

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

Editor: Sarah J. Gaskill, MD, FAANS, FACS



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From the Chairman

Bruce Kaufman, MD, FAANS



Bruce Kaufman, MD, FAANS

Welcome to the fall newsletter of the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery. As the summer winds down, I want to take this time to update you on the activities of the section.

Selected Section Activities

The section leadership has been working behind the scenes on a number of projects, some generated from within the section, some from other areas of organized neurosurgery seeking our input, and some from outside of neurosurgery.

We have been participating in the production of guidelines for neurosurgery in conjunction with our parent societies, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS). Our first project, which focuses on hydrocephalus, is nearing completion and publication. This has been the result of an extraordinary amount of work performed by our Guidelines Committee, which is led by Anne Marie Flannery, MD, FAANS, and supported by members and with financial contributions from the section. We will recognize and highlight this work when it is published.

The section recently was invited to participate in a project spearheaded by leaders in pediatric surgery and the Children's Hospital Association. The project attempts to define the components of best surgical care for infants and children. They have recognized there can be a mismatch of actual care and the needed level of surgical care in regions across the country. As a representative of the section, I have attended their meetings and discussions. Although the endeavor is just beginning and does not directly affect pediatric neurosurgery care, it is refreshing that the outside groups are seeking our opinions.

Winter Annual Meeting

The winter annual meeting of the section always has been a highlight for our members. The 2013 meeting is nearly upon us, and it looks to be another fantastic event. Hosted by our colleagues in Toronto — Jim Drake, MD, FAANS, MSc, FRCS; and James Rutka, MD, PhD, FAANS — the program looks fantastic. It includes an all-day allied health professional seminar (which has been rated highly by those who have attended in the past) and a separate epilepsy course. Of course, the city of Toronto is a fantastic destination on its own with great local attractions. I hope that you have the opportunity to attend.

More importantly, I would encourage you to send one or more of your residents to our meeting. It is a unique opportunity for them to participate in a national meeting, and to learn about the practice of pediatric neurosurgery. As in past years, we will be holding a reception for the residents with the leadership of the Section to allow them to learn about the varied career opportunities in pediatric neurosurgery.

The 2014 winter meeting site will be the Omni Hotel on Amelia Island outside Jacksonville, Fla. This hotel has completed an extensive renovation with a new meeting/banquet facility that will serve us well. It is easy to get there through the Jacksonville airport and a short transfer drive. Our local hosts will be Philipp Aldana, MD, FAANS, and his colleagues in Jacksonville. You will also have the opportunity to come early or stay late to enjoy the local environment.

We hope to have the site for the 2015 winter meeting selected by the time of this year's meeting. Stay tuned.

The section encourages participation by all its members. We will be undertaking a new guidelines endeavor in the future, and we always have requests for participation in associated activities with the CNS and AANS. Please let any of the officers know if you would like to participate.

I look forward to seeing you in Toronto.

Bylaws Changes

Several changes to the Bylaws were approved by the Pediatric Executive Committee at the spring meeting. These changes are now awaiting final approval by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons executive committee, and are listed below.

- a) **Active Member.** Active membership shall consist of neurological surgeons who are members of the AANS or CNS and who profess a true interest in the surgery of the pediatric patient. Active members must give proof of good professional standing, and hold unrestricted licenses to practice medicine in the United States of America, its Territories, or one of the Provinces of Canada, or of the Republic of Mexico, and must be actively engaged in the practice of neurological surgery. ~~unless~~ By unanimous vote of the executive committee, a specific exception to ~~this~~ these criteria ~~is deemed~~ ~~advisable~~ can be applied for a specific individual. Active (Foreign) members are those who reside outside the United States, Canada, or Mexico, but who are active members of the AANS or CNS. Active members shall be the only members with a vote in the affairs of the Section.

Category **Lifetime Member.** Lifetime membership may be accorded to those individuals who qualify as Lifetime Members of the AANS or CNS and who have an interest and an expertise in the area of pediatric neurosurgery

Section 3. Procedure for Application for Membership

- a) A candidate must meet the qualifications for membership as set forth in Article II, Section 1 of these Rules and Regulations.
- b) A candidate for membership shall apply ~~in writing to the Joint Section and submit the names of two references that are active members of the Joint Section.~~ Using the online application form available on the AANS or CNS website. A candidate for international membership who is not already a member of either the AANS or CNS shall ~~shall apply in writing to the Joint Section and submit the names of three references,~~ at least one of whom shall be an AANS Active, Active (Foreign) or International Member from the applicant's country, or an individual of international stature in that country or geographical region. The proposal shall be submitted to the membership committee ~~at least 30 days prior to its meeting,~~ and must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae written in English.
- c) The Membership Committee shall investigate the credentials of a candidate for membership.

- d) After approval of the Membership Committee, ~~the candidate shall be presented to the Executive Council~~ in due order, the candidate's name shall be presented to the Executive Council.

Section 4. Procedure for Election to Membership

- a) If a candidate is approved by a majority of the Executive Council, ~~the name or names of the proposed members shall be circulated for comments to the members of the Section one month prior to the business meeting occurring at any of the meetings of the Joint Section~~ the candidate will be notified in writing from the central office of their election to membership in the Joint Section

Section 5. Successful Candidates

~~Successful candidates shall be installed at the business meeting at the time of their election. New members shall be notified in writing of their election to membership in the Joint Section:~~

Section 6. Section 5. Rejected Candidates

All rejected candidates shall be reviewed by the Executive Council prior to notification of the candidate. The Executive Council may request reconsideration of the candidate by the Membership Committee.

Section 7. Section 6. Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated when a member fails to pay annual dues for two years in a row, or is disqualified for membership in the American Association of Neurological Surgeons or the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

Did you know that the 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 its 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 North American programs of their choice. The research awards are small seed grants to help investigators get research projects off the ground. In-depth information and applications for the Travelling Fellowship are below for both applicants and programs that wish to participate as sponsoring institutions.

Secretary's Report

Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS

This edition of *Shortcuts* represents my first as your new secretary. As the section leadership turns over to Bruce Kaufman, MD, FAANS, from immediate past-chair Alan Cohen, MD, it is an exciting time in pediatric neurosurgery. Our specialty continues to see an explosion of interest by young surgeons coming out of training, and the section is taking on increasingly important roles in organized neurosurgery. In this edition, you will see that our section's financial status is strong, our membership numbers are increasing, and we are actively involved in clinical projects with our parent organizations. We are planning for a terrific meeting in Toronto under the direction of the faculty from the Hospital for Sick Kids.

Shortcuts is our way of communicating the news and events of the section with our members. I would like it to be an open forum for exchange of any ideas or information from our section members to the leadership and other members of the section. We publish twice a year, and I look forward to receiving any thoughts or ideas you would like disseminated, as well as any important news or events that members of the section would like to hear about. Please feel free to reach out to me directly via email at mark.proctor@childrens.harvard.edu. In addition to *Shortcuts*, we have the ability to send e-blasts out to the membership on a limited basis for any time-sensitive issues.

Pediatric Section Meeting 2014

Set in one of the premier island destinations in Florida, the 2014 pediatric section meeting promises to be a great forum for the exchange of neurosurgical knowledge. Emphasizing that pediatric neurosurgical care improves through collaboration, the scientific program will aim to provide the best in research and education. Amelia Island, consistently voted a Top 10 North American Island in *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine, is a serene island setting located only 20 minutes away from the Jacksonville International Airport. The conference site, the Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort, is a AAA four diamond resort that has all the amenities of a luxurious, family-friendly beachside resort. Save the date for this meeting — Dec. 2-5, 2014!

Note from the Editor

James Rutka, MD, PhD, FAANS, a long-standing member of the section and a past-president of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, became editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Neurosurgery Publishing Group* on July 1, 2013. Among the publications he oversees is the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*. Dr. Rutka encourages all section members to submit their work to the journal.

There are a few upcoming events I would like to highlight for section members, the first being the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) meeting in San Francisco from Oct. 19-23. Benjamin Warf, MD, FAANS, an associate professor at Harvard Medical School and a MacArthur Genius, will be giving a plenary talk on the optimal treatment of hydrocephalus. Luncheon seminars of pediatric interest will include a session on complex Chiari malformation and another on the management of pediatric neurovascular disease. The pediatric sessions will be on Monday and Tuesday afternoons at 2 p.m., with a host of scientific talks and a special session on the management of difficult shunt problems by the experts.

Our annual meeting in Toronto is shaping up to be terrific. It begins on Tuesday, Dec. 3, with a seminar for mid-level practitioners and all-day pediatric epilepsy surgery session offsite at the Toronto Surgical Skills Center. The official kickoff of the meeting is the opening reception on Tuesday night. Some highlights of the meeting include the Raimondi lecture by Bryce Taylor, author of the book, "Effective Medical Leadership," and the SONS/AAP lecture by Steven Miller, MDCM, FRCPC, titled "Protecting the Developing Brain." In addition to great science, social events will include a wine-and-cheese reception and a special Thursday night event at the Hockey Hall of Fame.

I look forward to serving our members of the pediatric section. Please reach out to me with any questions, concerns or information you would like to share with the section.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS

AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery Research Support Awards

The section will accept applications for research funding designed to support the design of new clinical research and natural history studies. The specific goal is to assist faculty members as they take studies through concept, design and implementation. Possible uses of the award include consultation services for biostatistics or study design, database development or data analysis. Applications are open to faculty members of the section who have a full-time appointment at a university or medical center. These awards are intended to provide \$2,500 of support. Centers that intend to develop collaborative projects may combine their applications and budget requests. In this case, the role of each center should be stated clearly.

More information is available at the pediatric section website. Specific questions can be directed to Nalin Gupta (guptan@neurosurg.ucsf.edu).

AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery

RFA: Research Support Awards

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Applications are open to faculty members of the section who have a full-time appointment at a university or medical center. These awards are intended to provide \$2,500 of support.

Amount: A maximum of four awards in the amount of \$2,500 will be available (direct costs only).

Applications should be in the following format:

- 1) Cover page (Please use the following page.)
- 2) Project summary (Describe the overall project; two pages maximum.)
 - Specific Aims
 - Background and Significance
 - Research Plan
 - Budget (State what the award amount will be used for and how it will help with the overall project.)
- 3) PI's Biosketch (two pages; NIH format preferred)

Please combine all three items into one PDF file and submit the completed application by email to Nalin Gupta, MD, PhD, FAANS, at guptan@neurosurg.ucsf.edu.

Deadline: contact Dr Gupta for annual deadlines.

News Flash: Effects of Bracing in Adolescents with Idiopathic Scoliosis

A recent study in the New England Journal of Medicine reported that bracing adolescents who have moderate scoliosis was effective in reducing the number of patients who advance to the need for surgery. A dose response was found between the number of hours of brace wear and the success rate of bracing. In this multicenter, randomized clinical trial, the end point was “treatment failure” defined as progression of the scoliosis to ≥ 50 degrees or “treatment success” when skeletal maturity was reached without progression to 50 degrees. 72 percent of brace wearers avoided surgery, but only 48 percent of patients in the observational group. Furthermore, the rate of success achieved by those patients who wore the brace for 13 hours or more was greater than 90 percent, showing that the amount of time the brace is worn is very important. The study provided strong evidence to the value of brace treatment for those adolescents at high risk of progression of surgery.

2013 AANS/CNS Pediatric Section • Research Support Awards

Cover Page

Applicant's Name (Last, First): _____

Degree(s): _____

Current Title or Position: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Project Title: _____

Amount Requested: _____

List Other Sources of Funding Available for This Project: _____

Investigator's Assurance:

I agree to accept responsibility for the scientific conduct of the project and to provide the required progress and expense reports if a grant is awarded as a result of this application. I also agree to abide by the budgetary and other requirements as described in the instructions provided with the application.

I understand that as a condition of my receiving a Research Support Award, I am required to submit a written report (one page) of the progress achieved through the awarding of these funds at the conclusion of the award period.

Date Applicant's Signature

Attach Research Plan (two pages) and Biosketch (two pages) to this cover page.

The Council of State Neurosurgical Societies

The Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (CSNS) is the socio-economic and medico-legal section of our parent organizations, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS). The CSNS is responsible primarily for the socio-economic and health policy content of the national meetings for both organizations. The CSNS regularly contributes to practice management components of all major organized neurosurgery educational initiatives and efforts. According to Mark Linskey, MD, FAANS, the new chairperson of the CSNS, the group is “the crucible for identifying, developing and testing neurosurgery talent for future organizational and leadership roles in our parent organizations and beyond.”

The CSNS strongly supports and interacts with the AANS/CNS Washington Committee and our Neurosurgery PAC. The CSNS meets just before the AANS and CNS annual meetings. Our website is www.csnsonline.org. At the Spring CSNS meeting, eight of 14 resolutions were adopted either in original, amended or substitute resolution form.

The CSNS contribution to the 2013 Fall CNS scientific program has been finalized, and the CSNS has begun preparing and pro-actively planning for contributing to the 2014 Fall CNS meeting. The CSNS reaffirms its commitment to providing educational resources, lectures and speakers for the 2013 Pediatric Neurosurgical Section meeting in Toronto.

The next regular CSNS event will precede the Fall CNS meeting on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18-19, in San Francisco. Resolutions can be submitted for discussion and voting through www.csnsonline.org.

Guidelines Committee Report

Ann Marie Flannery, MD, FFANS

The Guidelines Committee of the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery has completed its evidence-based recommendations for the management of pediatric hydrocephalus. The document, created by a task force that included Guidelines Committee members and others, was submitted to the Joint Guidelines Committee of the AANS/CNS and currently is undergoing final review. The committee anticipates the report will be in print in the next three to six months.

The Pediatric Guidelines Committee is assessing future evidence-based guidelines on pediatric neurosurgery with topics including but not limited to arachnoid cysts, myelomeningocele and Chiari malformation. Individuals who are interested should contact the Guidelines Committee chair, Ann Flannery, as most of these topics will require a number of neurosurgeons to analyze evidence and write recommendations. The Guidelines Committee will meet at the pediatric section meeting in December at a time and place to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Flannery, MD, FAANS
flanream@slu.edu
Saint Louis University
Department of Neurological Surgery

The AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery wishes to thank the following companies for their generous support of this year's Annual Meeting:

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

Diamond Support Level

Codman Neuro, a division of DePuy Orthopaedics, Inc.
Medtronic

Emerald Support Level

Integra Foundation, Inc.

COMMERCIAL SUPPORT

Diamond Support Level

Medtronic

Membership

Category	Status	# of Members
Associate	ACTIVE	8
Active	ACTIVE	322
Lifetime	ACTIVE	71
International	ACTIVE	31
Resident	ACTIVE	47
		Total: 479

In Process = 14

Traveling Fellowships

Resident Traveling Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery

The AANS/CNS Joint Section of Pediatric Neurosurgery has established a traveling fellowship for residents in accredited North American neurosurgical training programs. The fellowship is intended to cover the traveling and living expenses for one month for a resident who wishes additional experience in pediatric neurosurgery during residency. The one-month fellowship can be spent at any pediatric neurosurgery program in North America to pursue an activity that broadens the resident's exposure to pediatric neurosurgery, including observation at a clinical or research center, participation in a research project, or any other relevant activity. Two fellowships are awarded per year on the basis of a competitive evaluation by the Training Subcommittee of the pediatric section. The maximum fellowship stipend is \$2,500, and the application must include the following:

- 1) A statement defining the purpose of the proposed fellowship;
- 2) Written permission from the applicant's residency program director to pursue the one-month fellowship if it is awarded;
- 3) A letter of acceptance from the pediatric neurosurgical program where the applicant will seek the fellowship; and
- 4) The applicant's current curriculum vitae.

International Traveling Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery

The AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery has established an international traveling fellowship for neurosurgeons who either are training in a residency program outside the United States and Canada at the time of their application, or 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 the Training Subcommittee of the pediatric section at the annual meeting in December. The maximum fellowship stipend is \$6,000, and the application must include the following:

- 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, 2013, and should be emailed to Matthew Smyth at smythm@wudosis.wustl.edu.

Message to Programs Interested in Hosting Pediatric Neurosurgery Traveling Fellows

The section would like to give all North American pediatric neurosurgery programs the opportunity to participate in hosting domestic or international pediatric traveling fellows, as stipulated in the fellowship announcement above. Information about interested programs will be published on the section website. To have their information published, the programs are asked to fill out an online questionnaire provided at the link below, which then should be emailed it to Matthew Smyth at smythm@wudosis.wustl.edu. We would like to emphasize that these short-term fellowships are distinct from the formal one-year pediatric neurosurgery fellowships offered at select programs. There is no financial obligation for the host department, as the stipend provided by the section should cover the fellow's expenses.

Questionnaire

To have your program listed for potential traveling fellows, please specify which (or both) fellowships you are willing to sponsor:

- International Traveling Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery (three months)
- Resident Traveling Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery (one month)

SPONSORING INSTITUTION:

Name of Institution/Program _____

Name of Program Director _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Website URL _____

Please attach a 150-250 word description of your program, including the number of faculty/attendings, number and type of trainees, clinical volume, specialty practices, parent institution, geographic location and any other details you feel may help a potential candidate gauge their suitability to your program. If you have a webpage for your pediatric neurosurgery service, please provide the URL in the space provided above, and we will link to your site on the AANS/CNS Joint Section for Pediatric Neurosurgery website for potential applicants. Sponsors must be willing to provide a letter of recommendation from the program director and a letter of acceptance from the institution, confirming the description of the fellow's anticipated activities during the period of the award.

Please email the completed form to the Training Subcommittee chair Matthew Smyth at smythm@wudosis.wustl.edu.

Pediatric Section Treasurers Report

Third and Fourth Quarters, 2013

Summary

The pediatric section remains in good financial health. Total net assets are \$622,296, as compared to \$543,418 one year ago. This figure represents the total cumulative revenue of the section since its inception.

Annual Meeting

The 2012 section meeting in St. Louis produced revenue of \$316,735 against expenses of \$284,309 for a net revenue of \$32,426.

The approved budget for the 2013 section meeting in Toronto anticipates revenue of \$313,020 against expenses of \$302,546.

This conservative budget would produce net revenue of \$10,474.

Expenses are slightly increased from previous years due to the meeting's location.

The budget also includes a \$35-increase in registration fees. This is the first time fees have increased since 2008. This increase is in line with the registration fees for meetings of other sections.

Investments

The section's long-term investment account remains favorable at \$586,160.

Investment earnings for FY 2013 totaled \$69,242.

\$50,000 was transferred from the long-term account to the

checking account for liquidity issues.

Based on an average return of five percent with investment fees of 0.5 percent, the investment earnings are budgeted at \$25,397 for FY 2014.

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 available to smaller investors otherwise.

Anticipated Expenses

Major expenses outside of our annual meeting for FY 2014 include the following:

- \$10,000 in contributions to either one ISPN educational course or a joint course with the Latin American Congress of Neurological Surgery (FLANC);
- \$20,000 for the five-year commitment to the NREF;
- \$17,000 for two domestic and two foreign fellowships; and
- \$5,000 for website development and maintenance with Moka-Media.

Overall, there appear to be no concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark D. Krieger, MD, FAANS

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery Officers and Committees

Chair

Bruce Kaufman, MD (2013-2015)

Immediate Past Chair

Al Cohen, MD (2013-2015)

Chair-Elect

Sarah J Gaskill, MD (2013-2015)

Secretary

Mark Proctor, MD (2013-2015)

Treasurer

Mark Krieger, MD (2013-2015)

Members at Large

Jay Wellons, MD (2013-2015)

David H. Harter, MD (2013-2015)

Liliana Goumnerova, M.D. (2012-2014)

Gerry Grant, M.D. (2012-2014)