

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

Tuesday, November 28, 2006 1:00-5:00 PM
Denver City Center Marriott – Matchless Room

Attendance: Drs. Rick Abbott, Chairman; AC Duhaime, Secretary; Al Cohen, Treasurer; members at large Drs. Nalin Gupta, Jeffrey Blount and Bruce Kaufman; Membership Committee: John Kestle; Rules and Regulation representative: Dr. Michael Vassilyadi; Education Committee: Dr. Paul Steinbok; Annual Meeting Chairs: Drs. Michael Handler, John Ragheb, David Gruber, and Liliana Goumnerova; Drs. Michael Scott, Tom Luerssen, Michael Heafner, Tom Steineke, Corey Raffel, Andy Parent, and Rick Boop. Tania Shiminski-Maher, MS, CPNP attended as liaison with Nursing. Representatives from the AANS Office, Nathalie Johnson and Adele Johnson, also attended part of the meeting.

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

Approval of Minutes (April 2006, 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 November 2006 exceed \$573,000. Some of these monies will be transferred to long-term accounts.

Nursing Liaison

Dr. Abbott introduced Ms. Shiminski-Maher, and introduced the suggestion that Neurosurgical Nurses organization appoint a liaison within the Executive Committee of the Pediatric Section. The Executive Committee was in agreement with this suggestion. Ms. Shiminski-Maher announced that the Pediatric Neurosurgical Nurses' group has been active, and that a book will be published soon by Springer entitled "Nursing Care of the Pediatric Neurosurgical Patient".

Report from the Congress of Neurological Surgeons' Executive Committee (Dr. Cohen)

Dr. Cohen represented the Pediatric Section at this meeting which was held in October. He reported on the Pediatric Section's new Education Committee, and reviewed the involvement of the Pediatric Section in CNS activities.

Introduction of AANS Personnel

Dr. Abbott introduced Nathalie Johnson, who is involved in Meeting Planning, and Adele Johnson, who is responsible for Exhibits and Sponsorships. They expressed their willingness to help any members of the Executive Committee or Section with these functions. The Section thanked them for their effectiveness and extra efforts in helping to arrange this Annual Meeting.

Standing Committee Reports

Membership Committee (Dr. Kestle)(appended)

New members proposed for election at the Business Meeting include Drs. Ethan A. Benardete, Robin M. Bowman, Gerald A. Grant, Naina Gross, Abhava V. Kulkarni, Jeffrey Leonard, Jonathan E. Martin, Renatta J. Osterdock, Gary Tye, Elizabeth C. Tyler-Kabara, and John C. Wellons. All were approved by the Executive Committee.

A motion to ask the Rules and Regulations Committee to eliminate the requirement of a 30-day notice period prior to the Business Meeting to the Section Membership regarding proposed new Section members was approved.

Rules and Regulations Committee (Dr. Vassilyadi for Dr. Muszynski) (appended)

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

It was proposed that the bylaws involving procedures for application for membership in the Section be modified to eliminate the 30-day notification rule to circulate proposed new members to the current Section membership. This was voted and approved by the Executive Committee.

Program and CME Committee (Dr. Abbott reporting for Dr. Madsen)(appended)

Dr. Abbott summarized Dr. Madsen's report, which included a summary of the AANS, CNS, and Annual Pediatric Section Meeting educational activities. Dr. Madsen also reported on upcoming plans for the 2007 AANS and CNS meetings.

Annual Meeting updates

Dr. Handler reported that the Denver meeting had a preliminary positive financial balance, with 301 medical registrants and 62 nursing participants. In addition to the published program, there will be a session on writing SANS exam questions on Wednesday evening, and on Thursday evening Dr. Rekate will discuss patient transition-to-adulthood issues.

Dr. Ragheb announced that a Tuesday to Friday schedule, November 27 to December 1, 2007, had been planned for the annual meeting in Miami. A pre-meeting Epilepsy course and a post-meeting Spanish language course (on Saturday) are planned.

Dr. Gruber reported that the 2008 meeting in Spokane will take place at the Davenport hotel, a historic venue built in 1914. A number of outdoor and other activities are planned. Brochures from the hotel were distributed.

Dr. Goumnerova reported that a number of venues in Boston were being considered for the 2009 meeting; the last Section meeting there was in 1990.

Future Meeting Sites – no report

Nominating Committee

Dr. Abbott announced that Drs. Tom Pittman and John Kestle were nominated for Members at Large for the 2007-2009 term, to join Drs. Blount and Gupta (Dr. Kaufman's

term to expire). This will create an opening for Membership Committee chairperson, which is an appointed position. Additional nominations were announced by Dr. Parent later in the meeting and included the following: Chair-elect - T. Duhaime; Secretary - A. Cohen, and Treasurer - B. Kaufman. These nominations were approved by the Executive Committee.

Ad Hoc Committees and Liaisons

Traveling fellowship (Dr. Scott)(appended)

Drs. Scott and Cohen reported that four fellowships were recommended, one domestic (Dr. Deanna Sasaki-Adams from North Carolina to spend a month at Toronto Sick Kids' Hospital) and three International (two candidates from India and one from Turkey, all of whom have requested time in Toronto). The Executive Committee voted to approve all four candidates, for a total cost of \$17,500.

Lifetime Achievement Award (Dr. Parent)

Dr. Parent announced that Dr. Robin Humphreys will receive this Award at the Winter 2007 Section meeting.

Web Site (Dr. Gupta)

Dr. Gupta provided an overview of the new Pediatric Section website, which is expected to be running within the next few months. Drs. Brockmeyer and Gupta have been working with the vendor and several features of the new site were exhibited for the Executive Committee.

Publications (Dr. Steinbok for Dr. Brockmeyer)

A request for input for the AANS Bulletin was received, and Dr. Rekate will be contributing on issues of transitional care for pediatric patients as they enter adulthood. A case studies project headed by Dr. Bob Carter from the CNS was also noted, and more will be presented on this at the Spring AANS meeting.

American Academy of Pediatrics (Dr. Piatt) (appended)

The Section of Neurologic Surgery of the AAP continues to be active, and its activities are outlined in the appended report. In addition, Dr. Piatt reviewed some of the issues currently of active interest to the AAP, including quality indicators for children with chronic illness, transition to adult care, and workforce issues for pediatric specialists.

Liaison to Joint Council of State NS Societies – no report

Liaison to Young Neurosurgeons (Dr. Steineke)

Dr. Steineke reported that issues of current interest to the Young Neurosurgeons Committee included reimbursement, liability reform, and fundraising for the Neurosurgical Research and Education Fund; the Silent Auction for this event is currently soliciting donations. He also gave an update on efforts to generate interest in pediatric

neurosurgery, and noted that barriers include the additional year of training and well as lower compensation than some other specialties.

Washington Committee (Dr. Parent) (Appended)

Highlights of this report included discussion about ICD-10 diagnostic code implementation, pay for performance initiatives, Institute of Medicine report on emergency medical care including that for children, request for cranial orthosis exemption from patent, and neurosurgeons not being certified as intensivists. In addition to these topics, Dr. Kestle noted that there is now a Guidelines Subcommittee of the Washington Committee, and that there is no longer a guidelines committee of the AANS.

International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery – no report

AANS/CNS Executive Committee Meetings – Dr. Cohen reported on the CNS meeting earlier during this meeting due to his need to attend another function (see previous page).

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

Dr. Scott reported that the assessment fee will be \$750.00 for Board Certification. There will be an interim summer meeting of the Directors of the ABPNS at which the examination will also be given; thus, the examination will be given twice annually – once at the Pediatric Section Winter Meeting, and once at the ABPNS interim summer meeting. Since the last report, there were seven additional candidates who have been recertified, two inquiries regarding the alternate pathway for “senior members”, and that eight candidates will take the exam at this meeting for initial certification and another seven for recertification. Of 74 total pediatric neurosurgeons who were initially certified by the ABPNS in 1996, 28 have retired, 33 have been recertified or are current candidates, and an additional thirteen are left to be recertified. With respect to ABNS recertification, the ABNS is re-investigating subspecialty certification. Dr. Park is participating in the Committee of the ABNS which is looking into this issue.

Dr. Park noted that certification is a complex situation, and if subspecialty certification becomes the purview of the ABNS and ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) as opposed to remaining under the direction of the ABPNS and ACPNS (Accreditation Council of Pediatric Neurological Surgery), there are pros and cons which need to be considered. Dr. Park gave examples of other specialties, including Pediatric Urology, which has succeeded in getting their specialty approved by the ACGME, with mixed results. Currently, there are 98 approved medical specialty boards which are recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties. Some individuals have advocated for the creation of “sub-boards” which would maintain more internal control over the certification process.

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

Dr. Luerssen noted that the Senior Society has now changed its website such that the fellowship accreditation training requirements are in line with the requirements of the ABPNS. Much discussion followed about these various accreditation issues.

ACPNS (Accreditation Council for Pediatric Neurosurgery) – No report.

ASPN (American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery) (Dr. Goumnerova)

The ASPN leadership has been working towards coordinating part of their educational mission with the idea of “practice parameter” topics. Five topics have been chosen, and Dr. Goumnerova will be integrating these topics between the ASPN and the Education Committee of the Pediatric Section.

Dr. Goumnerova also discussed the development of case reports similar to the New England Journal of Medicine format to be published in Journal of Neurosurgery-Pediatrics.

Education and Practice Management (Dr. Gruber)

This committee has focused on organizing a review course for the Oral Board Examination process. A second review course is being developed for the recertification process; Dr. Goodman is involved in this effort.

Education Committee (Dr. Steinbok) (Appended)

Several opportunities for international education involvement have arisen. The Pediatric Section and the International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery have agreed to work together on some ISPN educational courses. Two scheduled for 2007 include venues in Beijing and Manila. A request was made for the Pediatric Section to support the finances of these courses. After discussion, it was voted that the Section would contribute \$5000 to each of these meetings; these funds will be used to support Section members as faculty, as well as simultaneous translation or other needs. Also, a joint course with the Latin American Congress of Neurological Surgery (FLANC) and the Pediatric Section has been proposed, with the first one possibly taking place in Colombia in 2007. A request for \$10,000 to support this meeting was made and approved.

There is a course planned in Capetown, South Africa, at the October, 2008 meeting of the ISPN. Dr. Graham Fieggan of Capetown is working on organizing a pre-ISPN course which will be a one-day session targeted at surgeons interested in neurosurgery in sub-Saharan Africa. Most surgeons performing surgery there on children are not trained in neurosurgery. The ISPN has some funding to pay for surgeons from Africa to come to Capetown. The Section was asked to consider the possibility of additional financial support.

The European Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery (ESPN) is planning additional meetings, including one in Brazil. The Education Committee will be looking into how these are run.

It was discussed that the Pediatric Section membership should be involved in some of the decision-making about international outreach activities, as there may be various opinions about this topic. The possibility of a poll in Shortcuts was raised.

Drs. Piatt and Steinbok raised the question of whether the Section can be proactive in providing input to the AAP regarding which topics would be beneficial for pediatricians to learn about our specialty. It was noted that there may be differences of opinion between what pediatric neurosurgeons think is important educationally and what pediatricians want as educational topics from our Section. This may be another topic on which a survey of the membership via Shortcuts might be useful.

Dr. Raffel and colleagues will be giving an evening session on how to write exam questions for board, certification, and SANS exams. The possibility of an evening session set aside just to write questions, either at this meeting or at other pediatric neurosurgery meetings, was proposed.

New Business

Guidelines for childhood hypertonia – Dr. Abbott reported that Leland Albright has agreed to participate with some of the national Neurology organizations in this effort.

Workforce study – Dr. Abbott reported that Drs. Boop and Piatt along with Dr. Mapstone representing the ASPN have been discussing a jointly funded pediatric neurosurgery workforce study. Questions include how to attract residents, what barriers exist, what do pediatric neurosurgery practices entail, what are reimbursement issues, and others. Discussion ensued as to who will do the actual work of the study and its cost, estimated at approximately \$75,000-100,000 for a comprehensive survey. Another possibility was a graduate student project through Brandeis University health policies school, which might cost only about \$25,000. Concerns include that only 6-8 new pediatric neurosurgery fellowship trainees are graduating each year, whereas over the past decade, neurosurgeons are doing an average of 80 cases/year more than they were 10 years ago.

Meeting scheduling conflicts – It was announced by Dr. Abbott that because of the importance of the Executive Committee meeting at our Annual Winter Meeting and at the AANS Annual Meeting in the spring, that no conflicting meetings or events that would involve members of the Executive Committee or others needing to attend the Executive Committee meeting will be scheduled.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

AC Duhaime, M.D.
Secretary