

Executive Meeting
American Association of Neurological Surgeons-Congress of
Neurological Surgeons Joint Section on
Pediatric Neurological Surgery

November 28, 2001

Broadhurst Room
Marriott Marquis
New York, NY

Attendance

Thomas G. Luerssen, M.D., Chairman, Rick Abbott, M.D., Secretary, Jeffrey Wisoff, M.D., Treasurer, Frederick A. Boop, III, M.D., Douglas Brockmeyer, M.D., Alan R. Cohen, M.D., Phillip Cogen, M.D., Christina Duhaime, M.D., Ann Marie Flannery, M.D., Michael Heafner, M.D., Bruce Kaufman, M.D., Sarah J. Gaskill, M.D., Paul Grabb, M.D., Andrew Parent, M.D., Joseph Piatt, M.D., Marion Walker, M.D. Kathleen Craig, (Non voting).

Call to Order

Dr. Thomas G. Luerssen, Chairman of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous Executive Committee Meeting, April 25, 2001 had been distributed previously. These had been reviewed by the Executive Committee members and approved by acclamation.

Financial Report

Dr Jeffrey Wisoff, Treasurer, gave the financial report. Staff costs have increased from \$24,000 in fiscal year 1999 to 53,000 in the last year and are projected to be 57,000 for this year. These increases resulted in a negative balance for fiscal year 2000 of roughly \$23000. After discussion there was a motion to raise dues by \$50/year to \$100/yr. This passed unanimously.

Program Chairman:

Dr Rick Abbott reported that there were 240 medical registrants for the meeting. There has been \$37,000 in booth revenue and \$46, 000 in sponsor revenue received to date. At present a slight deficit may occur with the meeting or there might be a small profit.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee

Dr Tina Duhaime gave the Membership Committee Report. The following applicants were proposed:

Bruce Cherney, M.D. – Phoenix, AZ
Sandeep Sood, M.D. – Detroit, MI

It was moved, seconded and passed to recommend to our membership at the upcoming business meeting that all candidates be admitted for membership.

Rules and Regulations Committee

Dr Cohen reported on changes made to the by-laws. At our spring business meeting a vote had approved the splitting of the office of Secretary/Treasurer into two positions, secretary and treasurer. He also reported that proposed changes to the by-laws simplifying the application process for membership had been published in Shortcuts and would be voted on at the upcoming business meeting.

Program and CME Committee

Ann-Marie Flannery, M.D, gave the Program and CME Committee report. Dr Flannery reported that Dr David McLone had been selected for the Matson Award to be given at the upcoming spring meeting in Chicago. She also reported that a pool of candidates for the award was being prepared as was a pool of topics and speakers which could be drawn upon to fill such needs as the yearly Congress request for topics and our needs for seminars topics and Raimondi lecturers for the winter section meeting.

Nominating Committee

Dr. Marion L. Walker's gave the report from the nominating committee in Dr. Laurent's absence. Alan Cohen, MD and Ann-Christina Duhaime, MD were proposed as Members at Large, beginning their 2-year term in April 2002. These nominations will be brought forth at the business meeting of the Section.

Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Reports:

Traveling Fellowship -- R. Michael Scott, M.D.

Dr. Cohen gave the report in Dr Scott's absence. The committee recommended that Dr. Prithvi Narayan from Emory be awarded \$2500 to travel to Boston Children's Hospital and that Dr John David Morenski from the university of Missouri be given \$2500 to spend time at Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City. It was recommended that a \$2500 International Fellowship be given to Dr Charity Cordero from the University of Manila to spend time with Dr Charles Duncan at Yale. These recommendations were approved by acclamation and will be reported on at the business meeting. Dr. Scott will be in contact with the winners.

The Distinguished Service Award – Robin Humphreys

No report

Neurosurgery On Call – Paul Grabb, M.D.

Dr Grabb reported that the list of pediatric fellowships has recently been edited for mistakes and that program directors should check the site for accuracy. He also reported that accredited fellowships will be differentiated from non-accredited fellowships in the listings. Discussion followed about establishing cross-links with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Board of Pediatric Neurosurgery. Drs Walker and Grabb will look into this.

Publications -- Sarah J. Gaskill, M.D.

Dr. Gaskill reported that the topic reviews for Chiari 1 Malformation have been posted in Microsurgical Focus. She mentioned that she had little control over the final content and that several authors she has requested to write for the issue had been rejected. She suggested that we choose topics and develop them ourselves to have at the ready when requested for material feeling that this would afford us more control over the content. The topics of myelomeningocele and spasticity were suggested. She also mentioned that a patient information brochure on Dandy Walker was complete and was awaiting publication on the web.

American Academy of Pediatrics --Joseph H. Piatt, M.D.

Dr Piatt reported on the first meeting of the provisional Section on Neurosurgery at the Academy's annual fall meeting in San Francisco. There were 21 pediatric neurosurgeons in attendance and a joint program was held with the Critical Care Section on head injury. Dr Piatt reported to our committee that a steering committee has been established with the following officers:

Dr. Marion Walker – President
Dr. Hector James – Secretary
Dr Robin Humphries
Dr Gordon McComb
Dr Harold Rekate
Dr Joseph Piatt

The effort to release a guideline for referral by pediatricians to pediatric surgical subspecialists has been referred back to committee for minor revisions and is expected to be released to their membership as a policy statement in the near future.

Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies – Michael Heafner, M.D.

Dr Heafner reported on the recent meeting of the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (CSNS). Highlights of the proceedings included a resolution passed inviting the participation of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses and the American Association of Neurosurgical Physician Assistants in the CSNS meetings, a resolution supporting Think First community outreach, and a resolution to develop an informational package on weapons of mass destruction. Resolutions to support lobbying state legislatures to include Think First materials in state educational curriculum, and to create a Professional Conduct Committee were defeated. Resolutions to establish a mechanism for practice expense data shearing and to establish mechanisms to support Cuban neurosurgeons' needs for educational materials were referred to committee.

Quality Assurance Committee -- Paul A. Grabb, M.D.

No report

Outcomes Committee -- Bruce A. Kaufman, M.D.

Dr Kaufman presented a preliminary draft of forms for a shunt outcome database to be established on the section's website. Drs Rick Abbott, Sarah Gaskill and Michael Heafner volunteered to review the documents and to returned the edited forms to Dr Kaufman in 6 weeks. Dr Kaufman will then present the revised forms to the executive at our spring meeting. He anticipates that the finalized forms will be posted and operational 6 months after developers receive them and that he will be able to stay within the \$10,000 budget.

Washington Committee -- Marion L. Walker, MD

Dr. Walker reported that he was able to attend the July Washington committee but not this months as it conflicts with our meeting. He went on to mention that next December's meeting will conflict with our meeting in Phoenix. This has become a repeated problem and Dr. Walker has brought this up at the Washington Committee's meeting. Dr Walker reported that the Committee supported the Society of Neurological Surgeons, AANS and CNS's recommendation that Dr. Robert Grossman be elected to head the National Institute of Health's subcommittee on Neurosurgery. There was also a letter supporting pay for neurosurgeons on call for emergency rooms was drafted. Finally there was a discussion about potential bias of a NIH study on the treatment of low back pain in the United States comparing surgical to non-surgical treatment outcome. The committee will be preparing comments about the study.

American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery – Marion L. Walker, M.D.

Dr Walker reported that 3 candidates will be taking the ABPNS's written examination this meeting. Dr McComb reported that the test is being offered on a yearly basis at our winter meeting.

Accreditation Council for Pediatric Neurosurgical Fellowships – Kenneth Winston, M.D.

Dr Walker reported the Council is in process of establishing a website with information about accreditation process including information about fellowships in general.

Old Business:

Dr Flannery reported that there would be nominal expenses in providing memberships to residents (~ \$100 in mailing fees for each release of *Shortcuts*). Logistically, it would be more challenging to maintain the integrity of our mailing lists by removing graduated residents in a timely fashion. She will continue to explore the issue further.

New Business:

Dr Boop reported the RUC committee has requested information about the work value of five endoscopy procedures in anticipation of creating recommendations for CPT codes for the procedures. A survey will be reaching the offices of all members within the next week. Thirty completed surveys will be needed by the committee to generate its recommendations to HCFA.

The ABPNS has requested three nominations each from the Section, the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery and the Provisional Section on Neurosurgery of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Drs. Ann-Christina Duhaime, Andrew Parent and Ann-Marie Flannery were nominated by the executive to be considered for appointment.

The ANSPAC has requested a nomination from the Section for a representative to their committee. This will be announced at the business meeting.

Two committees will require chairman and assistants with the nomination of Drs. Cohen and Duhaime to become members at large. Dr Sarah Gaskill will be appointed chairman of the membership committee and Dr Phillip Cogen her assistant. Dr. Cheryl Muszynski will be appointed chairman of the Rules and Regulation committee and Dr Veetai Li her assistant.

Dr Luerssen next discussed the increasing complexity of our annual meeting. He felt that it will be necessary that the program chairman for the annual meeting will need to reside in the community in which the meeting is to be held and that he or she will need to be in active practice. A motion was presented that from this point forward the program chairman would need to be in active practice in the community in which the meeting is to be held. Should this not be the case as a meeting nears, the chairman of the section would have the authority to appoint a new program chairman from the community where the meeting is to be held. The motion passed by acclamation.

Dr Dias's committee on cervical spinal cord injury has drafted guidelines for treatment of children with this injury. The draft has been sent to the pediatric and trauma sections for comment. The childhood traumatic brain injury treatment guidelines are in the process of being drafted and will shortly go out to the sections for review.

Dr Luerssen then spent some time discussing the Society of Neurological Surgeons attempt to establish a uniform fellowship accreditation process for all subspecialties in neurosurgery. He reported the Spine and Cerebrovascular Sections have agreed in principle to having the SNS accredit their fellowships after they were given assurances by

the SNS that these fellowships would, except in very unusual situations, be post-graduate and would last for one year. After some discussion it was decided to observe this process for several months prior to deciding whether or not we would support the SNS accrediting pediatric fellowships. There was strong sentiment among board members that our fellowships accreditation process was functioning well and that its requirements for program accreditation were minimal and could not be reduced. Dr Luerssen will discuss this topic at the business meeting.

At this point, Dr. Leurssen requested any further new business or reports. No further business was brought forth.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Rick Abbott, M.D.
Secretary/Treasurer