

Executive Meeting

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

April 25, 2001

Essex Room
Sheraton Centre
Toronto

Attendance

John P. Laurent, M.D., Chairman, Rick Abbott, M.D., Secretary - Treasurer, Frederick A. Boop, III, M.D., Alan R. Cohen, M.D., Tina Duhaime, M.D., Tom Luerksen, M.D., Andrew Parent, M.D., Joseph Piatt, M.D., R. Michael Scott, M.D., Jeffrey J. Wisoff, M.D., Marion Walker, M.D., Kathleen Crain (non-voting), Ronald Engelbreit, CPA (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 7, 2000 had been distributed previously and were also attached to the agenda. These were reviewed by the Executive Committee members and approved by acclamation.

Financial Report

Rick Abbott, Secretary-Treasurer, gave the financial report. The section's assets have increased by \$15,000 due to unexpected revenue from the December meeting. Mr. Ronald Engelbreit, Deputy Executive Director of the AANS was then introduced. He explained that changes in the accounting practices for the Section's funds have been set in place and that we should anticipate a consistency in accounting from this point forward. He also stated that staff expenses for the Section should decrease owing to new accounting procedures.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee – Tina Duhaime, M.D.

The following applicants were proposed:

Gerald Tuite, M.D. (St. Petersburg, FL), Michael Medlock, M.D. (Boston, MA) Karl Kothbauer, M.D., (New York, NY), Mark Krieger, M.D., (New York, NY), Shenandoah Robinson, M.D., (Cleveland, OH), David Harter, M.D., (Chicago, IL), Todd Maugans, M.D., (Burlington, VT). It was moved, seconded and passed to recommend to our membership at the upcoming business meeting that all candidates be admitted for membership. Dr Duhaime requested that the 30-day circulation of candidates' names to membership be dropped from the by-laws. After discussion it was decided to draft the proposed change in the by-laws and submit the proposed change to membership at the December meeting.

Rules and Regulations Committee

Dr Cohen reported on changes made to the by-laws committee to divide the position of Secretary/Treasurer into two positions. The board approved these changes being presented to membership for their approval at today's business meeting

Program and CME Committee

The Program and CME Committee

Dr Wisoff reported that there had been poor compliance by participants at our scientific meeting with regards turning in evaluation forms. For the last two meetings only 15% of attendees returned their forms. He recommended consideration of use of bar codes or other tracking systems to encourage participation. He intends to investigate costs involved and suggested use of such a system at the up coming New York meeting as a pilot study.

Nominating Committee

Dr. Marion L. Walker's gave the report from the nominating committee. The nominating committee proposed Jeffrey Wisoff, M.D for the new position of Treasurer. These nominations will be brought forth at the business meeting of the Section.

Representation to Executive Council of AANS

Dr. Walker reported that there was some displeasure at the Executive Council over his published editorial citing the American Academy of Pediatrics' position paper on the use of pediatric subspecialist for the surgical care of children. It is unclear at present what, if any, response will be forth coming

Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Reports:

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

No report

The Distinguished Service Award – Robin Humphreys

No report

Neurosurgery On Call – Paul Grabb, M.D.

No report

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

Dr. Gaskill submitted her report to Dr Laurent. In it she stated that she has been having difficulties in submitting material to be published on the AANS's website. Kathleen Craig stated that Dr Warren Selman is the person to submit the material to.

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

Dr Piatt reported that the Neurosurgery Section of the AAP has submitted a request to be made a fully empowered Section of the AAP and that this application is working its way through committees at present. The Section will host two workshops at the up coming AAP annual meeting in San Francisco on October 20th – 24th. One workshop will be on head injury, the other, to be given in conjunction with the plastic surgery section, will be on cranial deformity.

Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies –

No report.

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

No report

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

Dr Kaufman submitted his report requesting that the executive consider going forward with an outcomes study on shunting of hydrocephalus. It was decided to await a more complete proposal prior to giving any approval.

Washington Committee -- Marion L. Walker, MD

Dr. Walker reported that the Washington committee has been effective in presenting neurosurgical issues in Washington and recommends continued support from the Section.

Old Business:

Resident membership was discussed. While the board agrees with the importance of encouraging resident participation in the section it still is unclear as to what the costs of granting a special membership would be. Dr Flannery will be asked to give the executive a clear idea of costs of sending Shortcuts to residents. There was a discussion of inserting encouraging invitations to residents in our section's call for abstracts.

New Business:

Dr Laurent shared a letter from Ms. Emily Fudge of the Hydrocephalus Association asking the Section to insure the awarding of their prize at our winter meetings for the best resident paper on hydrocephalus. Discussion centered on the recent poor quality of papers being submitted and a question was raised if prize could be given to a worthy resident investigator instead. Dr. Walker made the observation that \$500 would not mean much to such an investigator. He would discuss the question with Ms. Fudge.

Dr. Laurent also shared a letter from Ms. Fudge requesting our support in her battle against Fox Sports about their ad campaign using an actor appearing as a hydrocephalic. We will draft a letter of support and submit it to the AANS's Executive Council for their approval.

Mr. Mark Miller, acting director of the Center for Health Plans and Providers, has requested a member of the section being named to be immediately available to him for review of any changes in HCFA guidelines. These changes would need to be reviewed and commented upon within 30 days of submission for review. Dr Luerssen will proceed with this.

Dr. Joseph Piatt next discussed the need for higher ethical standards in judging abstracts submitted for presentations at our meetings. It was moved and seconded for Dr. Piatt to draft a statement to be appended to our call for abstracts stating the importance of ethical design in any research involving human subjects and that the abstract review committee would ask for the Institutional Review Boards letter of approval for any study where there was a question about the ethical design.

Dr Michael Scott raised the issue of adequacy of candidates for the Shulman award at our most recent meeting. It was moved, seconded and approved to include fellows as candidates for the award from this point forward. Dr Scott also raised concern about the number of institutions presenting more than one paper at the last meeting. The Executive felt that in the future ever effort should be made not to allow more than two papers to be presented from any institution and that a different presenter should give the two papers.

Dr Rick Boop next asked for the boards support in the form of a letter to the House of Representatives for passage of HR272, the Child Disability Act. Dr Boop will draft such a letter, which will then be submitted to the Executive Council of the AANS for their approval.

Dr Boop also announced that there would soon be 6 new CPT codes for intracranial endoscopy. There will also be a modification of the current code for stereotactic endoscopy with removal of the wording about application of a rigid frame.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Rick Abbott, M.D.
Secretary/Treasurer