

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

Editor: Mark R. Proctor, MD, FAANS



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From the Chairman

Bruce Kaufman, MD, FAANS



Bruce Kaufman, MD, FAANS

Most of us are experiencing another round of less-than-stellar winter weather. Some of you have endured ice storms and others heavy rain — here in the Midwest it's yet another round of the Polar Vortex while the Great Lakes freeze over.

The winter meeting of the Pediatric Section was held

in Toronto in December 2013, hosted by Jim Drake, MD, FAANS, and Jim Rutka, MD, PhD, FAANS. They had a fantastic and well-received meeting — the largest (by registration) ever held by the section, with more than 325 registrants. We want to thank them for such a successful meeting.

AANS Annual Scientific Meeting

The AANS Annual Scientific Meeting in San Francisco is coming soon (April 5-9, 2014), and the Pediatric Section will have its afternoon sessions on April 7 and April 9. There will be a business meeting as part of the April 9th session.

The annual Matson Lecture will be on the afternoon of April 7th. Our invited lecturer is Chris Giza, MD, professor of pediatric neurology and neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine and the Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA. The title of his presentation is "Just the Facts: An Evidence-based Approach to the Youth Concussion Crisis."

The section will host a reception in Dr. Giza's honor on Tuesday evening from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited, so please join us to welcome our speaker before heading out for the sights and flavors of San Francisco.

You can also start your planning to attend the Pediatric Section's 2014 winter meeting, to be held December 2-5, 2014, at the Omni Hotel

on Amelia Island just outside Jacksonville, Fla. It is easy to get there through the Jacksonville airport and a short transfer drive. The hotel has completed an extensive renovation with a new meeting/banquet facility that will serve us well. Our local hosts will be Phil Aldana, MD, FAANS, and his colleagues in Jacksonville. More information will be coming as we get closer to the date.

Meanwhile, the section has continued to work on your behalf. Here is an update on some issues:

Hydrocephalus Guidelines

The Joint Pediatric Section Guidelines on hydrocephalus have been accepted by our parent organizations and will be published soon. Again, our thanks go out to the members of the guidelines group that put a tremendous amount of work into their production.

The section leadership has already budgeted money for the next guidelines project (topic to be determined).

Optimal Resources for Children's Surgical Care

As I had previously communicated, the section has been a participant in a national effort to define the optimal resources for providing surgical care to pediatric patients. This endeavor is being spearheaded by leaders in pediatric surgery and pediatric hospitals. They have produced a document outlining the basics of "optimized care," which has been accepted for publication. In addition, they have been gathering approvals from various groups — including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Surgeons (in addition to several pediatric specialty societies).

The Pediatric Section leadership has considered

the proposal, and noted that it does not specifically define any parameters around neurosurgery. We have submitted this document to our parent organizations, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), for assent.

In the meantime, the optimization group is moving ahead in their discussions about how to define, survey and certify levels of pediatric surgical care. The section has been invited to participate and will be represented at the next meetings. We will continue to keep you informed.

Fetal Myelomeningocele Consortium

The consortium, made up of a group of centers that performs prenatal closure of myelomeningoceles, continues its efforts to establish a central database for the procedures. The section continues to be invited to the organization's meetings in an advisory capacity.

At the last meeting, we raised several concerns that had been generated from our membership, including incorrect information being distributed to potential patients, and questions of inappropriate behavior (disparaging comments about neurosurgery care elsewhere) by people within their group of organizations.

The consortium was quite interested in these concerns, and had extensive discussions around them. They seem to have a genuine desire to do what is right for the patients and for all caregivers, even those not in their consortium. The section has been invited to continue our participation in their meetings, and to further discussions on how we might assist them in correcting issues as they arise.

In addition, the leaders of the consortium would like to encourage interested pediatric neurosurgeons to become more involved with their group and its work. If you are interested, feel free to contact me for further information.

Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowships

The Pediatric Section leadership continues to support the other pediatric organizations that have been involved in fellowship training in pediatric neurosurgery. All groups have reaffirmed that a pediatric neurosurgery fellowship is defined by post-residency training. The groups wish to continue to use the established processes that have credentialed programs and fellows successfully for nearly 20 years. We will continue to work with these other groups during discussions with the Society of Neurological Surgeons, and their development of fellowship accreditation.

Pediatric Section support of Travelling Fellowship and Section Research Awards

The section has aided the development of future pediatric neurosurgeons through small stipends to support brief clinical fellowships for physicians interested in pediatric neurosurgery. Matt Smyth, MD, FAANS, recently reported to us that a large proportion of the recipients of our domestic fellowships end up in pediatric neurosurgery — we reconfirmed our desire to continue this support. The section leadership has voted to increase the domestic awards to up to four per year at discretion of the

committee. Three were awarded this year. The international fellowships will stay at two, but the stipend was increased to \$7,500 per award (see separate report on travelling fellowships in this issue of ShortCuts).

Recently Awarded Fellowships/Hospital:

Domestic

Brandon Miller, MD (Emory)/St. Louis Children's Hospital (David Limbrick, MD, PhD, FAANS)

William Lee Titsworth, MD (University of Florida)/Boston Children's Hospital (Ed Smith, MD, FAANS)

Eisha Christian, MD (University of Southern California)/Toronto (Jim Drake, MD, FAANS)

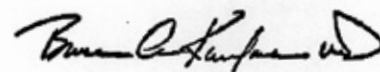
International

Rajendra Srestha, MD (Nepali, West China Hospital)/Boston Children's Hospital (Al Cohen)

Anna LoPresti, MD (Spain)/Miami (John Ragheb, MD, FAANS)

The section has also provided small section sponsored "seed money" research grants that can be applied for through the section. We recently confirmed our willingness to continue funding these grants, and have allowed for a slightly larger award if the selection committee deems it appropriate. (see separate report on research fellowships in this edition of ShortCuts)

I hope to see you in San Francisco at the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting and the pediatric section sessions.



Bruce Kaufman, MD, FAANS

Evidence-based Pediatric Hydrocephalus Guidelines

The Presidents of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) endorsed the Evidence-Based Pediatric Hydrocephalus Guidelines on Feb. 5, 2014. This document is the first practice guideline produced by and for pediatric neurosurgeons and was created under the auspices of the Section Guidelines Committee and the Joint Guidelines Committee of the AANS/CNS.

Section members involved in the effort include: Chair Ann Marie Flannery, MD, FAANS; Chair Catherine Mazzola, MD, FAANS; Chair Paul Klimo, MD, FAANS; and Co-Chairs: Lissa Baird, MD; David Limbrick, MD, PhD, FAANS; Tina Duhaime, MD; Kurtis Auguste, MD; Mandeep Tamber, MD, PhD; Jay Riva-Cambrin, MD; Dimitrios C. Nikas, MD; and Alexander Post, MD.

The task force appreciates the support of the section in the formulation of the guidelines. Publication is expected in the next three months.

Matson Lecture

**AANS Annual Scientific Meeting, Wednesday, April 9, 2014
— 3 p.m.**

Each year at the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting, the Pediatric Section sponsors the Matson Lecture in honor of Dr. Donald Matson, a past President of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and a founding father of the field of pediatric neurosurgery. This year our honored guest is Christopher Giza, MD.

Dr. Giza graduated from Dartmouth College and then went on to receive his MD from West Virginia University. After completing his internship at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Giza trained in adult and pediatric neurology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Prior to returning to UCLA in 1998 to join the Brain Injury Research Center, Dr. Giza worked on the Yosemite Search and Rescue team. Dr. Giza leads the Pediatric TBI/Sports Concussion program at UCLA and is currently professor of pediatric neurology and neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital (UCLA). His research interests include neuroplasticity, recovery from brain injury, sport-related concussions, post-traumatic epilepsy and brain development.

In 2011, Dr. Giza traveled to Afghanistan as a civilian advisor to the Department of Defense. In 2012, he established UCLA BrainSPORT, a comprehensive sports concussion/mild TBI program for prevention, outreach, research and treatment. From 2009-2013, Dr. Giza co-chaired the American Academy of Neurology's committee that developed an evidence-based practice guideline for management of sports concussions. He currently serves on the Center for Disease Control's Pediatric mild TBI

Committee, the NCAA Concussion Task Force, the Major League Soccer Concussion Program Committee and serves as the Vice-Chair for the California State Athletic Commission. Dr. Giza is widely considered a brain injury and concussion expert nationally and internationally.

The title of his lecture will be, "Just the Facts: An Evidence-based Approach to the Youth Concussion Crisis."



Note from the Editor

James T. Rutka, MD, PhD, FAANS, a long-standing member of the section and past-president of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, became editor-in-chief of the Journal of Neurosurgery Publishing Group on July 1st, 2013. This includes the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*. Dr. Rutka would like to encourage all section members to submit their work to the journal.

ABNS

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery is working to provide examination questions that will be considered for future use on the written board examination. This is an ongoing endeavor and we can always use more questions. If you are interested in participating in this effort, please contact Cormac Maher, MD, FAANS, via email at cmaher@med.umich.edu.

Many thanks to Andrew Jea, MD, FAANS; Amanda Yaun, MD, FAANS; Nick Wetjen, MD, FAANS; Hugh Garton, MD, MHSc, FAANS; Jay Riva-Cambrin, MD, FAANS; Paul Klimo, MD, FAANS; and Stephanie Greene, MD, FAANS, for submitting questions over the past six months.

Research Award and Fellowship Information

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. Traveling Fellowships are designed to facilitate North American and international resident experiences in pediatric neurosurgery by supporting travel to North American training programs of the applicant's choice. Research awards are small seed grants to help investigators get scientific projects off the ground. More information on these programs is available below. In addition, the section supports a pediatric-focused Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation (NREF) award available directly by application to the NREF program, find out more by visiting www.nref.org.

2013 Pediatric Section Annual Meeting: Toronto

This year's Pediatric Section meeting was well attended with 383 attendees, breaking the previous attendance record. The meeting's theme of "Embracing Our Past, Leading the Future," was expressed in the high-quality abstracts on the latest in innovative therapies, including MRI-guided laser ablation for epilepsy and intracranial tumors. The Raimondi Lecture by Bryce Taylor, MD, on "Medical Leadership — Ten Things I've learned," was followed by a signing of his book "*Effective Medical Leadership*." The SONS lecture was presented by Steven Miller, MDCM, entitled "Neonatal Neuro-Intensive Care: Protecting the Developing Brain," which focused on the adverse effects of pain. There were two special symposia, one on the latest molecular genetics of glioma with the implications for therapy; and another on advanced vascular disease, including Vein of Galen malformations and Moya Moya disease. Two breakfast

seminars covered early-career development in both research and clinical arenas, and a very well-attended advanced practice provider seminar included hands-on sessions for Baclofen pump programming and shunt tapping. A pre-conference hands-on course "Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery" was oversubscribed and received rave reviews.

On the social side, 35 hardy runners enjoyed a balmy 5K run at dawn along the Toronto waterfront for the inaugural "Polar Bear Classic Sprint." Attendees also enjoyed an evening at the Toronto Hockey Hall of Fame with fine food and wine — and witnessed women outscoring men in the slap shot pen. See you next year in Amelia Island.

Pediatric Section Meeting 2014 Update: Amelia Island

The opening of the abstract center for the Pediatric Section Meeting of 2014 is fast approaching (May 2014). Be sure to submit abstracts to this meeting as it promises to be a great opportunity to learn about and exchange the latest knowledge in pediatric neurosurgery. As the theme of the meeting is "Advancing Pediatric Neurosurgery through Collaboration," we are busy preparing a program that highlights the results of collaborative efforts in our field. To give us a sample of what high-level collaboration can achieve, we have chosen Pascal Lee, PhD, planetary scientist and chairman of the Mars Institute, as our Raimondi lecturer. He will discuss progress being made around the world to achieve the first human voyage to Mars.

In addition, a number of enhancements to the program are being planned for this meeting. They include a coding course in pediatric neurosurgery, a practical clinic in spine surgery, breakfast seminars on socio-economic sessions and separate breakfast seminars for advanced practice providers. The social program for the meeting promises to reflect the resort setting of the event. The fun run on the beach will be sure to entice even non-runners to go out and put their running shoes on!

Amelia Island, one of the premier island destinations in Florida, is on the Top 10 North American Islands list in *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine. It is located only 20 minutes away from the Jacksonville



International Airport and boasts a pleasant average high close to 70 degrees Fahrenheit in December. The conference site, the Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort, is a AAA four-diamond location that has all the amenities of a luxurious, family-friendly beachside resort. Great science in a fun resort setting — make sure you save the date so you don't miss this meeting Dec. 2-5, 2014!

Research Committee Report

During the last few years, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)/Congress of Neurosurgeons (CNS) Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery has provided funding for research awards designed to provide assistance for the design of new clinical research and natural history studies. The specific goal is to support faculty members as they transition studies through concept, design and implementation.

The 2013 Pediatric Section Research Award recipients are:

- Samer Elbabaa, MD, FAANS, (Saint Louis University) — “Retrospective comparison of endoscopically-assisted versus navigationally-guided shunt placements for pediatric patients with hydrocephalus: Risk factors for failure.”
- Erin Kiehna, MD (Children’s Hospital Los Angeles/University of Southern California) — “Characterizing the pathophysiology underlying posterior fossa syndrome through tractography: A dynamic prospective study.”

The award recipients will each receive \$2,500 to support their research projects and will be presenting their results at the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery annual meetings in 2014.

Research Awards — 2014

The section will accept new applications for research funding designed to support the design of new clinical research and natural history studies. The specific goal is to support faculty members as they transition 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, although increased funding may be provided if justification is provided.

The application submission deadline is July 1, 2014. Recipients will be expected to present their results at the pediatric section meeting in 2015. More information is available at the pediatric section website. Specific questions can be directed to Nalin Gupta, MD, PhD, FAANS, at guptan@neurosurg.ucsf.edu

Dear Section Members:

The American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons (ASPN) leadership has assembled a team of volunteers to help vet the content that will be used to populate the new educational portal for pediatric neurosurgery. The Matrix curriculum that was developed in concert with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurosurgeons and Southern Neurological Society, will be the source for organization of the portal content. The ASPN will collaborate closely with section members to centralize this effort to develop the most comprehensive portal resource. 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 Gerry Grant, MD, via email at gerald.grant@stanford.edu to join the portal team.

Newly Approved Pediatric Section Members

ACTIVE

Toba N. Niazi, MD
Kelly Suzanne Schmidt, MD
Matthew M. Pearson, MD, FAANS
James Geraldo Torres-Corzo, MD, FAANS
James M. Johnson, Jr., MD
Robert Naftel, MD
Sheila Kumari Singh, MD, FAANS

RESIDENT

Dhruve Satish Jeevan, MD
Rafael A. Vega, MD

INTERNATIONAL

Essam Abdulaziz al Shail, MD
Sima Sayyehmelli, MD

ASSOCIATE

Tamara D. Simon, MD, MPH
Alexandra Beier, DO

For membership information, please visit the section website at <http://pedsneurosurgery.org/aans-membership/>

Secretary's Report

Mark R. Proctor, MD, FAANS

After our stellar pediatric section meeting in Toronto, we are now in full preparation for the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting this April in San Francisco. In the section below, I have highlighted some of the practical courses, breakfast seminars and other topics that would be of interest to folks with an interest in pediatric neurosurgery. We especially invite everyone to the Matson Reception on Tuesday night, and to the lecture by Christopher Giza, MD, on Wednesday. Bruce Kaufman, MD, FAANS, has done an excellent job of outlining the work of the section over the past year in his report in this edition of ShortCuts. We continue to strive to represent the interests of both children and pediatric neurosurgeons throughout North America and the world. As always, I would like ShortCuts to serve as a forum for open discussion and expression by pediatric neurosurgeons. Please feel free to submit content to me at any time, and I 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 me at mark.proctor@childrens.harvard.edu

Pediatric Highlights at the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting, San Francisco, April 5-9, 2014

Saturday, April 5

Practical Courses

1:00-5:00 p.m. Cranio-cervical and C1C2 Stabilization Techniques, Surgical Approaches

Sunday, April 6

Practical Courses

7:30-11:30 a.m. State-of-the-Art: Cranial Endoscopy
7:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Head Trauma: Current Treatments and Controversies with Hands-on Practical Session in Brain Monitoring



Never the trusting type, I took my family to Amelia Island this January to be sure that Dr. Aldana had planned a quality meeting. That is the Omni hotel in the background, with my family and I on the beach, wearing appropriate helmets. The meeting venue proves to be outstanding! Your loyal secretary, Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS.

12:30-4:30 p.m. Neurosurgeons Role in Addressing Concussion and Sports Injury

Monday, April 7

Breakfast Seminars

114 Return to Play After Sports Injury II: Body Injury for Spine
125 Low-grade Gliomas
2-5:30 p.m. Section on Pediatrics
Neurosurgical Face Off: Rhizotomy vs. Pump, (Tae Sung Park, MD, FAANS; and Michael Turner, MD, FAANS(L))

Tuesday, April 8

Breakfast Seminars

202 Chiari Malformations: Diagnosis, Treatments and Failures
204 Intracranial Endoscopy
207 New Innovations in Epilepsy Surgery
208 Principles and Techniques of Deformity Correction in Adolescents and Young Adults
225 Cavernous Malformation: Current Controversies in Management
6-7:30 p.m. Matson Reception: Marriott Marquis, Pacific A — all are invited to attend

Wednesday, April 8

Breakfast Seminars

302 Return to Play After Sports Injury I: Concussion
319 Cerebral trauma: State of the art treatment
Plenary Session Van Wagenen Lecture delivered by Ian Pollack, MD, FAANS, chief of pediatric neurosurgery at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
12:30-1:30 p.m. Pediatric Executive Committee Meeting (by invitation)
2-5:30 p.m. Section on Pediatrics Session, including the Matson Lecture.
Matson Lecture: Christopher Giza, MD, "Just the Facts: An Evidence-Based Approach to the Youth Concussion Crisis."



Council of State Neurosurgical Societies Chairperson's Message

Mark E. Linskey, MD, FAANS

Thank you to all members of the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (CSNS) for the trust you have shown by electing me to chair the organization for 2013-15. I am deeply honored by your confidence, and humbled by the responsibility this position embodies. I will work my hardest, and do my very best, to justify the hope and trust that you have demonstrated. This great, growing and evolving organization deserves nothing less.

The CSNS is the main socio-economic arm of our parent organizations, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS). We are responsible for the core socio-economic and health-policy content of the national meetings of both organizations. We are major contributors to the socio-economic and practice components of all major organized neurosurgery educational initiatives and efforts. We have become the site and the crucible for identifying, developing, and testing neurosurgery talent for future organizational and leadership roles in our parent organizations and beyond. We provide major intellectual, personnel, and leadership development support for our AANS/CNS Washington Committee and our NeurosurgeryPAC. Since 2008, all six voting members of the Washington Committee have been current or previous leaders within the CSNS and every Neurosurgery PAC Chairperson, since its inception, has been a leader from the CSNS. For the last 15 years, we have been the main avenue and mechanism for introducing neurosurgery residents to the workings of organized surgery through our highly competitive resident fellowship program, and our CSNS Washington Committee Resident Fellowship Program.

Most importantly, we are the only representational grass-roots access avenue for local and regional neurosurgery concerns and ideas to be brought forward to the leaders of neurosurgery. Through our democratic resolution process, every neurosurgeon has a voice and can be heard. Every neurosurgeon can raise a concern or issue, introduce a new idea or make a proposal. If it has merit and passes our resolution process, the resolution must be forwarded to, and responded to by, the AANS Board and the CNS Executive Committee. This degree of access is both a tremendous privilege as well as significant responsibility.

I have six major goals during my two-year term as chair of the CSNS:

1. To develop the CSNS, working with our parent organizations (AANS and CNS) as well as the AANS/CNS Washington Office, and our state neurosurgery societies, into a truly integrated state and regional advocacy platform — with enhanced communication to and from our state neurosurgery societies, direct executive support to our state neurosurgery societies, and expansion of our current national and federal advocacy and health-policy efforts into the state and regional arena.
2. To reinforce and expand our own Communications and Education Committee as well as our Young Neurosurgeons Committee to better support our growing national neurosurgery needs and prepare them to take on new initiatives.
3. To emphasize and develop neurosurgery-specific patient safety as an area needing development and neurosurgery input at the national educational and quality assessment levels.
4. To add at least one more representative section to the CSNS to better serve specific growing demographic interests within the profession of neurosurgery. This will allow them a voice in our resolution process as well as direct access to our parent organizations through the CSNS organizational structure and mechanisms.
5. To re-establish and re-invigorate the original relationship between the CSNS and our offshoot organization, the Neurosurgery Executive Resource, Value and Education Society (NERVES).
6. To leave the CSNS stronger and even more relevant to the needs and aspirations of the average neurosurgeon in practice when I leave my post.

None of these goals and objectives can be achieved without the active help and participation of a dedicated leadership team. I am truly blessed to be able to work with a superlative group of smart, dedicated and hard-working individuals who have committed themselves to help me in achieving these goals. Our 34 member Executive Committee by 2014 will include two new officers, four new Quadrant Chairs, one new Caucus Chair, five new standing Committee Chairs, one new Subcommittee Chair, two new Ad Hoc Committee Chairs, two new AANS Regional Directors and two new liaisons. All told, our 34-person new CSNS EC will have had a 56-percent turnover from the CSNS EC of 2013.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you over the next 24 months in trying to achieve these six major goals. Please know that you have direct access to me for any concerns or issues you might have through our Executive Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Sandy Meyer, at sjm@aans.org. We also welcome any and all ideas and offers of support and assistance in our efforts. The CSNS is an inclusive, grass-roots organization, and all input and participation is welcome. Please step up and participate. Neurosurgery is our profession. Neurosurgeons are the best advocates for our patients, and we need everyone involved.

Resident Traveling Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery

The Joint Pediatric Neurosurgery Section of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) 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 which 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.

Up to four fellowships per year are awarded on the basis of a competitive evaluation by a committee of the Pediatric Section. The maximum fellowship stipend is \$2,500 and the application must include the following:

The application must include:

- 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.

The strict deadline for application submission is Nov. 1, 2014. The completed application should be emailed to Matthew Smyth, MD, FAANS, at smythm@wudosis.wustl.edu.

See <http://pedsneurosurgery.org/grants-fellowships/resident-traveling-fellowship/> for details for application.

International Traveling Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery

The AANS/CNS Section of 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 section's annual meeting in December. The maximum fellowship stipend is \$7,500, 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, 2014. The completed application should be emailed to Matthew Smyth, MD, FAANS, at smythm@wudosis.wustl.edu.

See <http://pedsneurosurgery.org/grants-fellowships/international-traveling-fellowship/> for details for application.

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 should then be emailed 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.

http://pedsneurosurgery.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Traveling-Fellowship-Sponsoring-Form_2013.pdf?ae34aa

Pediatric Section Treasurer's Report

Summary

The pediatric section remains in good financial health. Total net assets are \$745,466, as compared to \$610,016 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.

There are already positive variances in company support (+\$12,000) and registration (+\$32,465).

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 other sections.

Investments

The section's long-term investment account remains favorable at \$607,610.

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

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. A total of \$21,451 has been earned to date.

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.

Anticipated Expenses

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

- \$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 Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation;
- \$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

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