

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery
Wednesday April 30 2008, 1 – 2:45 PM
Room CC11B, Hyatt Regency McCormick Hotel
Chicago, Illinois

Attendance:

Drs. Jeff Wisoff, Chairman; Tina Duhaime, Chair-Elect; Al Cohen, Secretary;
Members at Large: Jeffrey Blount, Jim Drake, Mike Handler

Tom Luerssen, David Gruber, Mark Proctor, Paul Steinbock, Andy Parent, Mike Scott,
Sarah Gaskill, Corey Raffel, Ed Smith, Ron Englebreit, Jeffrey Sussman

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Dr. Wisoff.

Approval of Minutes (Dr. Cohen)

Moved for approval and accepted by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report (Dr. Cohen for Dr. Kaufman)

Annual Meeting Summary – Miami

The overall meeting budget was anticipated to have a deficit of ~ \$46,000. Miami is an expensive city and sponsorship was down slightly. However, the registration was greater than anticipated and with the rebate from the hotel the final deficit was only \$2,000, according to Ron Englebreit.

Statement of Activities

Total assets as of March 31, 2008 were \$583,028. This is less than they were the same time last year, \$611,884.

Discussion

Jeff Wisoff noted that a major new expense was the Manpower Studies, for which funding will cease one year from now. He commented that we usually count on the annual meeting to generate ~ \$30,000 in revenue to run various projects and that if the trend continues we may have to cut on some future section endeavors. Ron Englebreit noted that some of the budgetary problems are a reflection of the stagnant national economy, but that as of last week all AANS section accounts have improved and returned to the status of breaking even.

Standing Committee Reports

Membership Committee (Dr. Proctor)

Dr. Proctor has completed an on-line application process, which has not yet been advertised, pending approval of the bylaws change to be discussed. Removal of the

sponsor requirement has been incorporated into the on-line membership application. A resident membership category has been created and incorporated into the on-line process. Dr. Proctor noted that the requirement that the membership application be submitted to the membership committee at least 30 days prior to the meeting of the Executive Council made the system slow and unwieldy. Dr. Duhaime noted that the bylaws had been changed previously to eliminate this 30 day requirement. The Council discussed this matter and concluded that the bylaws had not been properly updated and charged Dr. Selden with making this correction to the bylaws.

There was a discussion about having a membership drive for the pediatric section. There are 383 individuals (201 in the U.S. and Canada and 182 International) who have advised the AANS that pediatric neurosurgery is their primary, secondary or tertiary subspecialty, yet they do not belong to the pediatric section. Email addresses for these individuals are available. The Council voted to proceed with a membership drive, noting that the application process is streamlined now that it is on-line. It was recommended that the resident members of the AANS and CNS be contacted as part of the drive. Dr. Proctor will contact Sandy Meyer (sjm@aans.org) of the AANS to initiate the membership drive.

Five candidates were proposed for election to active membership at the business meeting: Drs. Lorenzo Munoz, Walter Hader, Sanjiv Bhatia, Duc Duong and Andrew Jea. Their names have been circulated to the membership in **Shortcuts**. They were all approved by the Council.

Rules and Regulations Committee (Dr. Cohen for Dr. Selden)

The following proposals for changing the Rules and Regulations were discussed:

- creation of a resident member category
- altering the procedure for membership application to use the online application form available on the AANS or CNS website
- specifying the time of election of officers and members-at-large (winter meeting) as well as the start date for the terms of those elected (at the conclusion of the spring meeting)

These proposals have been circulated in **Shortcuts**. The Council voted by acclamation to accept all proposals. These will be presented to the section membership for a vote at the business meeting.

Nominating Committee (Dr. Abbott)

Dr Jim Drake and Dr. Mike Handler were proposed for Members at Large.

Annual Meeting Updates

Spokane 2008 (Dr. Gruber)

The meeting will be held December 2-5, 2008 at the Davenport Hotel, 10 South Post Street, Spokane, Washington 99201 (800-899-1482, 509-455-8888, 509-624-4455)

FAX). The Davenport opened in 1914 and underwent a multi-million dollar renovation ten years ago. The Raimondi speaker will be Dr. Renee Jenkins, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, who will discuss *The Future of American Health Policy*.

The Abstract Center will open May 1st. A scientific program committee is being assembled. A nursing seminar is being planned. Adele Johnson of the AANS has been assigned oversight of the meeting and a business plan and marketing plan are being developed. A listing of direct flights to Spokane will be attached to the registration website. Hotels will provide round trip airport town car service for \$35.

Dr. Wisoff advised members of the Executive Council to plan to arrive in Spokane on Monday December 1st as the Council meeting will begin at noon on Tuesday December 2nd. A conference call is being set up for the first week in June to discuss the budget.

Boston 2009 (Dr. Wisoff for Dr. Goumnerova)

The meeting will be held at the Westin Hotel in Boston. Dr. Goumnerova is considering a neurofibromatosis symposium along with a possible Monday pre-meeting symposium.

Future Meeting 2010 (Dr. Duhaime)

Proposals have been narrowed to two finalists: Cleveland and Austin. The AANS is planning a site visit at each city. Dr. Wisoff advocated for Cleveland because of its accessibility in light of the accessibility issues posed by the upcoming Spokane meeting.

Ad Hoc Committees and Liaisons

Education Committee (Dr. Steinbok)

Dr. Steinbok recommended that Dr. George Jallo be appointed vice chair of the education committee. The Council voted unanimously in favor of this.

Dr. Steinbok recommended that the section limit its support to FLANC courses and that we not support ISPN courses. The section received no recognition for its support of the Beijing course December 8-9, 2007.

The section is supporting a FLANC course in Rancagua, Chile on August 11-13, 2008 with \$10K (\$7500 for FLANC, remainder for travel for section members). \$2500 was already sent to FLANC last year by accident so only \$5000 needs to go to FLANC this year. The course faculty will include: Susan Durham, George Jallo and Bruce Kaufman.

A database created by Dr. Jallo will be placed on the website.

Curtis Rozelle completed a shunt infection prophylaxis survey and submitted an abstract on this to the CNS meeting in 2008.

Phil Aldana is writing a manuscript based on the educational needs survey he did. Joe Piatt will determine if this information is helpful for planning educational activities through the AAP.

Rick Boop has suggested that the industry-sponsored resident courses he organized be taken over by the section's education committee.

Dr. Steinbok requested clarification on the amount of autonomy held by the education committee in performing such tasks as eblast surveys. Dr. Wisoff noted that all activities need not be vetted through the council, but that eblasts require funding and should be vetted through the section chair. Dr. Wisoff suggested having resident education issues be under the purview of the vice chair of the education committee and recommended discussing the plan further with Dr. Boop.

Dr. Wisoff noted that the section has committed to supporting 1 FLANC course and 1 ISPN course for the coming year. He recommended approving this budgetary support, noting that this does not mean we will support ISPN courses, and he will speak to the ISPN to ensure that the section is duly credited for any support that may occur. Dr. Wisoff recommended supporting a FLANC course (\$10 K) and an ISPN course (\$10) for 2009. There was a discussion about whether support for these courses should be a section priority. Dr. Scott and Dr. Steinbok felt that supporting these courses should remain a priority. The council agreed to commit \$20K to support these courses for 2009.

Scientific Program and CME Committee (Dr. Gaskill)

The Pediatric Section will sponsor an Integrated Medical Learning (IML) session, *Arrested Hydrocephalus: To Treat Or Not To Treat*, at the CNS meeting in Orlando on Wednesday afternoon September 24, 2008 from 4-5:30 PM. Dr. Gaskill will give an introduction with a premeeting survey. All CNS members will be invited to participate by completing a pre-meeting survey and reading three selected articles, then coming to the live IML session and completing a post-survey questionnaire. We are expected to demonstrate that our CME opportunities have an impact on our practices.

Examinations Committee (Dr. Raffel)

Dr. Raffel suggested setting aside one hour at the section meeting in Spokane for exam question writing. The exam committee will put on a session, How to write questions for SANS, at the Spokane meeting. The council will re-evaluate the effectiveness of the exam committee next spring.

Training Committee Dr. (Blount)

The Emory program will be accredited. Because it is a hybrid program with two childrens hospitals it will be re-reviewed more frequently than non-hybrid programs. Each accredited fellowship program will be re-reviewed every 5 years. The ACPNF website is being redone to be in line with the ABPNS website.

Traveling Fellowship Committee (Dr. Scott)

Dr. Luerssen noted that Andrei Kuzmin from Yekaterinburg, Russia, who had been accepted for a 3 month fellowship at Texas Children's Hospital, was planning to come for only one month. The reason for this reduction in the length of the fellowship was not clear. The council felt that the amount of the stipend and the length of the fellowship had been provided to the candidate in advance, and felt that the rotation should optimally remain at three months. The council charged Dr. Luerssen with

obtaining an explanation from Dr. Kuzmin and considering an alternated candidate if Dr. Kuzmin cannot spend the allotted time.

Transition of Care Committee (Dr. Rekate)

Dr. Rekate led a meeting in Denver last year with about 65 participants to discuss the issue of how to treat pediatric neurosurgical patients in the process of obtaining care for the conditions for which they were treated in infancy and childhood. Dr. Rekate recommended changing the name of our organization to the Joint Section on Pediatric and Congenital Neurosurgery. Dr. Wisoff charged Dr. Rekate with finding a constituency for his committee and Dr. Rekate noted that the following individuals were invited to participate (Mike Turner, Todd Maugans, Joel Winer, Tom Luerssen, David McLone, Rick Boop, and Jeff Wisoff ex officio). Dr. Kaufman noted the difficulty of finding a solution in that no one model fits all.

Research Committee (Dr. Kestle)

There was a discussion about having the Section support pediatric neurosurgery research with an approximate budget of \$40-50k/year. Options discussed included 1) a one year research fellowship either during or after residency, either at a home institution or away. 2) A research consultation service (e.g. an hour or two with a statistician or research expert to help set up a project). 3) Support for resident abstract presentations (e.g. select the 2,3,4 best abstracts submitted by residents based on reviewers' scores and support their travel to the meeting. Dr. Luerssen proposed offering support research in a post-residency fellowship year. Dr. Cohen proposed offering support during residency training as well, to increase exposure to the field.

Liaison to Joint Council of State NS Societies (Dr. Wisoff)

Dr. Wisoff informed the council that Dr. Cathy Mazzolla of New Jersey will replace Dr. Heafner as representative to the JCSNS.

Liaison to ABPNS (American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery) (Dr. Scott)

Dr. Scott noted that the ABPNS will meet in June and that there will be a changing of the guard, as some members' terms are up.

Liaison to ACPNF (Accreditation Council for Ped. Neurosurgical Fellowships) (Blount)

.See report from Training Committee.

Liaison to Young Neurosurgeons (Dr. Smith)

Dr. Smith reported that the Young Neurosurgeons have been supporting the NREF and funding medical student research grants .

The CNS is sponsoring a Real World Talk at the fall annual meeting in Orlando and it would be good for the pediatric section to have representation. Interested individuals were advised to contact Dr. Smith.

Dr. Smith and Dr. Eve Tsai are setting up regional interest groups for medical student. Individuals interested in participating in this program were advised to contact Dr. Smith.

Devices and Technology Committee (Dr. Wisoff for Dr. Robinson)

The “Petition to Exempt Cranial Orthoses from Premarket Notification Requirements” was rejected by the FDA. The petition had been jointly submitted by the Section and the Washington Committee of the AANS/CNS in an effort to make helmets more accessible. At a meeting with the FDA during the AANS meeting in Washington, DC in April 2007 the new chief of the neurological devices committee at the FDA informed us that we were rejected because we failed to submit appropriate MDRs (medical device reports) outlining the risks of the helmets. Since, to the best of our knowledge, there had been no adverse events described, no MDRs were submitted. The Exec suggested that a position paper be drafted by Tom Luerssen and Dody Robinson and that Jeff Wisoff contact the Washington Committee to ask for assistance.

Washington Committee (Dr. Parent)

The third edition of the Traumatic Brain Injury Guidelines has been released with some modifications suggesting, for example that anticonvulsants may not be needed in low risk head injury patients. There has been no revision to the pediatric guidelines for trauma. The federal government has undergone a change in the payment for performance concept using the phrase “comparative effectiveness research” as a key term. It appears that patient outcomes will be used in the future to determine a portion of physician payment.

The Washington Committee’s subcommittee to determine the value of a neurosurgeon to a hospital had its first meeting. The contribution margin is highest in tumor, vascular and trauma cases, moderate in epilepsy, stereotactic, spine and pediatrics and low in peripheral nerve cases.

The ABNS, AANS and CNS are attempting to coordinate data collection from the MOC process to a single database to determine benchmarks for 14 procedures, among which will be aneurysm, tumors, anterior cervical discectomies, tethered cord, Chiari malformation and intracerebral hemorrhage. Data will come from 10 voluntarily submitted consecutive cases.

Dr. Harbaugh is the new chair of the Washington Committee. Dr. Abbott noted that timing of the Washington Committee meeting conflicts with the Section meeting and that the Washington Committee is focused on Spine. Dr. Wisoff suggested continuing our collaborative efforts with the Washington Committee in such areas as Devices and Transition of Care.

AANS/CNS Executive Committee Meetings (Dr. Duhaime, Dr. Wisoff)

CNS Executive Meeting (Dr. Duhaime)

The CNS has been focused on technical interactive factors in education, such as IML (Integrated Medical Learning), which was introduced successfully at the past CNS meeting. The Section will contribute to IML at the fall CNS meeting in Orlando. The CNS is planning an online neurosurgical Wikipedia. The new president of the CNS is David Adelson.

AANS Executive Meeting (Dr. Wisoff)

JNS Pediatrics is about to become a stand alone journal and will no longer be a supplement. This will enhance its impact factor.

Old Business

Workforce Study (Dr. Durham)

Dr. Susan Durham reported on a workforce study she has conducted (Workforce Specialists at Dartmouth). Fewer than 8% of US neurosurgery residency graduates go on to complete pediatric neurosurgical fellowships. The pediatric neurosurgery workforce has been stable since 1998 with an average of 9 fellows graduating per year, but only 5-6 of them going on to achieve ABPNS certification. Approximately 1/3 of the ACPNF fellowship graduates do not belong to the Joint Section. An increasing number of foreign-trained neurosurgical graduates are filling fellowship positions, with 46% of fellowship positions filled by FMGs in 2005-06 compared to 0% from 1998-2001. The total supply of practicing pediatric neurosurgeons was calculated to be 342 (161 ABPNS certified, 274 members of the Joint Section, 130 members of the ASPN). The response rate for the study was 75.4%. \$2500 will be taken from the Treasury to support the work done by Dr. Durham. There was no report from the Brandeis study.

CAST (Committee on Accreditation of Specialty Training) (Dr. Luerssen)

At the Society of Neurological Surgeons' CAST meeting it was agreed that pediatric neurosurgery would be in control of the training of fellows. Pediatric Neurosurgery was viewed as a model for subspecialty training. No further input was requested. Dr. Luerssen recommended that CAST be removed from standing business of the Section.

New Business

The Joint Guidelines Committee, a subcommittee of the Washington Committee, chaired by Dr. Ragheb, will respond to the American College of Radiology (ACR) Appropriateness Criteria. The ACR Appropriateness Criteria is a new initiative through which the American College of Radiology has developed criteria for determining the appropriateness of imaging. These criteria, which were drafted with little or no input from neurosurgery, have been a cause of great concern to neurosurgeons. The following individuals offered to assist Dr. Ragheb on this committee: Drs. Luerssen, Handler, Gruber, Gaskill and Steinecke.

Dr. Wisoff proposed three nominees from the Section for the *ABPNS*: Drs. Cohen, Drake and Partington, and they were approved by the Executive Council. New committee appointments will be made by Dr. Wisoff in the hope of involving younger members of the Section.

There was a discussion about whether the Education Committee should be made a Standing Committee. Currently, the Standing Committees of the Section are: Executive Council, Nominating Committee, Membership Committee, Program Committee, CME Committee and Rules and Regulations Committee. With this background, it was

suggested that the classification of standing committees be reviewed by Dr. Selden and the Rules and Regulations Committee.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Alan R. Cohen, M.D.
Secretary