

Minutes of the Business Meeting

Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

**Grand Hyatt Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia**

December 3, 1999

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by John P. Laurent, M.D., Chairman.

Approval of the minutes:

The minutes of the previous business meeting, April 28, 1999, had been published in the newsletter and on the website. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved by acclamation.

Financial Report:

The financial status of the Joint Section was reviewed by Dr. Luerssen. Current assets to the Section as of June 1999 totaled \$313,514, an increase of about \$25,000 from the previous fiscal year. Net revenue to the Section was positive over the fiscal year.

There were questions from the floor concerning the costs of the current meeting. Information was not yet available regarding any net revenue or expense attributable to the meeting in 1999. Concerns about the cost of the meeting will be forwarded to the AANS meetings department and to the chairman of the next winter meeting. A proposal for reimbursing some categories of meeting attendees from the general funds of the section was rejected as unworkable.

After this discussion the financial report was approved.

Membership Committee:

The report from the Membership Committee was given by Dr. Duhaime, chairperson. She proposed: (1) for Active membership: John Collins, M.D., Eric Trumble, M.D., Douglas Cochrane, M.D., and Karin Murazsko, M.D.; (2) for Associate membership: Miguel Pagan, P.A.; (3) for Active Foreign Membership: Prem Pillay, M.D.; (4) for International Associate membership: Jafri Abdullah and Awni Musharbush. It was moved and seconded that these members be accepted at their designated status. This was approved by acclamation.

Rules and Regulations Committee:

Dr. Cohen, Chairman—no report.

Nominating Committee:

Dr. Luerssen reported in lieu of Dr. Walker for the nominating committee. Dr. I. Richmond Abbott, III, M.D. was proposed for Secretary-Treasurer and Dr. Philip Cogan and Dr. Douglas Brockmeyer were proposed for Members-at-Large, all of whom would begin their term at the Spring meeting of the Section in April 2000.

Election of Officers:

Drs. Abbott, Cogan, and Brockmeyer were nominated and seconded. Dr. Laurent requested any nominations from the floor. There were none. Nominations were closed. Voting was by show of hands. All nominated officers were elected by acclamation.

The Distinguished Service Award:

Dr. Humphreys reported as chairman of this committee. He had received no nominations from the membership over the past year. Dr. Humphreys again described the mechanism for the generation of this award. Nominations must be in writing, addressed to Dr. Humphreys, along with at least three letters of support, all from active members of the Joint Section.

An announcement about this award and the mechanism for nomination will be made in the upcoming newsletter.

Traveling Fellowship:

Dr. R. Michael Scott, chairman, reported for this committee. The committee had received four applications for traveling fellowships. Traveling fellowships for the year 2000 were awarded to Dr. David Sanberg, a resident at Cornell who will travel to the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, and to Dr. Sanjay Mizra, a resident at Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas who will travel to the Children's Hospital Boston.

Dr. Scott then indicated that the Executive Committee had approved an increase of the stipend to \$3000 per award. Dr. Laurent requested approval by the Section membership that was moved and seconded and approved by acclamation.

Finally, Dr. Scott is undertaking investigations regarding the development of a foreign resident award to cover travel and expenses for physicians in training in Europe, Asia and South America. Dr. Scott will be developing the parameters for this award and will report back to the Section at its regular meeting in April 2000.

American Academy of Pediatrics:

Joseph H. Piatt, III, M.D. reported as liaison to the AAP. He again described the provisional nature of the new Section on Neurosurgery in the American Academy of Pediatrics. Plans for collaborative presentations in order to fulfill the educational and scientific contribution to the Academy are being put into place. It has been suggested that the first presentation will occur in the fall of 2000 at the Academy meeting in Chicago and will likely be a discussion regarding positional skull flattening and occipital plagiocephaly. Proposals are being developed for the Academy meeting in the fall of 2001 in San Francisco and these include proposals regarding head injury and epilepsy surgery. Finally, Dr. Piatt indicated that the new Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery will be asked to participate in the Academy's publication, "Pediatric Grand Rounds" at sometime in the future. This is an update on clinical issues for practicing pediatricians.

Dr. Piatt again requested that appropriately qualified individuals become Specialty Fellows of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

New Business:

1. Dr. Laurent reported the status of a requested change in CPT coding that adds a new CPT code for the programming of programmable shunts. This change is in process in the appropriate CPT committees.
2. Dr. Laurent reported that the Joint Section had received a request from the Washington Committee for funding from the Section. He indicated that the Executive Committee has recommended that a \$5000 donation be given to the Washington Committee. This donation was moved, seconded and approved by acclamation. Several members of the Section who are familiar with the workings of the Washington Committee attested to the important role of this committee in the efforts of neurosurgery. The Joint Section participates in the activities as requested by the Washington Committee.
3. Dr. Gaskill asked to address the group regarding a new rule by Texas Medicaid that shunt procedures would be reimbursed only on an outpatient basis. Dr. Gaskill requested letters from individual members of the Section regarding comments about the appropriateness of this particular ruling. Members were asked to contact Dr. Gaskill directly.
4. Dr. Luerssen announced the site for the winter meeting of the Joint Section in 2004. The Executive Committee had voted unanimously to award the meeting venue to San Francisco, CA with the meeting chairmen being Mitchell Berger, M.D. and Warwick Peacock, M.D.

New Business from the Floor

Business and concerns of the membership was requested by Dr. Laurent. A member requested a resolution regarding prenatal closure of myelomeningocele. The resolution underwent a variety of amendments and revisions. Ultimately, the following resolution was approved:

Resolved

- (1) The risks and benefits of prenatal neurosurgical procedures must be subjected to scientific scrutiny. The clinical value of prenatal repair of myelomeningocele has not been demonstrated. The Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and Congress of Neurological Surgeons discourages the opening of new programs offering this treatment outside of a scientifically valid clinical trial.
- (2) This resolution should be distributed to the major journals in neurosurgery, pediatrics and perinatology.

Adjournment

No further business was brought from the floor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Luerssen, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer