

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

Tuesday, April 17, 2007, 1:00-2:15 PM

Renaissance Hotel – Room 2

Washington, D.C.

Attendance:

Drs. Rick Abbott, Chairman; Jeff Wisoff, Chair-Elect; AC Duhaime, Secretary; Al Cohen, Treasurer; Members at Large: Bruce Kaufman, Jeffrey Blount and John Kestle; Membership Committee: John Kestle; Rules and Regulations representative: Nate Selden; Education Committee representative: Rick Abbott; Annual Meeting Chairs: Michael Handler, John Ragheb; Drs., Tom Luerssen, Andy Parent, Rick Boop, Joe Piatt, Joe Madsen, Mark Proctor, Ed Smith, Douglas Brockmeyer and Susan Durham (by telephone).

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Dr. Abbott who thanked members of the executive committee for their support during his tenure as section chair.

Approval of Minutes (November 2006, Appended) (Dr. Duhaime)

Moved for approval and accepted by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report (Appended) (Dr. Cohen)

The Section remains in very favorable financial balance. Total assets as of February 28, 2007 are \$689,284, which represents an increase of \$109,566 from the same time last year. Some of these monies will be transferred to long-term accounts.

Standing Committee Reports

Membership Committee (Dr. Kestle)

Six new members were proposed for election at the Business Meeting: Drs. William B Betts, Kimberly D. Bingaman, Cormac Mahar, Scott Elton, Dimitrius Nikos and Tien Ngugen. All were approved by the Executive Committee.

Currently there are 339 members of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery, organized as follows:

Active members:	281
Associate members	3
Lifetime members	41
International members	14

Rules and Regulations Committee (Dr. Selden for Dr. Muszynski)

Nothing to report.

Nominating Committee (Dr. Parent)

Nothing to report.

Annual Meeting updates

Denver 2006 (Dr. Handler)

Dr. Handler reported that the Denver meeting was extremely successful. There were 298 medical registrants and 64 nursing participants and 117 exhibitors. The meeting was financially profitable with a net gain of \$63,075. Once the final budget is completed it is expected that there will be another \$10,000 making the total net gain about \$75,000. Fewer than half the attendees submitted comments, which were largely favorable evaluations. Participants were pleased with the room layout. Speakers were generally rated good to excellent. The vendors were also pleased with the meeting.

Miami 2007 (Dr. Ragheb)

The meeting will be held in South Beach. It is anticipated that the cost will be greater than the Denver meeting. Dr. Ragheb is reviewing the budget with Nathalie Johnson. A pre-meeting epilepsy surgery symposium is being planned along with a post-meeting Latin American Course. The possibility of translating the meeting into Spanish is being investigated.

The Latin American meeting will be 1 to 1½ days, with a preliminary budget of \$40,000 (without sponsorship), assuming about 100 participants. Dr. Wisoff suggested eliminating the section meeting registration fee to international participants attending the Latin American Course or a reduced fee. Dr. Abbott suggested offering scholarships and noted that he and Dr. Steinbok could identify deserving individuals. Dr. Duhaime suggested a subcommittee to determine the need and match the aid to the needs and goals. The registration fee for the Section meeting will be \$500; the registration fee for the Latin meeting will be \$100.

Dr. Cohen moved that we donate \$12,000 to cover the registration fee for 20 people and this motion was approved.

Spokane 2008

No update.

Boston 2009

No update.

Future Meetings (Dr. Wisoff)

Proposals have been received for the following cities for future meeting sites: Cleveland, Philadelphia, Chicago, Austin and St. Louis.

Ad Hoc Committees and Liaisons

Education Committee (Dr. Abbott for Dr. Steinbok)

The following 3 international courses have been scheduled:

Manila

Beijing
Colombia

Traveling fellowship

No report.

Lifetime Achievement Award (Parent)

Dr. Parent announced that Dr. Robin Humphreys will receive this award at the 2007 winter section meeting. Dr. Abbott noted that we need to create a certificate for him and strike a medal as well.

Website (Dr. Brockmeyer)

Dr. Brockmeyer reported that the official section website, pedsneurosurgery.org is up and running.

Shortcuts is currently published by the AANS in html format. There was a discussion about the possibility of publishing Shortcuts ourselves, which we could do at a cost of \$1179 for 2 online issues per year. It was elected to leave the publication of Shortcuts in professional hands.

Dr. Brockmeyer described a wikipedia-like online manual for pediatric neurosurgery. Dr. Abbott recommended establishing a subcommittee of Dr. Brockmeyer's web committee to oversee this. Contact people for the CNS wikipedia manual are Elad Levy and Joel MacDonald.

Publications

No report.

American Academy of Pediatrics (Dr. Piatt)

Dr. Piatt reported that a grant proposal to study the surgical subspecialty workforce will commence in July if funded. The American College of Surgeons has budgeted several million dollars to do a global workforce study along with Harvard University.

Dr. Piatt has asked for a task force to study children with chronic conditions as they transition into adult life. He is waiting for the Board to decide if they will convene this task force. Regarding the AAP deliberations about trauma, the organization has been active in injury prevention but there has not been much involvement on the national scene in trauma. Art Cooper recommended that the AAP form a Committee on Trauma. The AAP will formally request a seat on the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Piatt recommended that the AAP be involved in the regionalization of trauma.

Liaison to Joint Council of State NS Societies (Boop)

Dr. Boop reported that that council has been discussing pay for performance but that the discussion did not apply for pediatrics.

Coding and Reimbursement Committee (Boop)

Dr. Boop reported that there have been increases in reimbursement for several codes. New people are needed for the committee. An announcement will be made in the next Shortcuts.

Scientific Program and CME Committee (Madsen, Selden)

Drs. Madsen and Selden reported that symposium topics were being selected for the Winter meeting and that graders for abstracts will be needed.

Education and Practice Management

No report.

Devices and Technology Committee, AANS (Proctor)

Dr. Proctor reported that our lobby on orthoses was defeated. Dr. Luerssen recommended a pediatric section position paper on orthoses. Dr. Wisoff made a motion that no orthosis has greater safety or efficiency than any other and this passed unanimously. Dr. Luerssen is to oversee creation of the position paper.

Liaison to Young Neurosurgeons (Dr. Smith)

Dr. Smith gave an update on efforts to generate interest in pediatric neurosurgery and noted a medical student fellowship program that will be announced in Shortcuts.

Washington Committee (Dr. Parent)

Dr. Troy Tibbett has been doing an excellent job representing the interests of organized neurosurgery. Dr. Rick Boop completed an AANS policy fellowship.

International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery

No report.

AANS/CNS Executive Committee (Abbott)

Dr. Abbott reported that these committees have spent a significant amount of time on tort reform and on protecting the interests of the spine surgeons.

ABPNS (American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery)

No report.

ACPNS (Accreditation Council for Pediatric Neurosurgery)

No report.

ASPN (American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery)

No report.

Old Business

CAST (Committee on Accreditation of Subspecialty Training) (Dr. Luerssen)

No report.

Brain Tumor Guidelines Project (Wisoff)

No report.

New Business

Workforce Study (Dr. Durham)

Dr. Susan Durham reported by telephone on a workforce study she has been conducting (Workforce Specialists at Dartmouth). She has been attempting to identify every practicing pediatric neurosurgeon in the country and has found 315 individuals. She noted that only small numbers are entering the workforce. The workforce has been stable since 1998 with approximately 7 people per year certified in pediatric neurosurgery. Over the past 10 years the number of people going into private practice to care for both pediatric and adult patients is diminishing. Most people going into academic pediatric neurosurgery are going into a solely pediatric practice. It appears that we are producing a small number of pediatric neurosurgeons per year but more adult neurosurgeons are not caring for kids. Dr. Durham proposes to study a demographic and business model of practices to see how things have changed over time. She is developing an internet-based short survey of low cost which should take about 2-5 minutes to complete.

Dr. Abbott suggested including a question about the compensation model. Dr. Selden commented that the study could be launched with surveymonkey.com for a cost of about \$20/month. Dr. Durham has a PowerPoint presentation that she will send to the executive committee. Dr. Wisoff inquired about the timing for the study and Dr. Durham responded that she is going through IRB approval and is hoping to complete the survey by the end of the summer so that she can present her findings at the 2007 Winter Section Meeting.

Brandeis has a PhD student to help set up a workforce study. Dr. Boop questioned whether we want to be competing with Dr. Durham's study.

The executive committee expressed their gratitude to Dr. Abbott for his outstanding leadership. Dr. Wisoff, incoming section chair, thanked Dr. Abbott in particular for his work to advance the field of pediatric neurological surgery at the international level.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan R. Cohen, M.D.
Secretary