter and have expanded on this below.

After the very successful Amelia Island meeting, the Pediatric Section is already preparing for the next annual meeting in Seattle. The local chairs Amy Lee, MD; and Sam Browd, MD, PhD, FAANS, are developing a terrific program that is outlined in this newsletter.

The section continues to strive to represent the interests of both children and pediatric neurosurgeons throughout North America and the world. Over the past year we have sponsored the publication of guidelines for the treatment of hydrocephalus, which were recently published in the *Journal of Neurosurgery Pediatrics*, and have actively engaged in educational and advocacy projects with our national organizations. As always, we would like *ShortCuts* to serve as a forum for open discussion and expression by pediatric neurosurgeons. Please feel free to submit content at any time, and we would be happy to publish it in either the fall or spring editions. *ShortCuts* is distributed to all members of the section and is archived in perpetuity on our website. You can submit content to: MKrieger@chla.usc.edu.

Pediatric Highlights at the 2015 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Saturday, May 2

Practical Courses

State of the Art Cranial Endoscopy, 1-5 p.m.

Course Directors Al Cohen, MD, FAANS; and Mark Souweidane, MD, FAANS

Management of Incidental Imaging Findings, 1-5 p.m.

Course Directors Michael Scott, MD; and Cormac Maher, MD, FAANS

Sunday, May 3

Practical Courses

Cranio-cervical and C1C2 Stabilization Techniques, Surgical Approaches. 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Course Directors Richard Anderson, MD, FAANS; and Doug Brockmeyer, MD, FAANS

Opening Ceremony: Featuring Peyton Manning and Bill Walton. 5-6:30 p.m.

Opening Reception: Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, 7-9 p.m.

Monday, May 4

Breakfast Seminars, 7-9 a.m.

102 Return-to-play After Sports Injury I: Concussion

103 Spasticity Management

107 Intramedullary Spinal Cord Tumors

128 Management of Pediatric Epilepsy

Plenary Session, 9:45 a.m.-1 p.m.

Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery, 2-5:30 p.m.

Featuring Matson Lecture by Mark Wietecha, president and CEO of Children's Hospital Association

Matson Reception at the Marriott Marquis, 6-8 p.m.

Sponsored by the Pediatric Section and featuring Mark Wietecha, president of Children's Hospital Association. Food and fun, open to all!

Tuesday, May 5

Breakfast Seminars 7-9 a.m.

207 Intraoperative Neurophysiology in Spinal Cord Tumor Surgery

214 Return-to-play After Sports Injury II: Spine Injury

215 The Evolving Role of Molecular Classification in Treatment Planning for Childhood Brain Tumors

Plenary Session, 9:45 a.m.-1 p.m.

Pediatric Executive Committee meeting (by invitation), 1-2 p.m.

Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery Scientific Session and Business Meeting, 2-5:30 p.m.

Featuring symposium on Transition of Care to Adulthood

Wednesday, May 6

Breakfast Seminars, 7-9 a.m.

302 Chiari Malformations: Diagnosis, Treatments and Failures

304 Intracranial Endoscopy

308 Principles and Techniques of Deformity Correction in Adolescents and Young Adults

Plenary Session, 9:45 a.m.-1 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you in our nation's capital in May!

The Mission for the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies

The Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (CSNS) is a representative, deliberative and collaborative organization of delegate neurosurgeons in training and practice that exists to:

- Positively influence and affect the socioeconomic policy of organized neurosurgery for the benefit of neurosurgical patients and our profession,
- Serve as a resource for socioeconomic knowledge and education for our neurosurgical colleagues, regulatory and health-care officials, as well as legislative representatives,
- Provide a conduit for new initiatives, concerns and issues to be brought to the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) for response and action, and
- Provide an environment for developing future leader in health-care policy and advocacy for neurosurgery.

We believe that the specialty of neurosurgery stands for the highest quality of care and that neurosurgeons are their patient's strongest advocates. The CSNS has several committees as listed below. We meet the two days before every national meeting, in the same headquarters hotel. If you are interested in getting involved in the CSNS, please talk to your state society representative or email Cathy Mazzola, MD, FAANS, at cmazzola@njpni.com.

Communication and Education

Develop and coordinate CSNS program presentations and publications of socioeconomic material and information through annual or special meeting programs (practical courses, section meetings, featured speakers, special presentations, etc.), professional publications (*AANS Neurosurgeon*, *Neurosurgery News*, *Neurosurgery Focus*), award programs (resident, young neurosurgeons oral presentations) and public media.

Medical Practices

Research, report and recommend action, policy or information dissemination on socioeconomic issues and professional or political factors affecting neurosurgical practice, including practice management, clinical privileges, technological issues, medical information, ethical controversies and professional practice oversight.

Medico-legal

Research, report and educate CSNS and AANS/CNS members on medico-legal issues affecting neurosurgical practice, including professional liability, informed consent, Medicare fraud and abuse regulation and enforcement, CPT coding/E&M documentation rules, antitrust laws and other pertinent law or regulation.

Neurotrauma and Emergency Neurosurgery

Research and present reports, surveys and write papers as assigned by the CSNS Executive Committee, including issues related to regional trauma care coverage, reimbursement issues, trauma workforce issues, dissemination and utilization of advances in treatment, and training program competencies in emergency neurosurgery.

Reimbursement

Coordinate CSNS participation with the AANS/CNS Coding and Reimbursement Committee in CPT coding and reimbursement activities of the AANS and CNS, including CPT Editorial Board and Relative Value Update Committee (RUC) issues and actions. Disseminate current information to CSNS members on coding and reimbursement topics, controversies, and proposals. Develop a knowledgeable workgroup of CSNS committee members available to contribute time and expertise to CPT and RUC-related work projects.

Workforce

Research, analyze, report and recommend action or policy on neurosurgery workforce needs and supply, including relevant factors, such as training programs, technological changes, market supply-and-demand indicators, payment policies, population demographics, physician extenders and competitive factors.

Young Neurosurgeons Committee

Educate, interest and involve young and resident neurosurgeons in current CSNS and AANS/CNS organizational activities related to socioeconomic issues of neurosurgery practice. Undertake research and report or educational projects on issues of particular interest to young neurosurgeons, including job search, practice initiation, board certification and recertification, training conditions, practice economics and other related topics.

Section on Neurological Surgery of the American Association of Pediatrics

By John Ragheb, MD, FAANS

Welcome to your Section on Neurological Surgery (SONS) winter newsletter. As the new chair of our Section, I'd like to thank Michael Partington, MD, FAANS, the past chair, for his hard work, stewardship and collegiality during the past four years. We look forward to his continued guidance and mentorship as our new executive committee take over the reins of SONS. I will be calling him often for advice.

The SONS continues to look for opportunities to use the power of the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) and its 60,000 plus membership to improve the care of children through education, advocacy and outreach. For those of you actively involved in SONS, you see the benefits to our patients. For those on the sidelines, hopefully I can convince you to step up and get involved. Let me tell you why.

My initial involvement with the AAP, and opportunity to witness the organization's power to influence policy and effect change, dates back to 2005. I was asked to represent neurosurgery on an AAP committee advocating for federal legislation to stimulate the development of pediatric specific devices, much as they had in the past for pediatric drugs. The committee had representation from nearly every pediatric specialty and surgical sub-specialty and provided opportunity for input from all. With surprising efficiency, and within one year, a Pediatric Devices Act was passed and funded. I was a believer.

SONS is asked for input whenever the AAP creates policy or takes a stand on an issue important to children. Additionally, we are asked each year for topics that we feel are important to the health of children. SONS can suggest topics we feel are of important

educational value for pediatricians or that we feel should be taken up as issues by the AAP. Each year we in SONS, along with the Section on Neurology, provide topics and speakers to the AAP National Conference and Exhibition. Topics in the recent past have included occult dysraphism, positional molding and concussion. For the 2015 national meeting I have proposed neurologic and neurosurgical emergencies directed at practicing pediatricians.

We all have many demands on our time, both in our professional and personal lives. I've always felt that the time spent away from our practices and our families could be better spent talking to the pediatricians who take care of our patients. I hope those of you on the sidelines of SONS, or those who are not yet members, will consider getting involved.

Pediatric Website Update

The website for the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)/Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery (<http://www.pedsneurosurgery.org>) has undergone an "extreme makeover" over the last couple of years. In addition to providing the most up-to-date information and registration for upcoming Pediatric Section meetings, it also now archives the programs from prior meetings with oral and poster abstracts, award recipients and other information. Current and past issues of *ShortCuts* are available as well. The website also hosts pages listing current job opportunities, international efforts and research grant applications. Section members should log into the website and keep their information up to date. For any difficulties with the website or to inquire about posting information, please contact the webmaster Richard Anderson, MD, FAANS, at rca24@columbia.edu.

Pediatric Section Treasurer's Report

February 21, 2015

Summary

The Pediatric Section remains in good financial health. Total net assets at year end totaled \$790,929. This figure represents the total cumulative revenue of the Section since its inception.

Annual Meeting

The 2014 Section meeting at Amelia Island, Fla. produced revenue of \$342,985 and appears to be net positive.

Investments

The Section's long-term investment account remains favorable at \$586,635.

Investment earnings for FY 2015 are slightly negative.

The Section's long-term investments are handled via a pooled investment portfolio with the other sections, which allows the sections to get into funds not otherwise available to smaller investors.

Other Expenses

In FY 2015, \$10,000 has been contributed to the Guidelines project. \$17,000 has been used to support research, domestic, and traveling fellowships.

Overall, there appear to be no concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark D. Krieger, MD, FAANS

Guidelines Development

The guidelines committee of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery has continued its work and guidelines development. The first set of guidelines, evidence-based guidelines for hydrocephalus, were published in November 2014 in *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics* as a special supplement.

The effort was well-received, and the editor of the *Journal of Neurosurgery*, James Rutka, MD, PhD, FAANS, has complimented the section on the usefulness and composition of the guidelines. Dr. Rutka reports that this document has received much positive attention.

A new task force to develop guidelines for the management of positional plagiocephaly has been hard at work since the beginning of 2014. The task force has progressed through topic development, evidence search, evidence review, synthesis of guidelines, and is currently creating a draft document for submission to the Joint Guidelines Committee. Members of this committee include topic leaders Paul Klimo, MD, FAANS; Catherine Mazzola, MD, FAANS; Mandeep Tamber, MD, PhD, FAANS; Ann Marie Flannery, MD, FAANS; and Lissa Baird, MD. Additional members include Tina Duhaime, MD, FAANS; Rachana Tyagi, MD, FAANS; Dimitios Nikas, MD, FAANS; Alexandra Beier, DO; Catherine McClung-Smith, MD; David F. Bauer, MD; Mark Krieger, MD, FAANS; Susan Durham, MD, FAANS; and pediatric craniofacial plastic surgeon Alex Lin, MD.

The guidelines committee hopes to conclude work on these latest guidelines before the next section meeting and will be seeking the next topic and new committee members at that time.

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