

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

April 9th, 2002

Carlsbad Room
San Diego Marriott and Marina
San Diego, CA

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), Sarah Gaskill, MD (non-voting), David Gruber, MD (non-voting), Michael Heffner, M.D. (non-voting), Bruce Kaufman, M.D. (non-voting), John Kestle, M.D. (non-voting), Michael Medlock, MD (non-voting), Cheryl Muszynski, M.D. (non-voting), Michael Scott, M.D. (non-voting), Kenneth Winston, M.D. (non-voting), Ron Engelhard, (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 held on December 4th, 2002 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. He anticipates a net revenue of \$18,000 for fiscal year 2003. Our annual meeting continues to be our major expense and it is also our major source of income with sponsorships being critically important to the meeting's finishing in the black. He also reported that \$70,000 or the \$135,000 held in long term investment has previously been designated for expenses related to the Shulman Award. In spite of this for the past several years al expenses for the Shulman fund have been taken from general funds of the Section. He recommended that going forward these expenses should be paid for our of Funds set aside for the Shulman Award. Dr Scott at this point informed the Executive that this designation of funds had been done by a previous Executive Council and that it could be rescinded by a vote of the Executive. As a consequence Dr Luerksen proposed that expenditures for the Shulman Award continue to be paid for out of general funds.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee

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

For Active Membership:

Peter B. Dirks, M.D. (Toronto)
David H. Harter, M.D. (NY Medical College)
John A. Lancon, M.D. (University of Mississippi)
Jeffrey G. Ojemann, M.D. (Washington University)
Hal Meltzer, M.D. (San Diego)

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

No Report

Program and CME Committee

Ann-Marie Flannery, M.D, reported that a seminar on effective communication in medicine will be offered by the Section at the up-coming Congress of Neurological Surgeons at their annual meeting in Denver this fall. Drs Joseph Madsen and Alan Cohen will be part of the faculty and a third will be selected. The Executive authorized Dr Flannery to spend up to \$3000 for travel and honorarium for this speaker.

Nominating Committee

No Report

Annual Meeting Program Chairman:

Dr. John Kestle reported on the up-coming winter meeting to be held in Salt Lake City from December 2nd to December 5th, 2003. A post meeting ski vacation will be offered to registrants. Dr Brockmeyer is also planning on a pre-meeting spine course and a coding course might also be offered following the meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Reports:

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

Dr Scott reported that ads have been placed in journals announcing the fellowships sponsored by the Section. Some applications for 2004 have been received. He reported that increasingly applicants for the international fellowships are graduates of training programs and not residents. He recommended that the Executive authorize consideration of these post-graduates applicants for the the international fellowships. Dr Luerksen then moved to expand eligibility for the international fellowships to include applicants who were within 5 years of completion of training and who had had no prior training in the United States. This motion was seconded and approved by acclamation.

The Distinguished Service Award – Robin Humphreys

No report

Neurosurgery On Call – Doug Brockmeyer, M.D.

Dr Abbott reported that the AANS and CNS have decided to develop their own separate websites under the umbrella of Neurosurgery On Call. Dr Ali Rezai has been appointed the editor for the Congress's site and will be selecting a board of editors. Dr. Kestle will be informing Dr Brockmeyer of this so he can contact Dr Rezai about being on this board or selecting a substitute who would represent the Section.

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

A monograph on myelomeningoceles will be submitted to Neurosurgical Focus in December this year and will be published in February 2003.

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

See Appendix 1.

Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies – Michael Heafner, M.D.

Dr Heafner and Dr Boop reported that Dr Boop had just been elected Chairman of the CSNS. They reported that the two main discussion points at the meeting were the fact that the ABNS would require 60 hrs/yr of CME to qualify for recertification and the proposal that neurosurgeons be assessed \$1000/yr for three years to fund a campaign for passage of the medical liability reform act currently before the Senate. They reported that the CSNS had agreed to contribute \$5000 of its funds to this project

Quality Assurance Committee – John Kestle, M.D.

No report

Washington Committee – Tom Luerssen, MD

Dr Luerssen reported that the most recent meeting of this organization was dominated by Drs Dunsker and Polofsky's presentation of an action plan to campaign for passage of the medical liability reform act currently before the Senate. At the meeting they asked for each attendee to pledge contributing \$1000/yr for the next three years to the Neurosurgeons to Preserve Health Care Access, to urge their colleagues to do the same by publicly advocating for this at their various meetings and to propose to the organization they represented to contribute funds from their treasuries. When asked to vote on this measure Dr Luerssen abstained out of a concern that he had no guidance from our membership. Several members at this point expressed concern about voting funding of such a project without guidance from the membership. It was elected to inform our membership of this issue at the Business meeting but not to vote on any measure as we have yet to be formally asked to make such a contribution. Dr Boop agreed to make the presentation.

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

ANSPAC – Michael Medlock, MD

This year roughly \$330,000 was raised with 44% going to Republican candidates, and 24% to Democrats. 23% of the funds raised were used for expenses and 9% was held in reserve. 80% of Republicans supported won their race and 93% of the Democrats. Dr Medlock reports that our lobbyists are now requested to be present during the formulation of bills pertaining to our field as a result of these efforts.

AANS Executive Committee Meeting– Tom Luerssen, MD

The major issue discussed at their executive meeting pertaining to the Section was supporting the efforts to campaign for passage of the medical liability reform act. Dr Luerssen also reported that Dr Popp will be the new chairman and that a write in candidate for Vice President, Dr Randy Smith, won on a platform for unification of the AANS and the CNS. In spite of this there is no movement in this direction and in fact the

leadership stated that in spite of sincere efforts by both organizations there were simply too many differences to consider this issue at the present time.

CNS Executive Committee Meeting – Rick Abbott, MD

There will be a Career Development Course offered just prior to the annual meeting in Denver this fall. Dr Ali Rezai has been appointed editor of the Congress's new website. He has been asked to develop educational content for the site and he will be appointing a board of editors to help him with this. SANS IV will soon be available on the web. The developers will be approaching the Sections for assistance in developing questions relevant to their field for ongoing updating. Mark Hadley stressed the importance of the development of guidelines on topics he has selected and requested of the Sections. Our section has been asked to participate in the development of guidelines for the treatment of pediatric brain tumors.

Old Business:

Fellowship accreditation by the Society of Neurological Surgeons (SNS) – Tom Luerssen, MD

Dr Luerssen anticipates ½ of the currently ACPNS accredited fellowships will be applying for certification by the SNS. These applications will first be reviewed by Drs Luerssen and Parent and will then be forwarded to the SNS's Committee for Accreditation of Surgical Training (CAST).

Representative to the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery – Rick Abbott, MD

Drs David Gruber, Cheryl Muszynski and Dale Swift have volunteered for this position. Their names have been forwarded to Dr Andrew Parent for his selection.

New Business:

Liaison to the American Association of Family Practitioners (AAFP) – Todd Maugans, MD

See Appendix 2. Tabled pending Dr Maugans being appointed by AAFP to a position representing their organization.

Pediatric Neurosurgical Research Forum – Todd Maugans, MD

See Appendix 3. Tabled

Nomination of representative to AANS Education and Practice Management Committee – Tom Luerssen, MD

Dr Luerssen nominated Dr David Gruber to this position and it was passed by acclamation.

Neurosurgery News request for content – Tom Luerssen, MD

Dr. Luerssen reported that he was asked by the editors of Neurosurgery News for contributions to their upcoming edition. It is his feeling that the Section is receiving too many of these types of request and he declined the request.

EMC2 Request – Tom Luerssen, MD

Dr Luerssen received a request from Dr Christopher Loftus for a list of meetings of interest to our membership outside of AANS or CNS meetings including Section meetings to be included in list of AANS "Joint Sponsorship" of CME credits. The annual meetings of the ISPN, ASPN and AAP Section on Neurological Surgery were given to Dr Loftus.

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

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'R' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Rick Abbott, M.D.
Secretary

Appendix 1

Memorandum

DATE: 4 April 2003

TO: Executive Committee
The Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

FROM: Joseph Piatt, MD, FAAP

RE: Section on Neurological Surgery
of the American Academy of Pediatrics

- **Membership**
- **Elections: Officers and Bylaws**
 - *Sub-boards for Pediatric Surgical Subspecialties*
- **Collaborations**
- **National Conference and Exhibition Programs and Dates**

At the time of the October 2002 Meeting of the Executive Committee, there were **58 specialty fellows** in the Section on Neurological Surgery (SoNS) of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), including 1 Emeritus Fellow, Dr Martin Johnson from Portland, Oregon. Membership applications were approved for 3 new fellows, Drs Bermans Iskandar, Howard Weiner, and Daniel Won.

Elections to approve changes in the bylaws and to elect new officers to the Executive Committee are in progress at the time of this writing. If approved as anticipated, the requirements for membership in the SoNS will be

1. Certification in Neurological Surgery by the American Board of Neurological Surgery and/or by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
2. Certification by the American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery and/or devotion of seventy-five percent (75%) or more of current practice to the neurosurgical care of infants, children, and adolescents through age 21
3. Letters of recommendation from 2 Fellows or Specialty Fellows in the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Running unopposed for vacant positions on the Executive Committee are Drs **P David Adelson, Thomas Luerssen, and Andrew Parent**. Continuing in their current positions are Drs Jack Walker (Chair), Joseph Piatt (Chair-elect), Hector James (Secretary), and Gordon McComb.

The topic of sub-boards for pediatric surgical subspecialists was on the agenda at a meeting of the Surgical Advisory Panel with the Board of Directors last month. **The Board of Directors of the AAP has committed to support the development of a sub-board in pediatric urology.** That support will take the form of lobbying efforts in the forum of the American Board of Medical Specialties by representatives of the American Board of Pediatrics. Pediatric urology was chosen as a test case because of the Section of Urology's long history of activity in the AAP (the Section's annual meeting at the AAP is the major annual scientific meeting of the subspecialty) and the advanced state of their preparations (pediatric urology fellowships are already accredited by the American Council on Graduate Medical Education). If the push for pediatric urology is successful, other subspecialties may follow.

The AAP is divided into 3 parts: **sections, committees, and chapters.** Sections are organized around professional interests. There are subspecialty sections, there are (large!) sections devoted to such things as breastfeeding and telephone medicine, and there are multidisciplinary sections devoted to matters such as environmental health and sports medicine. Committees are appointed by the Board of Directors to meet specific needs for advocacy or policy development. Chapters are state and regional organizations for front-line, practicing pediatricians. A goal of the SoNS is to make itself useful to the Academy by establishing liaisons with certain committees and with every state and regional chapter to provide neurosurgical input on matters of shared concern. Current examples: Dr David Adelson is collaborating with the Committee on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention to develop educational programs for pediatricians and curricula for schools on prevention of traumatic brain injury. Dr Mark Dias is working with the Committee on the Fetus and the Newborn to write guidelines for the multidisciplinary care of neonates with multiple congenital anomalies.

Dates and locations for future AAP **National Conferences and Exhibitions** (NCEs):

- New Orleans, LA: 1 – 5 November 2003
- San Francisco, CA: 9 – 13 October 2004
- Washington, DC: 8 – 12 October 2005

The SoNS will have a business meeting in New Orleans, but its proposals for educational seminars were not accepted for the program. Seminar proposals have been submitted for the 2004 NCE on the

management of spasticity in children, on the evaluation of suspected CSF shunt failure, and the management of epilepsy, in collaboration with the Sections on Orthopedics, Emergency Medicine, and Neurology, respectively.

The SoNS has a **website**. Visit <http://www.aap.org/sections/neursurg/> for a directory of members, announcements about upcoming events, and other information.

Neurosurgeons interested in **Specialty Fellowship** in the American Academy of Pediatrics can learn more about the application process at the AAP website <http://www.aap.org/member/memcat.htm>.

Respectfully.

Joseph Piatt, MD

Appendix 2

Memorandum

To: Executive Committee, AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

From: Todd Maugans, M.D., Assistant Professor
and Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery
University of Vermont, College of Medicine

Date: April 18, 2003

Re: Liaison Position with the American Academy of Family Physicians

Based on previous discussions with Drs. Luerssen, Parent and Abbott, I have carried out a series of communications with Executive Members of the American Academy of Family Physicians in regards to the creation of a liaison position between our two organizations. Conceptually, this would allow a positive dialogue to develop between our two organizations, realizing that approximately 30% of children in the United States are cared for by family physicians. Although this position was initially outlined as analogous to that existing with the American Academy of Pediatrics, my discussions with Dr. Perry Pugno and Dr. Daniel Ostergaard at the AAFP indicate that a substantially different relationship needs to be developed. Specifically, the AAFP has no formalized relationships with other medical specialties to the degree afforded by the AAFP. Drs. Pugno and Ostergaard, however, were very positive about developing a formalized but looser liaison position between our two organizations, facilitating dialogue between the two organizations on relevant topics. Issues discussed included topics as far ranging as positional plagiocephaly and the care of children with shunted hydrocephalus. It is also likely that pediatric neurosurgeons could write significantly for the official journal of the AAFP, The American Physician. Finally, attendance at the two primary meetings of the AAFP by the liaison or a representative of the Joint Pediatric Section is highly encouraged.

At the present time, a series of formal written communiqués are being developed between Dr. Ostergaard and myself to solidify our discussions. It would be my suggestion that the Executive Committee of the Joint Pediatric Section formally create a liaison position to the AAFP. As it is presently construed, this position should not generate additional burdens or expenses for the Joint Section. The liaison would interface directly with the executive committees of both organizations. The liaison would have access to the membership and the resources of the Joint Section for the development of projects, programs, presentations, etc. as approved by the Executive Committee.

I enthusiastically volunteer my time and service to this position, if approved by the Executive Committee. Being residency trained and Board Certified in Family Practice, I feel uniquely qualified to be appointed to such a position.

I look forward to future dialogue in regard to this proposal.

Appendix 3

Memorandum

To: Executive Committee, AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

From: Todd Maugans, M.D., Assistant Professor
and Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery
University of Vermont, College of Medicine

Date: April 18, 2003

Re: Development of a Pediatric Neurosurgical Research Forum

At the 31st Annual AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery, I presented the results of a census survey exploring issues related to Pediatric Neurosurgical Research. An overwhelming majority of responders supported the notion of developing an internet-based forum for the discussion of research. Through electronic correspondence, I have presented this notion to Drs. Luerssen, Parent and Abbott. I was directed to create a formal presentation for the San Diego Executive Committee Meeting. However due to time constraints, the agenda will not allow for this to be presented orally. The following is offered as a conceptual outline of my proposal.

As a member of the AANS Digital Technology Committee I have recently initiated a project to explore the development of an internet-based pediatric neurosurgical forum. This will be an agenda item for the Digital Technology Committee Meeting on April 27, 2003.

The proposed on-line forum would be a commercial software product installed on the main server at the AANS, linked to the Neurosurgical On-Call website. Upon entering the forum section, participants would have the opportunity to enter one of several general discussion groups, (e.g. brain storming, hydrocephalus, CNS neoplasm, open trials, etc.). Within each of these groups, an individual could submit a posting, which would initiate or contribute to a specific topic for discussion. Each section would be assigned an administrator who would monitor program content and etiquette. The software would allow communication directly between participants via regular e-mail, as well as dialogue within a bulletin board-formatted venue.

A one to two year pilot project is being proposed to the Digital Technology Committee. This project would be underwritten by a third party sponsor (Phoenix Biomedical, Inc has demonstrated interest). The project would be overseen by a member of the Digital Technology Committee and evaluated for its benefit to the

membership as well as problems. Ultimately, it is proposed that such forums could be expanded for other subspecialties.

The financial and logistical burden on the Joint Pediatric Section would be nil. Members of the Section would be petitioned to serve as administrators for the various discussion groups. Promotion of the website via publications such as Journal of Neurosurgery, Pediatric Neurosurgery and the Joint Pediatric Section Newsletter would be encouraged.

In summary, I am petitioning the Executive Committee of the Joint Pediatric Section for its support and guidance on the above proposal to create an internet-based forum. I will serve as the initial contact person pertaining to this project, under the auspices of the Digital Technology Committee of the AANS.