

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery
Tuesday December 2, 2008, 12 PM – 4 PM
Room Elizabethan A, Davenport Hotel
Spokane, Washington

Attendance:

Drs. Jeff Wisoff, Chairman; Tina Duhaime, Chair-Elect; Al Cohen, Secretary; Bruce Kaufman, Treasurer. Members at Large: Jim Drake, Mike Handler, John Kestle

Tom Luerssen, David Gruber, Mark Proctor (by telephone), Paul Steinbok, Andy Parent, Mike Scott, Sarah Gaskill, Corey Raffel, Cathy Mazzola, Jack Walker, Lily Goumnerova, Rick Abbott, Rick Boop, Matt Smyth, Nate Selden, Mark Dias, Robin Bowman

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by Dr. Wisoff.

Approval of Minutes (Dr. Cohen)

Moved for approval and accepted by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report (Dr. Kaufman)

Financial Overview

As of the end of October 2008 the Section's net assets totaled \$586,440. The short term/checking account had \$129,200 with a yield of approximately 2.3%, which compares to a yield of 3.75% at this time last year. The long term investments, which are pooled and managed by the AANS had \$431,544 with a negative yield (-19%) compared to a return last year of 2%.

Annual Meeting Summary

The overall meeting budget for the 2007 meeting in Miami was anticipated to have a deficit of ~ \$46,000. However, the final deficit was only \$8600.

Discretionary Spending

The Section committed to FLANC, ISPN, Workforce studies, fellowships, Lifetime Achievement Award and resident awards, Miami pre-meeting Latin America course.

Dues

Dues have remained at \$100 for active members, which is at the high end for subspecialty section dues.

Recommendations

1. Maintain dues at current levels
2. Reassess external funding support (FLANC, ISPN, fellowships)

3. Careful management of annual meeting site selection and expenses- this is our greatest risk of deficit spending and our greatest opportunity to acquire capital for discretionary spending.

Standing Committee Reports

Membership Committee (Dr. Bowman in person and Dr.Proctor by telephone)

- The online application process has been completed.
- The bylaws need to be updated to reflect the new resident membership category.
- A membership drive has been completed via email and resulted in 47 new applicants. A new membership drive will be carried out in the spring.
- The membership committee is working with the AANS and Doug Brockmeyer to have the new application process and the new resident member category reflected on the pedsneurosurgery.org website.

Below is a list of applicants who have fulfilled the criteria for membership. There is a total of 47 applicants and the membership categories break down as follows: 8 Active; 34 Resident/Fellow; 5 International.

Membership Applicants as of Oct. 7, 2008

Active

Laurie Ackerman, MD, Indianapolis, Ind.
Kuris Auguste, MD, San Francisco, Calif.
Samer Elbabaa, MD, Little Rock, Ark.
Jorge Guajardo Torres, MD, Garza Garcia, Mexico
Francisco Guerrero Jazo, MD, Cancun, Mexico
Sanjay Misra, MD, Pueblo, Colo.
Jay Riva-Cambrin, MD, Salt Lake City, Utah
Rachana Tyagi, MD, New Brunswick, N.J.

Resident

Gregory, Albert, MD, Iowa City, Iowa
Darric Baty, MD, Philadelphia, Pa.
David Bauer, MD, Birmingham, Ala.
Bryan Bertoglio, MD, Iowa City, Iowa
Michael Dorsi, MD, Los Angeles, Calif.
Andrew Fabiano, MD, Buffalo, N.Y.
John Gachiani, MD, New Orleans, La.
Sanjay Gupta, MD, Toronto, Canada
Abilash Haridas, MD, New York, N.Y.
Jason Hauptman, MD, Los Angeles, Calif.
Namath Hussain, MD, Phoenix, Ariz.
Eric Jackson, MD, Philadelphia, Pa.
Rolando Jimenez, MD, Mexico City, Mexico
Kristopher Kahle, MD, Boston, Mass.
Ioannis Karampelas, MD, Cleveland, Ohio
Colin Kazina, MD, Winnipeg, Canada
Tyler Kenning, MD, Albany, N.Y.

Sandi Lam, MD, Los Angeles, Calif.
Timothy Maryanov, MD, Chapel Hill, N.C.
Carrie Muh, MD, Atlanta, Ga.
Amanda Muhs, MD, Washington, D.C.
Karim Mukhida, MD, Toronto, Canada
Christina Notarianni, MD, Shreveport, La.
Eylem Ocal, MD, New Haven, Conn.
Brent O'Neill, MD, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nathan Ranalli, MD, Philadelphia, Pa.
Elias Rizk, MD, Harrisburg, Pa.
Brandon Rocque, MD, Madison, Wis.
Haitham Shareef, MBChB, IBMS (International Resident), Baghdad, Iraq
Debbie Song, MD, Ann Arbor, Mich.
Charles Stevenson, MD, Cincinnati, Ohio
Artur Szymczak, MD, London, Canada
Shobhan Vachhrajani, MD, Toronto, Canada
Payman Vahedi, MD, (International Resident), Tabriz, Iran

International

Ghanem Al-Sulaiti, MD, Doha, Qatar
Bernt Due-Tonnessen, MD, Oslo, Norway
Sergey Larionov, MD, Irkutsk, Russia
Mehmet Selcuki, MD, PhD, Izmir, Turkey
Boris Zivny, MD, Praha, Czech Republic

The names have been circulated to the membership in **Shortcuts**. They were all approved by the Council and will be brought to a vote at the business meeting.

Dr. Cohen and Dr. Duhaime recommended that the membership committee send a congratulatory note to the newly elected members after their election at the business meeting and also send the names of newly elected members to the AANS. The council agreed with this recommendation.

Rules and Regulations Committee (Dr. Selden)

The following proposals for changing the Rules and Regulations were discussed and approved by the council at the spring meeting and approved by acclamation at the business meeting:

- creation of a resident member category
- altering the procedure for membership application to use the online application form available on the AANS or CNS website
- specifying the time of election of officers and members-at-large (winter meeting) as well as the start date for the terms of those elected (at the conclusion of the spring meeting)

Nominating Committee (Dr. Abbott)

The nominating committee proposed the following slate of officers:

Chair-Elect	Al Cohen
Secretary	Bruce Kaufman
Treasurer	Sarah Gaskill

At Large John Ragheb, David Gruber

The slate was approved by acclamation.

Annual Meeting Updates

Spokane 2008 (Dr. Gruber)

The current meeting is at the Davenport Hotel from December 2-5, 2008. The Raimondi speaker will be Dr. Renee Jenkins, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, who will discuss *The Future of American Health Policy*.

Spokane is a secondary market, not a first tier city. The economic realities associated with that include longer travel time, diminished industry revenue leading to limited exhibitor support, and a lower registrant turnout.

Revenue streams for the meeting come from the scientific meeting registration, the adjunct nursing meeting and a spouse program that includes a cooking class.

The actual attendance is 227 neurosurgeons, 16 spouses, 53 nurses and 84 exhibitors. The projected revenue from registration is \$101,955, excluding onsite registration. It is expected that the Spokane meeting will end up revenue neutral.

Boston 2009 (Dr. Goumnerova)

The meeting will be at the Marriott Copley Place Hotel from December 1-3, 2009. The hotel was refurbished several years ago. The cost of a standard room is \$295/day. A good turnout is expected. No presymposium is planned. An afternoon session on neurofibromatosis is being considered, with local experts to give some talks. A discussion followed about the balance between adding valuable scientific content to the meeting without detracting significantly from the number of slots available for oral presentation. There were 82 slots available for talks at the Spokane meeting.

The council recommended that hard copies should be sent to the membership to request abstracts and remind individuals to register for the meeting.

Future Meetings (Dr. Duhaime)

Cleveland was selected for **2010** with the meeting dates from 11/30/10 to 12/3/10. The Renaissance Hotel was recommended (room rate \$149). Dr. Robinson will be the meeting chair. Dr. Cohen recommended considering a reception at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Meeting turnout is expected to be good because Cleveland is in the heartland with an airport that is a Continental hub that is easy to access.

Austin was selected for **2011**. There was some discussion about the venue. One option was the Renaissance Hotel in Austin. Choosing the Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland and Austin would allow the Section to have a significant cost saving. However, the room layout at the Renaissance in Austin was such that the exhibitors would have to be on a different floor. This was not considered acceptable. There was a

discussion about whether we should lock into a rate for 2011 given the state of the current economy. It was decided that we should consider a different venue in Austin.

Other cities offering to host the annual meeting were St. Louis, Pasadena, Philadelphia, Chicago and Amelia Island. Amelia Island was felt to be too difficult to access. A call for future host city proposals for **2012** will be placed in Shortcuts.

Addendum: Subsequent to the Exec Council meeting requests to host the annual meeting have been received from Toronto and Houston.

Ad Hoc Committees and Liaisons

Education Committee (Dr. Steinbok)

Dr. Steinbok recommended that Dr. George Jallo be appointed new chair of the education committee. Dr. Jallo is currently vice chair of the committee. The Council approved this and thanked Dr. Steinbok for his excellent service in bringing this committee to life. Dr. Wisoff recommended that 3 more committee members be appointed, including a new vice chair. Dr. Duhaime recommended that the education committee become a standing committee and she will make a proposal for this at the next meeting.

Dr. Steinbok recommended that the section continue its support for FLANC courses and that discontinue support ISPN courses. The hope is that the Section can use its limited resources to support courses in the Americas.

The section is supported a FLANC course in Rancagua, Chile on August 11-13, 2008 with \$10K (\$7500 for FLANC, remainder for travel for section members). \$2500 was already sent to FLANC last year by accident so only \$5000 needed to go to FLANC this year. The course faculty included: Susan Durham, George Jallo and Bruce Kaufman.

FLANC is requesting support for a course to be held in Bolivia in 2009. Francisco Salamao, current president of the pediatric section of FLANC, has asked for this support. The date for the course has not yet been selected.

Dr. Abbott noted that the reason for funding FLANC courses was to support courses in the Americas and to increase awareness among the Section members about what is going on internationally in the field of pediatric neurosurgery.

Dr. Wisoff recommended that we commit to supporting 1 course for FLANC between now and 2010. Dr. Duhaime recommended that we decide in principle to commit support to FLANC but that we decide on the amount of support after we review the budget.

The council recommended that Dr. Jallo, liaison from the ISPN, write an article about international pediatric neurosurgery for Shortcuts.

Phil Aldana is writing a manuscript based on the educational needs survey he did. Dr. Wisoff recommended that this manuscript should be forwarded to Dr. Brockmeyer of the publications committee prior to publication.

Scientific Program and CME Committee (Dr. Gaskill)

The Pediatric Section sponsored a successful Integrated Medical Learning (IML) session, *Arrested Hydrocephalus: To Treat Or Not To Treat*, at the CNS meeting in Orlando on Wednesday afternoon September 24, 2008.

The next IML session will be on the Chiari 1 malformation and will be moderated by Dr. Hugh Garton.

Dr. Mark Krieger will moderate the first web seminar on the second Tuesday in January 2009. We will be the first group to trial this. The topic will be arachnoid cysts.

Dr. Ann Ritter is working on an online handbook for CNS University.

The CNS meeting on October 24-29, 2009 will be held in New Orleans. The theme of the meeting is Excellence. Topics being considered include avoidance of complications, endoscopy and spinal disorders.

Dr. Wisoff recommended adding 3 more members to the committee. The workload of this committee has expanded significantly.

Examinations Committee (Dr. Raffel)

There will be a session on question writing at the Spokane meeting on Wednesday December 3, 2009 at 5:30 pm in the Lincoln room. Dr. Selden will discuss how to write questions for SANS. Dr. Scott, representing the ABPNS, asked that the Examinations Committee also write questions for the recertification exam. The committee will write questions for SANS and for the ABPNS.

Publications/Website Committee (Dr. Walker for Dr. Brockmeyer)

Dr. Brockmeyer is attempting to establish better communication with people at the AANS running the website to allow for more timely updates to the site. Dr. Wisoff recommended that Dr. Ann Ritter be appointed vice chair of the committee.

Training Committee (Dr. Blount)

No report.

Traveling Fellowship Committee (Dr. Scott)

There were six applications for international fellowships and it was recommended that the following two individuals be funded:

- Rezida Galimova of Ufa, Bashkortostan, Russia, to be sponsored by Jim Goodrich
- Wilhasto Suryaningtyas of Surabaya, Indonesia, to be sponsored by Mike Scott

There were only two serious applications for the US/Canadian resident traveling fellowship, and it was recommended that they both be funded:

- Erin Kiehna of UVA, to be sponsored by Jim Drake
- Eliaz Rizk of Penn State, to be sponsored by Bermans Iskandar

Lifetime Achievement Award (*Dr. Abbott*)

There have been no nominations. A call for nominations will be made at the business meeting and in the next issue of Shortcuts. Nominations should be sent to Dr. Wisoff, who will be the next chair of this committee.

Transition of Care Committee (Dr. ReKate)

No report

Research Committee (Dr. Kestle)

A questionnaire will be given to the membership at the scientific session of this meeting to poll the group about options for supporting research in pediatric neurosurgery. Three options being considered are:

- A one year research fellowship, during or after residency
- A research consultation service
- Support for resident abstract presentations

There was a discussion about the quality of abstracts submitted to the pediatric section of the AANS and CNS. Multiple factors were felt to contribute. Sarah Gaskill and Nathan Selden will review better ways to select abstracts for the meetings and they will report back at the spring meeting. It was noted that abstracts from the winter meeting of the pediatric section have not been consistently published in JNS Pediatrics. Dr. Wisoff will discuss this with Dr. Jerry Oakes, JNS Pediatrics editor.

Representatives and Liaisons

Liaison to Joint Council of State NS Societies (Dr. Mazzola)

The CSNS activities have centered around:

- Improving undergraduate education
- Improving recruitment of medical students
- Improving socioeconomic education in residency, with mentored socioeconomic fellowships and working on data collection and presentation about duty hours to the Institute of Medicine
- Young physician advocacy
- Advocating to increase the number of women in neurosurgery
- Other socioeconomic activities, including brain death guidelines, acute trauma care and DOs in neurosurgery

Liaison to ABPNS (American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery) (Dr. Scott)

No report.

Liaison to ACPNF (Accreditation Council for Ped. Neurosurgical Fellowships) (Dr. Walker for Dr. Blount)

Three new programs have been added this year: San Diego, Atlanta and Columbus.

Liaison to Young Neurosurgeons (Dr. Smith)

No report.

Liaison to ASPN (American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery) (Dr. Goumnerova)

No report.

Liaison to ISPN (International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery) (Dr. Abbott for Dr. Jallo)

The ISPN website is being redone. The meeting in South Africa was successful with a very good turnout from the USA.

Liaison to SONS (AAP Section on Neurosurgery) (Dr. Dias)

There are currently 78 members of SONS. Dr. Dias will send letters to all fellows asking them to join. Upcoming talks sponsored by SONS will be given by Dr. Dias on the topics of Chiari, hydrocephalus, epilepsy and shunts.

Brain Death Guidelines: The AAP Section on Critical Care has been trying to revise the 1997 Guidelines without input from Neurology or Neurosurgery. Dr. Mazzola noted that a parallel program is going through the CSNS. Dr. Mazzola noted that Jim Bean and Dave Adelson wanted joint guidelines for adult and pediatric patients. The CSNS has been working on this project for 1 ½ years. There was a discussion about who should represent pediatrics. Dr. Mazzola will work with the SONS group on these guidelines.

Coding and Reimbursement Committee (Dr. Boop)

The future will be marked by increased regulation, increased public reporting and decreased pay.

Devices and Technology Committee (Dr. Cohen for Dr. Robinson)

Dr. Robinson and Dr. Proctor have written a review entitled, Diagnosis and management of deformational plagiocephaly, which will be published in the April 2009 issue of JNS Pediatrics. The article concluded that existing data do not support the need for FDA classification for cranial orthoses as class II devices requiring premarket notification.

Washington Committee (Dr. Abbott)

The RRC will include a requirement for training in critical care for all programs. Dr. Abbott thought it would be worth including critical care training for fellows as well. With respect to EMTALA, the committee felt that emergency care provided by neurosurgeons needs to be clarified. Medicare cuts are on the horizon, and it is anticipated that we will face a 21% Medicare cut. Dr. Wisoff recommended that we have a strong voice in the upcoming discussion about universal health care for children.

AANS/CNS Executive Committee Meetings (Dr. Duhaime, Dr. Wisoff)

CNS Executive Meeting (Dr. Duhaime)

Dan Barrow of the ABNS reported that 2/3 of resident graduates do fellowships. Pediatrics was recognized for doing a nice job in subspecialty certification.

AANS Executive Meeting (Dr. Wisoff)

Work has begun on an outcomes data base. JNS will have digital archives available. There is a move by the AANS to support increasing diversity. Jim Rutka was nominated for president-elect of the AANS.

Old Business

Workforce Study (Dr. Durham)

A comprehensive report was submitted by Jeff Sussman of Brandeis. Dr. Cohen recommended that hard data collected anonymously, e.g. pediatric neurosurgeons' salaries, would be helpful for the membership to know for their own hospital negotiations. A new Manpower Survey will be submitted to the membership jointly by Jeff Sussman, Susan Durham and Mark Dias.

New Business

List Serve (Dr. Wisoff)

Dr. Wisoff noted that we do not have a policy about who should be allowed on the List Serve. It was recommended that the List Serve be limited to Section members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan R. Cohen, M.D.
Secretary