

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

April 9th, 2002

McCormick Place
Chicago, IL

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), Bruce Kaufman, M.D. (non-voting), John Kestle, M.D. (non-voting), Cheryl Muszynski, 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), Kathleen Craig, (Non voting).

Call to Order

Dr. Thomas G. Luerksen, 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, November 28, 2001 had been distributed previously. These had been 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 \$31,000 in the black. He anticipates that this figure will diminish to around \$20,000 as ongoing staff expenses and final bills for the winter meeting in New York are submitted. Going forward he announced that headquarters would be submitting an estimate for staff expenses for services it was expected to render for the Section to allow for its inclusion in the annual budget due yearly on July 1st. This estimate would be a capped expense that headquarters could not exceed in spite of their costs for doing requested labor. Any outside expense increases or additional labor requested by the Section would be passed back to the Section to be paid. It is anticipated that this will eliminate the surprised staff expenses that having been showing up on our financial ledger over the past two years and thus greatly facilitate the budgeting process.

Program Chairman:

Dr. Harold Rekate reported that contracts have been signed for the winter meeting to be held at the High Gainey Ranch in Scottsdale. Committee meetings will be held during the day on Wednesday, December 4th, 2002. The opening reception will be the evening of the 4th with the scientific meeting running the 5th, 6th and 7th with the main session ending midday on the 7th. It has yet to be determined whether there will be an evening seminar on the 7th.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee

Dr Tina Duhaime gave the Membership Committee Report. The following applicants were proposed:

For Active Membership:

David Gruber, MD; Spokane
Jeffrey Campbell, MD; Charleston
Howard Weiner, MD; New York
Nathan Selden, MD; Portland
Mark Mittler, MD; New Hyde Park
George Burson, MD; Little Rock

For Associate Membership:

Michael Nido, PA; Charlotte

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

Deferred to New Business

Program and CME Committee

Ann-Marie Flannery, M.D, will be assembling the pediatric neurosurgical program for the upcoming CNS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. There will be two afternoon sessions, each lasting 2 ½ hours. Plans are to complete outline of program by week's end.

Nominating Committee

No Report

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 – Doug Brockmeyer, M.D.

Dr Luerssen reports that Dr. Brockmeyer is in process of reinvigorating Pediatric section of Neurosurgery ON-Call. He has requested membership to submit information about upcoming meetings and useful links which might be helpful to our membership.

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

No report

American Academy of Pediatrics --Joseph H. Piatt, M.D.
See Appendix 1.

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 discussion about pending legislation to govern working hours of residents and a recent edict from the Department of Immigration stating that J1 visas would no longer be issues for fellows in non-ACGME accredited fellowships. A resolution was passed at their meeting condemning the edict and requesting its reversal.

Quality Assurance Committee – John Kestle, M.D.
No report

Outcomes Committee -- Bruce A. Kaufman, M.D.
Dr Kaufman reported that both the AANS and CNS have voted to withdraw funding for the Outcome Committee's outcome assessment tools. Consequently, the \$10,000 budgeted for the shunt outcome assessment tool will not be spent.

Washington Committee -- Marion L. Walker, MD
The CPT codes for endoscopic procedures have been completed and acceptable RUVs have been assigned to them. There is a question as to whether or not the committee should pursue obtaining a CPT code for laminoplasty. It is felt that this being a relatively new procedure would allow for application as a "new technology" which would result in new funding for code and no deduction from any other CPT code funding.

Dr Peter Carmel has sought and received support from the committee for his candidacy as a delegate to the AMA. This will include funding support from the Washington Committee.
Committee was briefed by a senior staff member of Sen John Conner's office about pending legislation governing number of hours residents can work. This legislation is being strongly lobbied for by AMSAC and Dr Walker showed us a brochure being distributed by this organization in support of this legislation. The Washington Committee has drafted a letter of response strongly against this bill.

The Washington Committee has requested funding from the Section at a level comparable to last year, namely \$10,000. Dr Luerksen has replied that once our budget has been reviewed we will fund this request to the best of our ability. Dr Boop offered a resolution that the Section would fund this request based on our ability to pay up to the requested \$10,000. This was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

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:

None

New Business:

Dr Luerssen proposed that a new office, President Elect, be created. His rationale was that the Section was increasingly being asked to provide representation at various meetings throughout the year. These meetings frequently conflicted with other obligations of the President making representation difficult. This new officer could share the burden insuring greater representation of the Section at the requested meetings. Dr Muszynski then presented a draft Bylaws change establishing the office. The Executive then agreed to circulate this proposal to the membership and to hold a special business meeting at the CNS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia to vote on the measure.

Dr Luerssen reported on discussions held with Lisa Sykes with regards the timely reservation of hotel space for our annual winter meeting. Ms. Sykes stated that there has been a recent personnel change which accounts for delay in reservations for New York, Scottsdale and Miami meetings but it is their intent to book hotels 3 or more years in advance going forward from the present.

Dr Flannery proposed that a new resident award be created for the best clinical research paper presented at our annual winter meeting. She proposed that this be given a status similar to the Shulman award. After discussion where concern was raised about possibly lessening the stature of the Shulman award, the proposal was tabled for future consideration.

At this point, Dr. Luerssen adjourned to meeting so members might attend the Section's Scientific Session. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Rick Abbott, M.D.
Secretary