

**Business Meeting Minutes**  
**Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery**  
**2006 Winter Meeting**

Thursday, November 30, 5:00 pm  
Denver Marriot Ballroom, Denver, CO

**Call to Order** at 5:00 pm by Dr. Rick Abbott, Section Chairman

**Approval of Minutes from Spring 2006 meeting** – Dr. Duhaime, Secretary  
Moved for approval and accepted by acclamation.

**Financial Report** – Dr. Alan Cohen, Treasurer

The Section remains in very favorable financial balance. Total assets as of November 2006 exceed \$573,000, which represents an increase from last year. Some of these monies will be transferred to long-term accounts. The Executive Committee has designated some of these assets to support various educational projects, as will be outlined below.

**Membership Committee** – Dr. Abbott for Dr. Kestle

New members proposed for election at the Business Meeting include Drs. Ethan A. Benardete, Robin M. Bowman, Gerald A. Grant, Naina Gross, Abhava V. Kulkarni, Jeffrey Leonard, Jonathan E. Martin, Renatta J. Osterdock, Gary Tye, Elizabeth C. Tyler-Kabara, and John C. Wellons. All were approved by the Executive Committee. They were thus brought to the vote of the Membership and approved.

**Rules and Regulations Committee** – Dr. Vassilyadi.

A change in the Bylaws allowing both Active and Active Foreign members to vote in Section affairs was brought to a vote by the Membership and approved..

**Annual Meetings**

Dr. Handler reported that this Annual Meeting in Denver appears financially successful; 130 abstracts were submitted; there were about 76 oral presentations, and 30 posters. The Spine Course was sold out, and the Coding Course had 9 attendees. Dr. Abbott reported on the Miami meeting in 2007, which will be held at South Beach, and preceded by an Epilepsy course. Dr. Gruber discussed the 2008 meeting in Spokane, which will be held in a 5-star historic hotel built in 1914. The 2009 meeting will be in Boston. Several sites have volunteered to host the 2010 meeting, which will be decided in the upcoming year.

**Traveling Fellowships** - Dr. Scott

Dr. Scott reported that four fellowships were recommended, one domestic (Dr. Deanna Sasaki-Adams from North Carolina to spend a month at Toronto Sick Kids' Hospital) and three International (two candidates from India, Drs. K.M. Bopanna and G. Samson Sujit Kumar and one from Turkey, Dr. Alp Ozgun Borcek, all of whom have requested time in Toronto). The Executive Committee voted to approve all four candidates, for a total cost of \$17,500.

### **Nominating Committee**

Drs. Abbott and Parent announced that Drs. Tom Pittman and John Kestle were nominated for Members at Large for the 2007-2009 term, to join Drs. Blount and Gupta (Dr. Kaufman's term to expire). This will create an opening for Membership Committee chairperson, which is an appointed position. Additional nominations included the following: Chair-elect - T. Duhaime; Secretary - A. Cohen, and Treasurer - B. Kaufman. These nominations were approved by the Executive Committee. Nominations from the floor were solicited; there being none, a vote was taken and all nominations were approved by the Membership.

### **Distinguished Service Award - Dr. Parent**

Dr. Parent announced that Dr. Robin Humphreys will receive this Award at the Winter 2007 Section meeting.

### **Education Committee - Dr. Steinbok**

Dr. Steinbok reported that one of the focus areas for the Education Committee has been on international education. The Executive Committee has agreed to contribute \$5000 each to upcoming ISPN-sponsored courses in Beijing and Manila in 2007, and \$10,000 for a jointly sponsored course from the Pediatric Section and the Latin American Federation for a course which is planned for Colombia in 2007. The European Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery is also planning courses in South Africa, Asia, and Europe, and the Committee is looking into participation by the Section in these efforts. A list of Section members interested in participating in international outreach has been put together by the Education Committee and the ESPN can choose from this list for potential participants. Additional interested Section members should contact members of the Education Committee, and the Committee will be requesting input from Section members. A list of international meetings will be assembled by the Committee for notification of Section members. Finally, it has been raised that there may be differences of opinion among Section members as to the role of the Section in international outreach efforts, and a survey seeking feedback may be upcoming.

The Education Committee is also working with Dr. Piatt and other members from the AAP Section on Neurological Surgery to gather input on potential educational topics that pediatric neurosurgeons think pediatricians could find useful, and whether these are the same or different areas that pediatricians request for educational topics.

Dr. Abbott noted that the new Pediatric Section website is expected to be operational within the next few months and that this will be a vehicle for requesting and disseminating Section educational publications.

### **Old Business – none**

### **New Business**

Dr. Abbott reported that the ISPM will be held in Liverpool on September 9-13, 2007, and Dr. William Harkness will be one of the organizers of that meeting. The Scientific Program will include epilepsy, oncology, dysraphism, hydrocephalus, and

trauma (especially, decompressive craniectomy). The 2008 ISPN meeting is planned for Capetown, South Africa.

Dr. Ragheb spoke to the Section membership about Project Medi-Share, an outreach project with Haiti. This country has a population of 8 million people, with only 3 neurosurgeons, but very little neurosurgical training or education. Dr. Ragheb has been involved in some outreach and meetings with the Minister of Health as well as the Dean of the School of Medicine about the establishment of a training program. Dr. Paul Farmer has been involved in novel health outreach programs which have been effective against various endemic diseases and have garnered international attention. Dr. Ragheb is looking for additional teams of specialists including neurosurgeons, anesthesiologists, and nurses. Interested Section members can contact him for further information.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

AC Duhaime, M.D.  
Secretary