

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery
Tuesday, April 25, 2006 1:00-2:45 PM
San Francisco Marriott – Yerba Buena Ballroom 1-2

Attendance: Drs. Rick Abbott, Chairman; Jeffrey Wisoff, chair-elect; AC Duhaime, Secretary; Al Cohen, Treasurer; members at large Drs. Sarah Gaskill and Nalin Gupta; Membership Committee: John Kestle; Rules and Regulation Chair: Dr. Cheryl Muszynski; Education Committee: Dr. Paul Steinbok; Program and CME Committee: Joseph Madsen; Annual Meeting Chairs: Drs. John Ragheb and David Gruber; Drs. Michael Scott, Tom Luerssen, Doug Brockmeyer, Michael Heafner, Tom Steineke, Tim Mapstone, Corey Raffel, Nathan Selden, and Mark Proctor. A representative from the AANS Office also attended.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:05 by Dr. Abbott.

Approval of Minutes (December 2005, Appended) (Dr. Duhaime)
Moved for approval and accepted by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report (Appended) (Dr. Cohen)

The Section remains in very favorable financial balance. Total assets as of March 31, 2006 are \$517,019, which represents an increase of over \$63,000 from last year.

Introduction of Education Committee (Dr. Abbott)

Dr. Abbott explained the process of the formation and organization of the Education Committee, designed to meet the increasing demands on the Section for involvement in a variety of educational activities nationally and internationally. He pointed out that this is a large effort, more of a “division” of the section than an actual “committee”. Dr. Rick Boop put together an outline for the framework of this committee, and Dr. Steinbok has been named as its Chair. The first formal meeting of the Committee took place on April 24. The subcommittees include the Scientific Program Committee led by Dr. Madsen along with Dr. Gaskill and the local host for each meeting, International Liaison led by Dr. Jallo, ASPN liaison Dr. Goumnerova, AAP liaison Dr. Piatt, Examination Question Subcommittee led by Dr. Raffel, Ad Hoc Publications Committee led by Dr. Brockmeyer, and Training Requirements Subcommittee led by Dr. Blount. Dr. Abbott thanked the various participants of the new committee as well as those individuals who have served in the recent past in fulfilling these various roles.

Standing Committee Reports

Membership Committee (Dr. Kestle)

Drs. Daniel Curry, Mostafa El Khashar, Robert Geertman, Patric Graupman, P. Daniel McNeely, Vivek Mehta, Greg Olivarria, David W. Pincus, Mark Puccioni, Ashutosh Singhal, Thomas Steineke, and Willard Thompson were recommended for Active Membership, and Dr. Graham Fieggen was recommended for International

Membership. These candidates were approved by the Executive Committee and will be presented at the Business Meeting for approval.

The issue of the requirement of the circulation of names to the membership at an interval of 30 days prior to the business meeting was raised. As no members could recall this step ever leading to a denial of membership in the Section, it was felt that this requirement is probably unnecessary and may contribute to delays in prospective members joining the Section. The Bylaws Committee will present a proposal to amend this Bylaws requirement.

Rules and Regulations Committee (Dr. Muszynski) (See Appendix)

A change in the Bylaws allowing Active Foreign members to vote in Section affairs was raised. This change was approved by the Executive Committee, and will be circulated to the Membership and brought to a vote at the next meeting.

Program and CME Committee (Dr. Madsen)

Dr. Madsen reported that the makeup of this Committee will consist of the Chair, Dr. Sarah Gaskill, and the Annual Meeting host for the Section meeting. At the upcoming Congress meeting, there will be a change in the format in that abstracts and open papers will be presented at a different time from the Clinical and Scientific-focused sessions. The Clinical session will focus on the transition from pediatric to adult care, with attention to hydrocephalus and spinal dysraphism. The second day will include the Scientific-focused session, which will highlight new developments in the science of spinal dysraphism.

Planning for the Denver meeting is underway. Announcements to the wider neurosurgical community about our meetings were discussed, as a way to encourage interest and participation in Pediatric Section activities.

Annual Meeting updates

Dr. Abbott reported that the Orlando 2005 meeting had a positive financial balance despite the late change in venue. Dr. Ragheb announced that a Tuesday-to-Friday schedule had been planned for the 2007 meeting in Miami. He discussed the possibility of a Spanish language post-meeting session to encourage involvement and participation for international colleagues. Dr. Gruber reported that the 2008 meeting in Spokane has submitted a contract to book a 5-star hotel as the venue; this is a unique hotel built in 1914.

Future Meeting Sites

Dr. Wisoff announced that Boston has been chosen as the 2009 meeting site. The 2010 site has not yet been decided.

Nominating Committee

Dr. Abbott announced that Dr. Blount has been nominated as a Member at Large along with Dr. Gupta and Kaufman. Nominations from the Section to the ABPNS Board of Directors include Drs. Leland Albright, Glenn Morrison, and Jim Drake.

Ad Hoc Committees and Liaisons

Traveling fellowship – Dr. Scott – no new report

Lifetime Achievement Award - Dr. Luerssen reported that Dr. Parent will now chair this committee.

Web Site – Dr. Brockmeyer announced that WebSolutions had been chosen as the vendor for our Section web page. The contract is being completed. It is expected that the new web page will be on line in 1-2 months. Drs. Gupta and Kaufman will be assisting in this effort.

Publications – Announcements about Publications and requests for participation will be listed in Shortcuts. Dr. Gaskill reported that Dr. Brockmeyer will be taking over this committee.

American Academy of Pediatrics – no report

Liaison to Joint Council of State NS Societies – Dr. Heafner reported that manpower issues, restrictions of practice, and the ability of other specialties and physicians' assistants to perform procedures such as placement of intracranial pressure monitors were some of the items discussed at the last meeting. While there was much discussion, no decisions were made. Other items included a request that the AANS and CNS support legislation which will link insurance coverage to Class I data or consensus data. Another resolution dealt with the opinion that "Guidelines" statements should contain disclaimers, to allow for more flexibility and less liability arising from incomplete evidence for guidelines and variable practice decisions.

Liaison to Young Neurosurgeons – Dr. Steineke reported that the membership eligibility has now been clarified on the Website. He will work on strategies to engender resident interest in Pediatric Neurosurgery. The importance of this effort was recognized by the Executive Committee.

Washington Committee (Appended) – Highlights of this report included discussion about the development of an Acute Care Specialty which is being advocated by the American College of Surgeons, in part as a response to the limited neurosurgical workforce for trauma care. Trauma care regionalization is also being addressed by the Institute of Medicine. Other issues include the financial deficit of the Think First Foundation and impending additional Medicare cuts which may continue to impact neurosurgical and other surgical specialties.

International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery – Dr. Muszynski announced that the next meeting is in Taipei in the fall of 2006. Links to the ISPN can be found in Shortcuts.

AANS/CNS Executive Committee Meetings – Dr. Abbott reported on the AANS Executive Committee Meeting (appended). He noted that that CME's for the

AANS will now be dependent upon logging into a website. A “Mock Prep Course” similar to oral exam preparation, given twice yearly, was announced, and this will be linked/associated with SANS. The CAST (Committee on Accreditation of Subspecialty Training) has been petitioned by the Cerebrovascular Section to develop certification for Interventional Neurosurgery. The Spine Section reported that their Education Committee is working to eliminate having papers submitted both to the Section and to the AANS. They are also considering outside bids for meeting services. The Trauma Section’s main issue for discussion was a petition for trauma surgeons to be trained in external ventricular drains, burr holes for epidural and subdural hematomas. This idea is being strongly resisted by the AANS leadership. The Pediatric Section announced its formation of an Education Division. The issue of manpower was also discussed, and a joint study on manpower in pediatric neurosurgery with the SONS (AAP) and ASPN was presented, with no objections raised by the AANS. Other issues discussed at the Executive Committee meeting included reimbursement for from Medicaid, “performance indices” such as use of antibiotics during procedures, and a request for more people to get involved in coding and reimbursement efforts as Dr. Boop has done in the past.

Dr. Wisoff reported on the CNS Executive Committee Meeting held on April 21 (appended). The CNS is in very favorable financial balance. Other issues include updates on informational technology and education, evolving definitions of “stereotactic radiosurgery”, update on the 2006 Annual Meeting to be held in Chicago, October 7-12, Washington Committee update, and discussion of “clinical guidelines” and their limitations.

ABPNS (American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery) – Dr. Scott reported that new member election will take place at the December 2006 meeting. ABPNS Certification and Recertification processes are progressing.

ACPNS (Accreditation Council for Pediatric Neurosurgery) – It was noted that a survey of fellowship programs is currently ongoing, and this will be discussed at the next ASPN meeting. It was also noted that the ABNS has discussed issuing a “certificate” in Pediatric Neurosurgery.

ASPN (American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery) – no report.

Devices and Technology – Dr. Proctor reported that a letter to the FDA to exempt molding helmets (appended) was approved by the Washington Committee and submitted to the FDA on February 9; the FDA has 6 months to respond.

Education and Practice Management – Dr. Gaskill is the new liaison to this committee. She discussed a Maintenance of Certification course for pediatric neurosurgery and whether this might be supported financially by the Section.

Old Business

Brain Tumor Guidelines project – Dr. Wisoff reported that Dr. Karin Muraszko has put together guidelines for the treatment of medulloblastoma; this is currently going

through the CNS process for guideline development. Guidelines for low-grade gliomas is the next project planned.

CAST (Committee on Accreditation of Subspecialty Training) – Dr. Luerssen reported that CAST meets in May, and that there has been no major movement on any of the current issues.

New Business

Guidelines for childhood hypertonia – Dr. Abbott reported that Leland Albright has been approached by some of the national Neurology organizations for involvement in this effort; he will report back to the Executive Committee as this progresses.

Workforce study – Dr. Abbott reported that the parent organizations have approved the Section's participation in this effort along with the AAP and ASPN.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

AC Duhaime, M.D.
Secretary