

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

December 1, 1999
New York Room
Grand Hyatt Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia

Attendance

John P. Laurent, M.D., Chairman, Thomas G. Luerksen, M.D., Secretary - Treasurer, R. Michael Scott, M.D., C. Scott McLanahan, M.D., Joseph A. Petronio, M.D. (Non voting), Hector E. James, M.D. (Non voting), Sarah J. Gaskill, M.D., Alan R. Cohen, M.D., Robin P. Humphreys, M.D., Ann-Christine Duhaime, M.D., Frederick A. Boop, III, M.D., Ann Marie Flannery, M.D., Bruce A. Kaufman, M.D., Jeffrey J. Wisoff, M.D.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Dr. John P. Laurent, Chairman of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous Executive Committee Meeting, April 28, 1999 had been distributed previously and were also attached to the agenda. These were reviewed by the Executive Committee members. There were no corrections. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as written.

Financial Report

The financial report was given by Thomas G. Luerksen, Secretary-Treasurer. Assets to the Section have increased by \$25,000 over the past fiscal year. The Section is functioning within projected budgets. No changes in the dues structure were suggested. The financial report was accepted.

Address List

Contact information for the officers of the Joint Section was reviewed. Members should be in contact with Dr. Luerksen regarding any updates or corrections.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee Report was given by Ann-Christine Duhaime, Chairperson of that committee. The following applicants were proposed for active membership in the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery: John J. Collins, M.D., Eric Trumble, M.D., David Douglas Cochrane, M.D. and Karin Muraszko, M.D. It was moved and seconded that these members be proposed at the annual business meeting as Active Members in the Joint Section.

The following applicant was proposed as Associate Member of the Section: Miguel Pagan, P.A. It was moved and seconded that Mr. Pagan be proposed at the annual business meeting as an Associate member of the Joint Section. The following members were proposed as Foreign members: Prem Pillay of Singapore as Active Foreign member, and Jaffri Malin Abdullah and Awni Musharbash of as International Associate members. It was moved and seconded that these members be proposed as such at the business meeting.

The following members status was unclear to the membership committee, especially in regards to their membership status in the AANS and CNS: Nathan Selden, Allen Scarrow, Nalin Gupta, Jeffrey Campbell and Peter Sun. The applications of these prospective members were tabled pending determination of their status in the parent organizations.

Dr. Duhaime discussed the ongoing complexity of the membership process. Dr. Duhaime is already in the process of simplifying the application. She proposed to the committee that we undertake an analysis of the bylaws and try to change them in order to simplify the membership process. The major problem appears to be understanding the relationship of the potential members to the parent organizations.

Questions were posed regarding the ability of people who are still residents to join the Section. It was the feeling of the Committee that there was no mechanism for distinct and separate resident memberships in the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery .

The next issue discussed was whether or not Associate members should be paying dues. An investigation of this issue in the other sections indicated that most other sections of the AANS and CNS required some dues payment by Associate members in order to defray costs of mailings. It was moved that members who are in Associate status pay half of the dues required of regular members. This will be incorporated into the Bylaws analysis and the proposed changes will be added to the Rules and Regulations as indicated.

Rules and Regulations Committee

The report from the Rules and Regulations Committee was given by Dr. Cohen. There were no outstanding changes to be voted on at the upcoming business meeting. Dr. Cohen will form an Ad Hoc Committee to undertake the bylaws changes necessary to simplify the membership process and status in the Joint Section.

Program and CME Committee

The Program and CME Committee report was given by Frederick A. Boop, III, M.D., Chairman. Dr. Boop reported that all the CME accreditation for the current meeting had been completed. Dr. Boop requested participation in the selection of the Shulman Award and the Hydrocephalus Award. The following members of the Executive Committee were appointed to work with him to choose the awardees: Joseph Petronio, Sarah Gaskill and R. Michael Scott.

Dr. Boop reported on the plans for the upcoming Pediatric Section Meetings at the Congress of Neurological Surgeons meeting in San Antonio, 2000. He indicated there will be two half day sessions for the Pediatric Session. The overall structure of the sessions will remain unchanged. It was then proposed that the invited lectures be given by John P. Laurent on "Pediatric Brachial Plexus Injuries" and A. Leland Albright on "Movement Disorders." Dr. Boop will be in contact with Dr. Albright regarding the confirmation of his presentation.

In order to formalize the relationship with the Congress of Neurological Surgeons Program Committee it was proposed that the Chairman of the CME Committee of the Joint Section on Pediatric

Neurosurgery be the designated liaison to the Program Committee of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. This will continue the process that has been in place over the past several years.

Joseph A. Petronio gave the report for the ongoing winter meeting of the Section. He indicated that registration seemed to be on target. There were 24 nursing attendees. By all indications the meeting was on budget.

Hector James gave the report for the Winter Meeting of the Section, 2000, in San Diego. Contractual arrangements have been completed with the Hotel Del Coronado. There were reservations for 243 rooms for the Section. The dates of the meeting are Wednesday, December 6th through Saturday, December 9th, 2000. The overall structure of the meeting was still being determined but it was recommended that the general structure of the meeting be maintained with the cocktail party and reception Wednesday night, 2 full day sessions on Thursday and Friday and a half day session on Saturday. Dr. James, working with the CME Committee will bring proposals for the Raimondi Lecturer to the meeting of the Executive Committee in April, 2000.

Nominating Committee

The report from the nominating committee was given by Dr. Luerksen in Dr. Marion L. Walker's absence. The nominating committee proposed I. Richmond Abbot, M.D. for Secretary-Treasurer to begin his 3 year term April 2000. Philip H. Cogan, MD, Ph.D., and Douglas Brockmeyer, MD were proposed as Members at Large, beginning their 2 year term in April 2000. These nominations will be brought forth at the business meeting of the Section.

Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Reports:

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

Dr. Scott indicated there were four applications for the travelling fellowship for the year 2000. The committee determined that the winners will be Sanjay Mizra who will travel to the Children's Hospital -Boston, and David Sanberg who will travel to the Hospital for Sick Children-Toronto. Dr. Scott will be in contact with the winners.

It was moved that the stipend be raised to \$3000 in order to adequately cover the increasing costs of the travelling fellowship. This was seconded and approved by acclamation.

It was then suggested that the Section undertake an international travelling "residency" award. This would allow residents in training from various sites from around the world to attend an academic pediatric neurosurgery service in the United States. Dr. Scott will formulate the proposal and investigate the means of determining the winners of this award. Dr. Humphreys mentioned similar awards provided through orthopedic societies that have apparently functioned well over many years.

The Distinguished Service Award -- Robin P. Humphreys, MD

There have been no nominations for the Distinguished Service Award received by Dr. Humphreys. Dr. Luerksen will announce the availability of this award and the mechanism for nominations in the upcoming newsletter.

Neurosurgery On Call -- Mark S. Dias, M.D.
No report

Publications -- Sarah J. Gaskill, M.D.
Dr. Gaskill had indicated that the three patient education publications had been submitted to Neurosurgery On Call some time ago. They have yet to appear on the website. Dr. Gaskill will be in contact with Dr. Dias to find out the status of these publications.

It was suggested that these publications be added to the list-serve to be downloaded by the membership and thus be able to print copies for their own offices. While this mechanism was acceptable to the Executive Committee, it was suggested that we undertake a copyright of these materials. The Executive committee unanimously voted that these materials be copyrighted by the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery. Dr. Gaskill will undertake an investigation about the mechanism of achieving this goal.

American Academy of Pediatrics --Joseph H. Piatt, M.D.
No report

Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies --C. Scott McLanahan, MD. Dr. McLanahan provided his report in writing. This report is reproduced as Attachment 1.

Quality Assurance Committee -- Paul A. Grabb, M.D.
No report

Outcomes Committee -- Bruce A. Kaufman, M.D.
Dr. Laurent noted for the record that Dr. Kaufman was the winner of a prestigious award for communication in neurosurgery. The committee unanimously congratulated Dr. Kaufman on this award based on his work in the outcomes process and for the communications efforts in the AANS.

Dr. Kaufman presented a proposal for a shunt outcome study. The summary of Dr. Kaufman's report is attached to the minutes as Attachment 2. The cost to the Section would be \$3000 to a maximum of \$5000 for the setup of this outcomes study. Each report would cost \$1000 to prepare, on a one time basis. There would be no cost to membership to access the reports once the structure of the report has been prepared.

Apparently the data is owned by the "Outcomes Committee." There were some questions as to how the data would be used and whether there would be a strong benefit to this particular project to the membership of the Section. It was moved, seconded that the concept of the outcome study be presented to the Pediatric Section membership especially in regards to utility of an outcome database for an individual practitioner. It was suggested that this occur by way of a separate mailing to each individual section member with a sheet to be returned with comments. This was approved by the committee and Dr. Kaufman will undertake the preparation of this particular report and survey.

At present the Section executive elected not to proceed with the funding of an outcome study for shunts pending an analysis of the applicability of this to the individual membership of the Section.

Washington Committee -- Marion L. Walker. MD

The report was given by Dr. Laurent in Dr. Walker's absence. No specific items of interest to Pediatric Neurosurgery have been on the Washington Committee Agenda. Other issues related to this committee appear under New Business.

New Business:

CPT Codes for Programmable Shunts

Dr. Laurent circulated the request for a new CPT code for the purpose of programming programmable shunts. This had been initiated by Dr. Peter Carmel. Dr. Laurent had already responded on behalf of the Section in support of this proposal. This proposal is now working its way through the AMA and CPT coding committee.

Selection for the site for the Winter Meeting of the Section-2004.

A Proposal was presented from Mitchell Berger, M.D. the Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery, University of California-San Francisco and Warwick Peacock, M.D., Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at UCSF to have the winter meeting 2004 in San Francisco. This was approved by acclamation. Dr. Luerksen will notify with Dr. Berger about the meeting site.

The Matson Lecturer 2000

Dr. Laurent requested that R. Michael Scott and he undertake a search for the next Matson Lecturer. They will undertake this as soon as possible as the Matson lecturer will need to be named by January 2000 in order to be included in the program for the Spring meeting of the AANS.

Donation to Washington Committee

Dr. Laurent brought forth a request from the Washington Committee for a donation in order to support the endeavors of this committee. Other sections have donated \$5000 - \$10,000 to the Washington Committee. It was moved and seconded that the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery provide \$5000 to the Washington Committee for their activities. This was approved by acclamation.

Donation to "Think First"

Dr. Laurent brought forth a request for a donation to "Think First." After extensive discussion, it was decided, as in the past, that the Committee would not undertake a donation to "Think First" as this should be an individual decision by each section member.

Representation to Drugs and Devices Committee

Dr. Laurent brought forth a request from Richard G. Fessler, M.D., Ph.D., Chairman of Drugs and Devices Committee of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons regarding representatives from the Pediatric Section to the Drug and Devices Committee of the AANS.

It was noted that our committee had been established over a year ago and that these endeavors are part of the mission of the Section's Quality Assurance Committee. The chairman of this committee is Paul A. Grabb, M.D. Other members of the committee are Sarah J. Gaskill, M.D. and James Drake, M.D. Dr. Luerksen will communicate this to Dr. Fessler and remind the members of the committee of this commitment.

Contract with William Cheek, MD

Dr. Laurent brought forth a request for an agreement between the Joint Section and William Cheek, M.D. This involved the assignment of royalties from Dr. Cheek's Atlas of Pediatric Neurosurgery. The Executive Committee approved this agreement. Dr. Laurent executed the agreement on behalf of the Joint Section and it will be forwarded to J. Gordon McComb, MD, Chairman of the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons, for his endorsement.

ABNS Primary Exam Questions

A request from Dennis Spencer, M.D. regarding participation of the Pediatric Section in the writing of questions for the American Board of Neurological Surgery. This request was given to the Program and CME committee. Dr. Wisoff, vice chairman of the committee, will undertake the contact and appointment of necessary people for Dr. Spencer's purposes.

"Neurosurgery News"

A request regarding participation of the Section in "Neurosurgery News" was brought forth. "Neurosurgery News" apparently will be a tabloid newsletter provided to organized neurosurgery that will include socio-economic and other information about neurosurgery. It is scheduled to appear on a quarterly basis.

It was felt very strongly by the membership of the Executive Committee that the Pediatric Section's' newsletter, Short Cuts, was the most important avenue for distributing information to the Section membership. Short Cuts will be continued as previously published, two times per year, prior to the Spring and Fall meetings of the AANS and CNS respectively.

It was recommended that any news that was extra could be provided to "Neurosurgery News" on an ad hoc basis but no formal plans for routine submissions will be undertaken.

USA Today Advertisement

Dr. Laurent brought forth a request for \$10,000 in order to support media relations and advertising on behalf of neurosurgery. This involved the support of an insert planned for USA Today to be brought out in April 2000. Dr. Kaufman had some knowledge of this and will be providing some written material from Pediatric Neurosurgery. It did not appear to the Committee members that there would be any specific information regarding pediatric neurological surgery or pediatric patients. Therefore it was moved and seconded that the Section decline to support this endeavor. This motion was passed by 6 approving, 3 opposed, 2 abstaining.

It was then moved and seconded to reconsider support of this endeavor pending the ability to review the editorial content regarding pediatric neurosurgery. This motion was approved 6 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstaining. Dr. Laurent will communicate this response to the appropriate leadership within the AANS.

Texas Medicaid

Sarah J. Gaskill brought forth a request for letters regarding Texas Medicaid's decision to pay for shunt surgery performed only on an outpatient basis. Dr. Gaskill asked to address the membership of the Section at the Business Meeting regarding her position that this is not appropriate medical care, and to request letters of support. The Executive Committee approved of this presentation .

Work Force Survey

Ann Flannery brought forth a request to undertake another work force survey of the membership. This was approved by the Executive Committee

Adjournment

No other business was brought forth. The meeting was adjourned, sine die, at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Luerssen, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

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