

# **Executive Meeting**

## Joint Pediatric Section of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons-Congress of Neurological Surgeons

April 11, 2000

Pacific A  
San Francisco Marriott  
San Francisco, CA

### **Attendance**

John P. Laurent, M.D., Chairman, Rick Abbott, M.D., Secretary - Treasurer, Thomas G. Luerksen, M.D., R. Michael Scott, M.D., C. Scott McLanahan, M.D., Sarah J. Gaskill, M.D., Robin P. Humphreys, M.D., Frederick A. Boop, III, M.D., Ann Marie Flannery, M.D., Bruce A. Kaufman, M.D., Jeffrey J. Wisoff, M.D., Joseph H. Piatt, M.D., Philip H. Cogen, M.D., Douglas L. Brockmeyer, M.D., Timothy Mapstone, M.D. (non-voting), Jackie Lloyd (Director Marketing, AANS, non-voting)

### **Call to Order**

Dr. John P. Laurent, Chairman of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous Executive Committee Meeting, December 1, 1999 had been distributed previously. These were reviewed by the Executive Committee members. There were no corrections. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as written.

### **Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

#### **Financial Report**

Thomas G. Luerksen, past Secretary-Treasurer, gave the financial report. Assets to the Section have increased by \$44,000 over the past calendar 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. Abbott regarding any updates or corrections. The importance of correct e-mail addresses was stressed

### **Standing Committees Reports**

#### **Membership Committee**

Ann-Christine Duhaime, Chairperson of that committee, sent the Membership Committee Report. The following applicants were proposed for active membership in the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery: Darryl Warder, M.D., Mark Iantosca, M.D., Peter Sun, M.D. and Nalin Gupta, M.D. These applicants will be forwarded for consideration at the executive and business meetings of the Section to be held in San Diego in December 2000.

#### **Rules and Regulations Committee**

The report of Dr. Cohen's Ad Hoc Committee with regards changes in the bylaws necessary to simplify the membership process and status in the Joint Section have been published in Short Cuts. Dr. McLanahan noted that there were some typographical errors in the published proposed changes and that it was unclear as to what Board is being

referred to in Section 1, paragraph 1. These will be referred back to Dr Cohen for clarification and correction. Dr Laurent reports that there has been no negative correspondence to these proposed changes. These changes will be presented at the business meeting in San Diego for vote by the membership of the Section.

#### **Program and CME Committee**

Frederick A. Boop, III, M.D., Chairman gave the Program and CME Committee report. 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 structure of those half days will be one 50-minute session for an invited speaker followed by a coffee break. There will then be a session of short abstracts followed by a session of long abstracts. Dr. Laurent has been invited and has accepted the invitation to present "Pediatric Brachial Plexus Injuries". Dr A. Leland Albright, unfortunately, will be unable to present "Movement Disorders." Dr. Boop suggested another speaker or set of speakers for this topic. It was moved and seconded that a \$1000 Honorarium in addition to travel and lodging expenses be made available for the invited speaker for the topic. The executive committee passed the motion.

Concern was raised about Dr. Hector James' proposed structure for the meeting. Much of the concern centered on a proposed satellite course on coding to be offered the morning of Saturday, December 9th to be followed by an afternoon scientific session. Dr. Laurent will send Dr. James a letter stating the board's desire that Saturday morning contain a scientific session and that the proposed satellite course be held either Wednesday or Saturday afternoon.

#### **Nominating Committee**

There was no report

#### **Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Reports:**

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

Dr. Scott presented a description of the International Resident Traveling Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery. This will be a \$5000 award to neurosurgeons in training programs outside of Canada and the United States who wish to travel to North America to broaden their exposure to Pediatric Neurosurgery. The description is attached as Attachment 1. Funding was motioned, seconded and the board approved the funding of the fellowship.

Dr. Scott raised concerns on his part that his position as chairman for the traveling fellowships committee might be seen by some as being in conflict with the fact that, at present, over half of the funded fellows have attended his facility. He volunteered to relinquish the position. The board was strongly supportive of Dr. Scott's remaining as chairman and felt there was no indication of conflict of interest.

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

Dr. Humphreys presented letters of support for naming Dr. Shillito as the recipient of the award. It was moved and seconded that Dr. Shillito be given the award. This was moved, seconded and approved by the executive by acclamation.

##### **Neurosurgery On Call -- Mark S. Dias, M.D.**

Dr Dias sent a report to the Executive Committee stating that brochures dealing with the topics Dandy Walker Malformation and Chiari Malformations have been added to the Pediatric Section of Neurosurgery-on-Call. He also reported that the committee is

working on developing a database of neuroimages and surgical images with the goal of establishing a library of "classical Images" in Pediatric Neurosurgery.

He also suggested that the chairmanship of the NOC Committee be passed on to Dr Paul Grabb. Dr. Dias will remain in an advisory role. This has been accepted. Dr. Abbott has also been asked to be replaced.

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

Dr. Laurent reports that he has received correspondence for Neurosurgery Focus requesting topics and guidelines for subjects dealing with Pediatric Neurosurgery be submitted for on-line publication. The board expressed concern about issuing guideline papers but felt papers dealing with Pediatric Neurosurgery would be appropriate. Dr. Gaskill will work with Dr. Laurent in searching for topics and authors to meet this request.

Dr. Gaskill reports that simply affixing the copy write symbol followed by "The Joint Pediatric Section of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons-Congress of Neurological Surgeons" is adequate for copy write protection for the brochures dealing with Dandy Walker, Chiari malformation and tethered spinal cord which are to be posted on Neurosurgery-on-Call.

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

Dr. Piatt reports that there are now 42 neurosurgeons who have received fellowships from the American Academy of Pediatrics. He reports that the Neurosurgical section of the AAP which is provisional at present has been granted an additional year of provisional status. A presentation of neural tube defects is scheduled for presentation at AAP's fall meeting, as is a talk by Dr. Alan Cohen on neuroendoscopy. He also reports that consideration is now being given to the structure of the half-day session on Pediatric Neurosurgery that is to be held at the fall 2001 meeting of the AAP. Suggested are a scientific session of submitted papers or a panel of invited speakers addressing a chosen topic.

**Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies** --C. Scott McLanahan, MD. Dr. McLanahan requested he be replaced by Dr. Michael Heffner. This was approved.

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

Dr Grabb will replace Dr. Gaskill as chairman of this committee. He will remain as a member of the committee. Dr Gaskill requested that Dr. Liliانا Goumnervova become a member of the committee. The AANS Reimbursement Committee has requested a representative from the section attend their meetings. It was decided that this representative is to come from this committee. It was also decided that the name of this committee would be changed to The Quality Assurance and Reimbursement Committee.

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

Dr. Kaufman updated the Executive Committee on a proposal for a shunt outcome study. The AANS's outcome committee has been approached by a medical device company which proposes to donate \$50,000 to fund development of an outcome study tool which would reside at Neurosurgery-on-Call. Participation would be voluntary and blinded to outside observers. Participants, after inputting their outcome data would be able to retrieve a report analyzing their outcome and comparing it to a summary of all outcomes that had been reported to the database. Individuals desiring access to the database for research purposes would be required to present the request to the supervisory board (as determined by who supervised the development and then approved the structure of the outcome tool) for its approval. The findings of the board could be appealed to AANS Outcome Committee whose findings would be final. Dr. Kaufman reported that there is no question as to the AANS Outcome Committee's intention to proceed with the establishment of these tools. He requested that the Executive Committee give serious

consideration to sanction and sponsor these efforts with regards Pediatric Neurosurgical Topics in order to maintain control over the content of the surveys and, thereby, insure the accuracy of the conclusions being arrived at with these tools. Further, it would give the Executive Committee the opportunity of ruling on whether the data collected is representative and if it were to be released for scientific analysis and presentation. If the offer from the medical device company is accepted then there will be no financial costs to the Section for establishing or maintaining this service.

The committee raised concern about outside funding for this service and the fact that the accuracy of the database will be dependent on the extent of user-ship. The current outcome measures which are present on Neurosurgery-on-Call are not heavily utilized and serve little more than outcome analysis tools for individual practices. The committee requested that Dr. Kaufman draft a letter of understanding outline this proposed service, how it will operate and how it could be funded. This letter will then be published in Shortcuts and considered at an upcoming Business Meeting.

**Washington Committee** -- Marion L. Walker. MD  
No report.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Candidate Representatives from Pediatric Section for Executive Council, AANS**

Dr. Laurent reported that he had received a letter from Dr. Stewart Dunsker, President of the AANS, requesting that the section designate three candidates from whom a representative at large would be selected to sit on the Executive Council of the AANS. After discussion it was moved and approved that the names of the immediate past three presidents of the section (Hal Rekate, Jack Walker and Michael Scott) be forwarded to Dr Dunsker.

##### **CPT Codes for Programmable Shunts**

Dr. Laurent circulated RUC forms needed for establishing CPT codes for re-programmable shunt. 6 additional forms are needed before request for establishing reimbursement for the codes can be established by AMA Relative Value Update Committee.

##### **The Matson Lecturer 2000**

Dr. Laurent reported that Dr. Donald Reigel is unfortunately ill and will not be able to attend this meeting to deliver this address or receive the award. It was motioned, seconded and approved that a \$1000 donation be given to the Woodlands Foundation in Dr. Reigel's name. It is the Committee's hope that Dr Reigel will be able to deliver his talk at next years meeting.

##### **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. It was moved and seconded that the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery provide \$10,000 to the Washington Committee for their activities. This was approved by acclamation.

##### **Donation to "Think First"**

The Board then considered a presentation delivered by Dr. David Adelson just prior to the convening of this meeting. Dr. Adelson stated that Think First had recently undergone restructuring in order to address outside concerns over budgetary expenditures. At present he stated that 75% of funds raised were being directed toward funding of an

endowment whose goal is to reach \$3,000,000. This interest earnings from this fund would then be used to defray administrative costs for the organization. At present, the fund has \$625,000. After funding of the endowment is complete, all future funds raised will be used for programs funded by Think First. The remaining 25% of funds currently being raised are going to the redevelopment of Think First programs with 70% of these funds (17-18% of all funds raised) being used for administrative costs associated with fund raising.

The Board remained concerned about a lack of access to Think First's business plan and its budget. There was also concern expressed about the degree of past expenditure by the national executive group. A motion was then presented and seconded that a letter of rejection of the request of funds be sent to Think First stating that we were awaiting submission by Think First to us of their formal business plan and budget. A motion to amend this motion was then made and seconded. The amendment was then approved, as was the motion to send the letter by acclamation.

### **FDA Molding Helmets**

Concern was raised about the recent FDA approval of the DOC Molding Helmet. The Board requested the Dr. Fredrick Boop draft a position statement to be presented at the Business meeting in San Diego in December 2000

Request for Candidates for at-large membership to Executive Board, AANS  
Dr. Laurent reported that he had received a request from the Dr. Stewart B. Dunkser, President-Elect, AANS for three members from the Pediatric Section as candidates for at-large membership to the Executive Board of the AANS. It was motioned and seconded that the three past Chairman of the Joint Pediatric Section of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons-Congress of Neurological Surgeons be presented for his consideration. This was approved by accumulation.

### **Old Business**

#### **Position Statement for Intrauterine Surgery**

At present the position paper has been published in Shortcuts. It has not been disseminated elsewhere. It was motioned and seconded that it be sent to Executive Board of the AANS for their review and approval. This was approved. Intent of Board is to disseminate the position paper once the approval from the Executive Board of the AANS has been received.

#### **USA Today Advertisement**

Dr. Laurent passed around a copy of the USA Today advertising insert. In response to questions, Ms. Jackie Lloyd, Marketing Director for the AANS, stated that the impact of this insert will be assessed by alteration in web traffic for Neurosurgery-on-Call over the next several weeks.

It was then moved and seconded to fund the project \$3000. This motion was approved by acclamation

No other business was brought forth. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Abbott M.D.  
Secretary-Treasurer