

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

JOINT SECTION ON PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

December 1, 1998
Caucus Room, Westin Hotel
Indianapolis, Indiana

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Dr. Marion L. Walker, Chairman.

In attendance were: Marion L. Walker, Thomas G. Luerssen, Andrew Parent, Frederick Boop, Alan R. Cohen, Joseph Piatt, Robin Humphreys, Mark Dias, Ann-Christine Duhaime, Sarah Gaskill, R. Michael Scott, Bruce Kaufman, N. Scott McClanahan, and Joseph Petronio.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the Executive Committee meeting of April 28, 1998 in Philadelphia and October 6, 1998 in Seattle were reviewed. Corrections were made specifically to the April 28, 1998 meeting to note the attendance of Dr. Boop, and then the minutes were approved.

Financial Report

The financial report was given by Dr. Luerssen. There has been a change in the accounting practices of the AANS but this has not affected the Joint Section's finances in any way. The financial picture of the section is good. The financial report was accepted.

Standing Committee Reports

Membership Committee

Dr. Duhaime reported for the Membership Committee. She noted a variety of problems revolving around the membership process for the Joint Section. The time from application to active membership is quite long and this has been distressful to some of the members. The application process is unclear to the applicants and cumbersome to the membership committee. Letters of reference are frequently not obtained on time or are forgotten. She recommended standardizing the process. She will present applicants with a check-list for application and will begin to develop a database to track the status of applicants.

The status of "active provisional" members was raised by Dr. Duhaime. Apparently, there is no provision for this membership status in the AANS bylaws. She

recommended that the active provisional status be removed from the membership category.

Finally, the publication of the roster of people who have applied to the section has not been circulated recently. It was recommended that this be posted both in short cuts and on the website. Dr. Duhaime will work with Dr. Dias about this.

The Executive Committee discussed the problems associated with the membership process. It was recommended that the entire process be streamlined and simplified. Dr. Cohen was directed by the Executive Committee to begin to draft the bylaws changes necessary to allow the membership process for the Joint Section to become more effective.

Finally, Dr. Duhaime proposed the following three members for membership in the Joint Section: James Baumgartner, Ahmed Zackeri, and Sayed Emadian. These members will be proposed to the membership at the business meeting on December 2, 1998.

Program and CME Committee

Dr. Boop reported for the Program and CME Committee. All of the CME paperwork for the current meeting has been completed and is on site.

Dr. Petronio reported about the next meeting of the Joint Section in Atlanta, December 1 through 4, 1999. The venue will be at the Grand Hyatt Buckhead. As requested by the section membership, this meeting will occur from Wednesday through Saturday, with two full days on Thursday and Friday and a half day on Saturday. Planning is in place to select the Ramondi Lecturer and the breakfast seminar topics.

Nominating Committee

Dr. Rekate filed his report in writing. Dr. Luerssen read Dr. Rekate's report to the committee. John P. Laurent was nominated to be the next president of the Joint Section. Ann Marie Flannery and Sarah Gaskill were nominated to be Members at Large, beginning their two-year terms in April, 1999.

Rules and Regulations Committee

Dr. Cohen reported for the Rules and Regulations Committee. He will be making the above requested changes to the bylaws and submit them to the membership for comment and correction.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Publications Committee

Dr. Gaskill reported for the Publications Committee. Two publications, "Tethered Cord" and "Chiari I Malformations" are just about ready to appear on the website. The "Dandy Walker" publication is in the final review process.

Traveling Fellowship Committee

Dr. R. Michael Scott reported for the Traveling Fellowship Committee. The committee is constituted of Dr. Scott as chairman, Alan Cohen and Kenneth Winston as members. There were six applications only two of which were fully completed. The committee recommended that these two applicants be awarded the traveling fellowships for 1999. One fellowship was awarded to David Sacco of the University of Kentucky to spend one month at the Children's Hospital Boston. The second fellowship was awarded to Glen Anderson of the University of Alberta to spend one month at the Children's Hospital Boston.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Humphreys reported for the Lifetime Achievement Award committee. The first Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented at the meeting on December 2, 1998. It was requested that the names of potential candidates for the next award be submitted to Dr. Humphreys, in writing, and with the necessary support letters.

Liaison Reports

American Academy of Pediatrics

Dr. Piatt discussed the status of the provisional Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Steering Committee has been constituted and met at the past AAP meeting in San Francisco. They established the governance of the section. The section will have provisional status for two years. During that time it is necessary for section members to participate fully in the programs of the AAP. This last year, a program was put in place in cooperation with the Critical Care Section regarding head injury. There is a plan in place to cooperate with the Emergency Medicine section for the upcoming meeting of the American Academy in 1999. Dr. Hector James is spear-heading this involvement.

Dr. Piatt and Dr. Walker emphasized the importance of participating in the American Academy of Pediatrics. The fall meetings will be the primary time for the Section on Neurological Surgery to meet. Every third year, this meeting occurs in San Francisco.

Finally, qualified members of the Joint Section will be notified about the mechanism for obtaining a fellowship in the American Academy of Pediatrics with the hopes of expanding the section roster.

Joint Council on State Neurosurgical Societies

Dr. McClanahan reported for the Joint Council on State Neurosurgical Societies. No specific discussions regarding pediatric neurosurgery were held over the past year. The minutes were submitted for the record and will be available for review by any section member.

New Business

A request from the American Board of Neurological Surgery

Dr. Scott reported the recent request of the American Board of Neurological Surgery to begin to assemble discussion and recommendations regarding subspecialization in neurosurgery. The Board is looking for feedback from the AANS and CNS sections regarding all of the issues revolving around fellowship training and potential certification or subcertification. A document is being prepared to establish fellowship training parameters in neurological surgery. The Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery has already submitted their recommendations regarding this document. Dr. Scott will present this request from the Board to the Pediatric Section membership at the upcoming business meeting. The entire time of the luncheon seminar on December 4, 1998 will be dedicated to a discussion and questions about this issue.

Joint Section Program at the AANS Annual Meeting, 1999

The Program for the section meeting during the AANS annual meeting in New Orleans 1999 was presented. Dr. Gary Schoenwolf will be the Donald D. Matson lecturer. The Shulman Award winner will be determined after the current Section meeting. No other changes in the program were undertaken.

Selection of the 2003 Meeting Venue.

Dr. Luerksen presented the requests from San Francisco, Miami, Los Angeles, Orange County and Lake Tahoe. All of these venues were discussed. After considerable debate, it was recommended that Miami be selected for the year 2003. All of the other proposed venues will be asked to reapply for the year 2004.

Outcomes Committee

Dr. Kaufman reported for the Outcomes Committee. While the process is moving slowly, there appears to be a substantial amount of support within the AANS Outcomes Committee to undertake an outcomes study in pediatric neurosurgery. Dr. Kaufman has proposed a shunt revision study and has created the beginnings of a report card for this. This will be taken to the Outcomes Committee for further development. Dr. John Kestle will participate in the development of this report card and we will try to get this study up and running as soon as the report card and the mechanism for reporting is completed. Dr. Kaufman will keep the Executive Committee apprised of the status of this project.

A Proposal for A Travel Award for a Neurosurgeon from a Third World country

Dr. Walker proposed a travel award for a foreign neurosurgeon to attend the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery meeting occurring this year in North America. Dr. Walker felt it would be important to try to bring a neurosurgeon from Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, South or Central America who would otherwise not be able to attend the meeting for financial purposes. There was a substantial amount of discussion about whether or not this would be an approved use of AANS funding. The time course seemed quite short. While we will investigate the mechanism of making an award such as this, Dr. Walker will also bring this request to the American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery.

Resident Travel Award proposed by NMT Neurosciences.

Dr. Walker brought forth a proposal from NMT Neurosciences to provide a \$5,000 award for resident traveling. This was acceptable to the executive committee. Dr. Walker will follow up with AANS leadership to be sure that this award is formulated and administered appropriately.

A request from the Quality Assurance Committee of the AANS

The Quality Assurance Committee of the AANS has requested a list of representatives of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery in order to investigate and provide information regarding issues relevant to pediatric neurosurgery. A letter from Dr. Allan Friedman, Chairman of the Drugs and Devices subcommittee of the QAC was presented.

In view of this, the Executive Committee elected to establish a new *ad hoc* Committee of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery, the "Quality Assurance Committee". The following members were nominated to this committee. James Drake, Sara Gaskill and Paul Grabb, who will act as the chairman.

Dissolution of the CPT Coding Committee

During the discussion of the formation of the Quality Assurance Committee, it was noted that the CPT committee had completed its task and had not met for some time. Given that, the committee was dissolved and Drs. Abbott and Piatt were thanked for their service to the Section.

A Request from the Washington Committee

Dr. Walker brought forth a request from the Washington Committee to have certain members of the Pediatric Section be available to the Washington Committee for issues related to pediatric neurosurgery. After a substantial amount of discussion, it was recommended that this group be constituted by the regular members of the Executive Committee, i.e., the chairman, the secretary/treasurer, and the four members of large. Responsibilities for this service which will require travel to Washington can be rotated among the available Executive Committee members.

A Request from the American Academy of Pediatrics

The American Academy of Pediatrics had forwarded some requested changes in CPT coding. All of these changes were reviewed by the committee and appear to be minor in nature. All of these were approved.

The Formation of a New Standing Committee: The Fellowship Program Directors

Dr. Walker brought forth a consideration put forth by the American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery. This involved the formulation of a new committee within the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery comprised of the fellowship program directors. The establishment of this committee will involve a bylaws change and Dr. Cohen was instructed to undertake the necessary changes in the bylaws and circulate them to the membership.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Thomas G. Luerssen, M.D.
Secretary/ Treasurer
Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

TGL/jld