

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

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002

Dunes A/B  
Hyatt Hotel, Gainey Ranch  
Scottsdale, AZ

**Attendance**

Thomas G. Luerksen, M.D., Chairman, Rick Abbott, M.D., Secretary, Jeffrey Wisoff, M.D., Treasurer, Frederick A. Boop, III, M.D., Alan R. Cohen, M.D., Christina Duhaime, M.D., Andrew Parent, M.D., Ann Marie Flannery, M.D. (non-voting), Michael Heafner, M.D. (non-voting), John Kestle, M.D. (non-voting), John P. Laurent, M.D. (non-voting), Arthur Marlin, M.D. (non-voting), Cheryl Muszynski, M.D. (non-voting), Andrew Parent, M.D. (non-voting), Joseph Piatt, M.D. (non-voting), Harold Rekate, M.D. (non-voting), Michael Scott, M.D. (non-voting), Marion Walker, M.D. (non-voting), Kenneth Winston, M.D. (non-voting), Lisa Sykes, (Non voting), Jennifer Wolf (non-voting).

**Call to Order**

Dr. Thomas G. Luerksen, Chairman of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous Executive Committee Meeting, April 2, 2002 were reviewed by the Executive Committee members and were approved by acclamation.

**Financial Report**

Dr Jeffrey Wisoff, Treasurer, gave the financial report. Currently the Section's account is almost \$12,600. The shortfall from the anticipated balance for the Section's account was due to losses in stock value over the year. Going forward efforts will be made to keep the account revenue neutral.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership Committee**

Dr Arthur Marlin gave the Membership Committee Report. The following applicants were proposed:

Active

Jeffrey Campbell, MD Charleston  
David Harter, MD Valhalla  
Moise Danielpour, MD Los Angeles  
Catherine Anne Ruebenacker, MD Hackensack  
Mahmoud Rashi, MD Shreveport  
Joseph Dilustro, MD Norfolk  
Kamal Kalia, MD Springfield  
Roberta Glick, MD Chicago  
Jodi Smith, Ph.D., MD Indianapolis  
Joseph Queenan, MD Wilmington  
Bradley Weprin, MD Dallas

Active (Foreign)

Oguz Cataltepe, MD Ankara

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 Muszynski reported that membership approved the creation of the office of Chairperson-Elect and the re-writing of the By-Laws to be gender neutral at a business meeting held in Philadelphia during the meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

**Annual Meeting Chairman – Harold Rekate, MD**

Dr. Harold Rekate reported 85 papers were accepted for oral presentations and 45 for poster presentation. 7 subsequently requested that their oral presentations be withdrawn. Dr Rekate expressed frustration over this stating that this unfairly eliminated a speaking position for anyone else and felt that there should be a consequence to an individual who withdrew from presenting after his or her paper had been accepted.

**Program and CME Committee – Ann Flannery, MD**

No report

**Nominating Committee – John P. Laurent, MD**

Dr John P Laurent presented the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for officers for the Sections as follows:

Chairperson:	Andrew Parent, MD
Chairperson-Elect:	Rick Abbott, MD
Secretary:	Jeffrey H. Wisoff, MD
Treasurer:	Christina Duhaime, MD
Member-at-Large:	Fredrick Boop III, MD (2-year term)
	Bruce Kaufman, MD (2 year term)
	Ian Pollack, MD (1 year term)

It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously to present the recommendations to the membership at large for their approval.

Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Reports:

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

Dr Winston presented list of residents awarded travel fellowships  
North American Residents- 2 applied with Robert Owen from the Univ of Kentucky receiving the award to study in Boston

There were 7 international applicants with Adrian Careras from Costa Rica receiving the award to study in Boston

**The Distinguished Service Award – Robin Humphreys**

No report

**Neurosurgery On Call – Doug Brockmeyer, M.D.**

The web site is currently undergoing an update. A generic look is being developed which will lessen the costs for each section's web site. Discussion then turned to distributing Shortcuts electronically as a cost savings measure. Dr Wisoff stated that this would result in a yearly savings of \$2000. Dr Brockmeyer has been quoted a cost of \$800 for

the development of the banner head for Shortcuts. The Secretary would then have to simply provide the text and it would be coded for publication on the web at a nominal cost to the Section.

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

No report

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

Dr Piatt reported that the Provisional Section for Neurosurgery had been granted full Section status this year. The officers of the Section for Neurosurgery are as follows:

Chairperson:	Marion Walker, MD
Chairperson-Elect:	Joseph Piatt, MD
Secretary:	Hector James, MD
Members-at-Large:	Andrew Parent, MD David Adelson, MD

Dr Piatt also reported that over the summer a position statement had been published by the AAP stating that for certain conditions children should be managed by pediatric surgical subspecialists and then going on to list these conditions. Dr Piatt informed us that it is the AAP's intention to make a direct appeal to the ACGME for certification of all pediatric surgical subspecialists who have completed certified fellowships in said subspecialty. Dr Piatt also informed us that the AAP has designated Pediatric Neurosurgery as the Neurosurgical Section's official organ. Pediatric Neurosurgery has agreed to show AAP's logo in the journal. We were told that Dr. Adelson is making important connections with the committees on Injury Prevention and Poisoning and Child Abuse. This will blaze a path for the section to develop future mutually beneficial endeavors. Upcoming meetings for the AAP are:

2003	New Orleans
2004	Chicago

**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 Phil Tally's discussion on trends in the AMA – this organization is evolving towards being an organization of organizations and Dr Tally anticipates that as a result specialty societies will have increasing influence in establishing the AMA's agenda. The CSNS passed a resolution to collect information on the impact of residency work hour restrictions. The CSNS passed a resolution supporting the merger of the CNS and AANS out of a concern over the tax designation for the Washington Committee.

**Quality Assurance Committee** – John Kestle, M.D.

No report

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

Due to lack of activity this committee was disbanded.

**Washington Committee** -- Marion L. Walker, MD

In reflecting on his past 4 years experience Dr Walker feels that this is one of the most effective committees he has been a member of and that it was his impression that it runs one of Washington's most effective medical lobbies. In the last year it has worked against Congress's effort to pass a nation-wide law limiting resident work hours, a bill which will in all likelihood die this year. The committee will be mailing out a letter of information outlining choices a physician has with regards Medicare reimbursement, namely opt out of accepting Medicare patients, renegotiate one's reimbursement rate

(which can be done every 6 months), or continue to accept current levels of reimbursement.

**ANSPAC – Michael Medlock, MD**

Dr Medlock reports that over the past few election cycles ANSPAC's contributions to the election campaigns of Congress candidates has grown from \$265,000 to \$310,000 per cycle with contributions to each candidate being less than \$5000. Candidates are selected according to the candidates' platform, the tightness of their race, their accessibility and position in Congress leadership. Also important in the decision of who to fund is who the candidates' adversary is and if the candidate is requesting the funding. In the last cycle 74% of the \$310,000 went to 71 candidates. Of these 87% won their race and 10% were physicians.

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

No report

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

No report

**Old Business:**

**Pediatric Head Injury Guidelines**

A request had been made to the Section to review a paper prepared to list guidelines for managing head injury in children. Dr Luerksen has yet to receive the document so the authors request has not been acted upon. The authors have been so informed and have also been informed that the document will have to also be reviewed by the AANS's Committee for Quality Improvement as well as the Executive Board.

**Fellowships and Accreditation by The Senior Neurosurgical Society**

The Spine Section has come to an agreement with the SNS on a process for accreditation of their fellowships. A pre-review committee has been formed to determine what programs should be presented to the CAST (Committee on Accrediting Surgical Training) of the SNS for consideration for accreditation. This pre-review committee will be made of two members appointed by the Spine Section and one member by SNS. Dr Luerksen explained that he has sent a letter to DR Ratcheson outlining a proposal for agreeing to have the SNS accredit Pediatric Neurosurgical Fellowships. The reasoning behind this is to avoid conflicting accrediting bodies certifying fellowships with confusion among residents resulting as to which train fellows eligible for certification by the ABPNS. Provided there is a written agreement from the SNS that training requirements for these fellowships will be identical to those listed by the ACPNS or that the Section will have veto rights over any program being considered for accreditation by the CAST of the SNS then all 21 of the current ACPNS accredited fellowship programs will simultaneously apply for CAST certification. One way to accomplish this veto power would be via a mechanism similar to what has been established for the Spine Society. A recommendation was then made that requirements for individuals eligible for appointment to such positions by the Pediatric Section be written into the Section's by-laws so as to guarantee ongoing adherence to the eligibility requirements as listed by the ACPNS. It was decided to await a response from the SNS before proceeding. Dr Luerksen will hold a meeting with program directors to inform them of this issue.

**New Business:**

DR Luerssen informed the executive that there continues to be reluctance on the part of the CNS to merge with the AANS. He also learned at the Executive Board meeting of the AANS that the Journal of Neurosurgery is in major financial difficulty. Their last year was \$365,000 in the red. They have recently approached Pediatric Neurosurgery to consider enfolding the Journal Into JNS with a pediatric supplement being published 6 times per year. Discussions will be going.

Requests have been made to supply two editors for Neurosurgical Focus and three candidates for editorship for the Neurosurgical Atlas. Drs. Cohen, Flannery and Winston have volunteered for the candidate positions for the atlas and volunteers will be solicited at the business meeting for Neurosurgical Focus.

Dr Abbott asked for the Executive Council to consider appointing a liaison to the ISPN. It was decided to ask for volunteers at the business meeting.

Dr Hadley has informed Dr Luerssen by letter that he has appointed Karin Muraszko to head a committee to establish guidelines for the management of pediatric brain tumors. The executive expressed concern about our lack of input in establishing such a committee or appointing its leadership. It was decided that a conversation will be held with Dr Muraszko to emphasize the importance of including representatives from Children's Oncology Group and other interested parties to insure multi-disciplinary representation in establishing these guidelines. These guidelines will have to be reviewed by the Section prior to their distribution.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Rick Abbott, M.D.  
Secretary