

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery
Tuesday November 27, 2007, 1 - 5 PM
Neptune Room, Loews Miami Beach Hotel
Miami, Florida

Attendance:

Drs. Jeff Wisoff, Chairman; Tina Duhaime, Chair-Elect; Al Cohen, Secretary; Bruce Kaufman, Treasurer; Members at Large: Jeffrey Blount and John Kestle;

John Ragheb, George Jallo, Tom Luerssen, David Gruber, Susan Durham, Mark Proctor, Jeff Blount, Joe Piatt, Tom Steinecke, Doug Brockmeyer, Paul Steinbock, Rick Boop, Lily Goumnerova, Tim Mapstone, Andy Parent, John Kestle, Mike Scott, Hal Rekate, Sarah Gaskill, Mike Handler

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Dr. Wisoff.

Approval of Minutes (Dr. Cohen)

Moved for approval and accepted by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report (Dr. Kaufman)

Financial Overview

The Section remains in a reasonable financial situation.

Total assets as of November 20, 2007 are \$827,194.

This represents an increase of \$97,295 from the same time last year.

Dues for the coming year (statements to be issued in Dec.) will remain the same:

Active	\$100
Associate	\$ 50
International	\$ 50

Old Business

The Section has funds in two main vehicles:

A checking and short term investment account \$217,001

Short-Term Investment Account earns a fluctuating return of **3.75%**

A pooled long term investment account \$560,964

Long-Term Investment Account for the Section has earned a return of ~2% (July through October, varies in return)

The Long-Term Investment Account is allocated as follows:

- Cash/cash equivalents 0.5%
- Equities 67%
- Fixed income 32.5%

The section is anticipating a loss on the current annual meeting (and combined pre- and post-meeting sessions) that is approximately \$19,000 – much less of a deficit than we had budgeted for.

The section has committed to about \$100,000 of various expenditures (fellowships, contributions, meetings) over the current budget year. This amount was felt reasonable given the surplus in our accounts and the money accumulated from the annual meetings (prior two years). A similar amount of money could be available for discretionary spending in the coming budget year.

Dr. Cohen suggested transferring \$50K from the checking account to the long term savings account.

Standing Committee Reports

Membership Committee (Dr. Proctor)

Dr. Proctor proposed an on line application process which would go through the AANS.org site. The cost of instituting this would be \$1500. Dr. Duhaime moved that the application process be placed on line and the motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about moving to a resident membership category. Currently Pediatrics and Pain are the only two sections that don't have a separate resident membership category. Dr. Wisoff proposed a separate resident membership category and felt it would be a public relations benefit for the Section.

Two new members were proposed for election at the Business Meeting: Dr. Daniel Guillaume and Dr. David Shafron. They were both approved by the Executive Council.

Rules and Regulations Committee (Dr. Selden)

No report.

Nominating Committee (Dr. Abbott)

Dr Jim Drake and Dr. Mike Handler were proposed for Members at Large.

Annual Meeting Updates

Miami 2007 (Dr. Ragheb)

The Pre-Meeting Epilepsy Symposium was well attended and the initial feedback from the participants was very positive. Preliminary estimates of receipts:

29 exhibitors:	\$61,500
Total receipts:	\$320, 240
Budgeted:	\$339,939
Current Net Loss:	\$19,699

Budgeted Expenses:

Epilepsy Meeting	\$17,946
Latin American Meeting	\$35,061

Meeting Registrants:

Miami	356
Denver	294
Orlando	231
San Francisco	280
St. Louis	263
Scottsdale	275

Spokane 2008 (Dr. Gruber)

The meeting will be held December 2-5, 2008 at the Davenport Hotel, 10 South Post Street, Spokane, Washington 99201 (800-899-1482, 509-455-8888, 509-624-4455 FAX). The Davenport opened in 1914 and underwent a multi-million dollar renovation ten years ago. The Raimondi speaker will be Dr. Rene Jenkins, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Boston 2009 (Dr. Goumnerova)

The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Hotel on the Charles River in Cambridge.

Future Meetings (Dr. Duhaime)

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

Ad Hoc Committees and Liaisons

Education Committee (Dr. Steinbok)

Dr. Steinbok noted that the two areas of focus have been education for pediatricians and international education. Dr. Piatt has been the liaison to the AAP. Dr. Aldana completed a survey on topics for education of pediatricians, with about a 40% response rate. Respondents prioritized topics of interest in decreasing order as follows: craniosynostosis and plagiocephaly, hydrocephalus/shunt/ETV, occult spinal dysraphism/tethered cord, chiari 1, brain tumors, head injury, spasticity. Dr. Jallo has conducted a survey of international activities by members which will serve as a resource for members considering international activities. This will be on the website soon. Both surveys were felt to be very successful. Dr. Curtis Rozzelle and Dr. Veetai Li at Children's Hospital of Buffalo are conducting a survey to characterize practice patterns and strategies of pediatric neurosurgeons intended to prevent CSF shunt infections.

The Section has been involved in international courses with the following organizations: ISPN, ESPN, FLANC. At the Denver meeting, the Section approved \$5000 for each of the 2 ISPN courses planned for 2007 (Manila and Beijing). The Manila meeting was held in August with no money requested by Dr. Tomita. Arrangements for the Beijing meeting were made on short notice due to difficulty communicating with the Beijing sponsor and hence the faculty were selected by Dr. Tomita with no input from the Section. In the future it is hoped that there will be more input and participation by Section members.

Involvement with the ISPN:

Beijing, China December 8-9, 2007 (Tomita, Steinbok, Ventureyra)
Havana, Cuba June 9-11, 2008
Casablanca, Morocco December 18-20, 2008

Involvement with the ESPN:

Michel Zerah (Paris) is chair of the education committee and Christian St. Rose is involved as well. The next course is scheduled for Vietri Sul Mare, Amalfi Coast, Italy June 2-6, 2008. A suggestion was made to include a message about this in Shortcuts and on the website.

Involvement with FLANC:

Co-sponsored course in Barranquilla, Colombia October 28-31, 2007 with 4 faculty from the Section: Mark Souweidane, Paul Steinbok, Dale Swift and Jeff Wisoff. The meeting was chaired by Gabriella Zucarro, president of FLANC. There were 71 attendees (40 NS, 9 residents, 22 non-physicians), all from Colombia. A Latin American course is planned for northern Chile in September 2008.

Dr. Steinbok proposed spending \$10K to fund the FLANC course in Chile in 2008 and spending \$5K to fund each of 2 ISPN courses in 2008. Dr. Boop suggested supporting Dr. Steinbok's plan for 2 years. Dr. Wisoff suggested that we authorized spending up to \$10K for FLANC and up to \$10K for ISPN. Dr. Abbott suggested that the education committee make an effort to enlist younger faculty.

Scientific Program and CME Committee (Dr. Gaskill)

The Pediatric Section will sponsor an 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 from 4-5:30 PM. Dr. Gaskill will give an introduction with a premeeting survey. Dr. Pittman will present index cases with pertinent questions and live poll results. Dr. Marlin will discuss evidence that arrested hydrocephalus does not exist and all shunts need to be fixed. Dr. Raffel will discuss evidence that arrested hydrocephalus does exist and all shunts do not need to be fixed. Dr. Garton will discuss a study design about arrested hydrocephalus. Dr. Pittman will present index cases, live poll results and questions to the experts and Dr. Gaskill will give concluding remarks.

Examinations Committee (Dr. Raffel)

No report.

Publications/Website Committee (Dr. Brockmeyer)

The Website Committee continues to refine and modify pedsneurosurgery.org in a effort to better serve the Section membership. Dr. Brockmeyer requested that discretionary funds be made available for maintenance of the website. A motion was passed to allow \$2K per year to be made available as discretionary funds for the website.

Dr. Wisoff announced that the Neurosurgery On Call Committee will be assumed by the Website Committee.

Training Committee Dr. (Blount)

From this point on all accredited fellowship positions have to be done through the Match. This year there were 20 individuals in the Match and 11 fellowship positions filled.

Traveling Fellowship Committee (Dr. Scott)

Resident Traveling Fellowship Award: The committee recommended that two awards of \$2500 each be made to Eylem Ocal, a female neurosurgery resident at Yale who proposes to take her fellowship at Toronto, and Namath Hussain, a resident at the University of Arizona, who wishes to take his fellowship at Wayne State. These were approved.

International Resident Traveling Fellowship Award: The committee recommended funding four fellowships at \$5000 each, in order of merit: Yu-Cheng Chou (from Taipei Veteran's General Hospital to Boston Children's), Tania Leyva Mastrapa (from Cuba to Ottawa), Andrei Kuzmin (from Yekaterinburg, Russia to Texas Children's), Faiz Uddin Ahmad (from New Delhi to Boston Children's). Dr. Luerssen noted that Dr. Ahmad has applied for the Match. Dr. Wisoff suggested funding two international fellows. The decision was made to offer positions to Dr. Chou and Dr. Mastrapa, with Dr. Kuzmin serving as an alternate. Dr. Ahmad will not be offered a fellowship.

This year there were four applicants for the Resident Fellowship and eight applicants for the International Fellowship.

Addendum: It was subsequently learned that Dr. Leyva Mastrapa had elected to send her husband, a neurosurgeon from Cuba, to do the fellowship in Ottawa. Since he did not apply for the International Fellowship award, the committee elected to fund Dr. Kuzmin, the alternate, instead.

Distinguished Service Award (Dr. Abbott)

The Franc D. Ingraham Distinguished Service Award will be given to Robin Humphreys at this Section Meeting in Miami on Thursday November 29th.

Transition of Care Committee (Dr. Rekate)

Dr. Rekate led a meeting in Denver last year with about 65 participants to discuss the issue of how to treat pediatric neurosurgical patients in the process of obtaining care for the conditions for which they were treated in infancy and childhood. Dr. Rekate recommended changing the name of our organization to the Joint Section on Pediatric and Congenital Neurosurgery. Dr. Wisoff charged Dr. Rekate with finding a constituency for his committee and Dr. Rekate noted that the following individuals were invited to participate (Mike Turner, Todd Mougans, Joel Winer, Tom Luerssen, David McLone, Rick Boop, and Jeff Wisoff ex officio). Dr. Kaufman noted the difficulty of finding a solution in that no one model fits all.

Research Committee (Dr. Kestle)

There was a discussion about having the Section support pediatric neurosurgery research with an approximate budget of \$40-50k/year. Options discussed included 1) a one year research fellowship either during or after residency, either at a home institution or away. 2) A research consultation service (e.g. an hour or two with a statistician or research expert to help set up a project). 3) Support for resident abstract presentations (e.g. select the 2,3,4 best abstracts submitted by residents based on reviewers' scores and support their travel to the meeting. Dr. Luerssen proposed offering support research in a post-residency fellowship year. Dr. Cohen proposed offering support during residency training as well, to increase exposure to the field.

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

No report.

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

The role of subcertification in pediatric neurosurgery will be discussed at the ABNS interim meeting in December. One issue is whether the ABNS will be willing to relinquish its role as a certifying body.

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

.See report from Training Committee.

Liaison to ASPN (Dr. Goumnerova)

Dr. Goumnerova is attempting to determine the role of the education committee for the ASPN. She has created a survey to give to the membership of the ASPN at the annual meeting polling people about their priorities for education .

Liaison to ISPN (Dr. Jallo)

The ISPN Annual Meeting was in Liverpool in September 2007. There were over 400 participants. There were about 24 neurosurgeons from the U.S. present. Rick Abbott was elected president. Next year the meeting will be held in Cape Town October 12-16, 2008. There will be a one day session on intra-operative monitoring at the end of the meeting.

Liaison to AAP (Dr. Piatt)

Education

The following proposals have been accepted for the 2008 National Conference in Boston: Endoscopic surgery in the management of hydrocephalus (Goumnerova) and The Chiari malformation- what does it mean (Ed Smith). The 2009 meeting will be held in Washington, DC. Since the planning committee places a high priority on minimization of travel expenses, member of the SONS living within car or train of Washington interested in proposing a CME offering for this program are encouraged to step forward.

Quality

Dr. Mark Dias (chair-elect of the SONS) has prepared a CD library of official AAP policies, guidelines and reports related to pediatric neurosurgery and copies will be

distributed to members of the SONS. A searchable compendium of all official AAP statements is available on-line at <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org>.

Advocacy

The Academy's highest advocacy priority has been renewal and expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The Academy has joined the ACS, American Board of Internal Medicine, American College of Physicians, American Academy of Family Physicians and a number of other medical organizations in an initiative called the "Stepping Up To The Plate (SUTTP) Alliance". The purpose of SUTTP is to improve "transitions across locations of health care". The initial emphasis has been transition from inpatient to outpatient and from primary physician to specialist, but transition from pediatric to adult seems to be within the scope of its mission. Dr. Marion Walker has been asked to participate in the AAP's interface with SUTTP.

Liaison to Young Neurosurgeons (Dr. Steinecke)

Dr. Steinecke reported that the Young Neurosurgeons have been supporting the NREF and a Silent Auction has been headed up by their group. The Young Neurosurgeons have also sponsored the Top Gun program at the AANS annual meeting. Dr. Ed Smith is slated to take over as the new liaison to the Young Neurosurgeons.

Coding and Reimbursement Committee (Dr. Boop)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are looking at a 10% rate cut for the year (12% for neurosurgeons). Several procedures have changed from inpatient to outpatient codes. Dr. Abbott noted that this causes problems for pediatric neurosurgeons. Baclofen pumps, for example, are not distinguished from adult morphine pumps, but kids getting baclofen pumps require observation in hospital to watch for respiratory depression.

Devices and Technology Committee (Dr. Proctor)

The "Petition to Exempt Cranial Orthoses from Premarket Notification Requirements" was rejected by the FDA. The petition had been jointly submitted by the Section and the Washington Committee of the AANS/CNS in an effort to make helmets more accessible. At a meeting with the FDA during the AANS meeting in Washington, DC in April 2007 the new chief of the neurological devices committee at the FDA informed us that we were rejected because we failed to submit appropriate MDRs (medical device reports) outlining the risks of the helmets. Since, to the best of our knowledge, there had been no adverse events described, no MDRs were submitted. The Exec suggested that a position paper be drafted by Tom Luerssen and Dody Robinson and that Jeff Wisoff contact the Washington Committee to ask for assistance.

Washington Committee (Dr. Parent)

The third edition of the Traumatic Brain Injury Guidelines has been released with some modifications suggesting, for example that anticonvulsants may not be needed in low risk head injury patients. There has been no revision to the pediatric guidelines for trauma. The federal government has undergone a change in the payment for performance concept using the phrase "comparative effectiveness research" as a key term. It appears

that patient outcomes will be used in the future to determine a portion of physician payment.

The Washington Committee's subcommittee to determine the value of a neurosurgeon to a hospital had its first meeting. The contribution margin is highest in tumor, vascular and trauma cases, moderate in epilepsy, stereotactic, spine and pediatrics and low in peripheral nerve cases.

The ABNS, AANS and CNS are attempting to coordinate data collection from the MOC process to a single database to determine benchmarks for 14 procedures, among which will be aneurysm, tumors, anterior cervical discectomies, tethered cord, Chiari malformation and intracerebral hemorrhage. Data will come from 10 voluntarily submitted consecutive cases.

Dr. Harbaugh is the new chair of the Washington Committee. Dr. Abbott noted that timing of the Washington Committee meeting conflicts with the Section meeting and that the Washington Committee is focused on Spine. Dr. Wisoff suggested continuing our collaborative efforts with the Washington Committee in such areas as Devices and Transition of Care.

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

CNS Executive Meeting (Dr. Duhaimé)

The CNS has been focused on technical interactive factors in education, such as IML (Integrated Medical Learning), which was introduced successfully at the past CNS meeting. The Section will contribute to IML at the fall CNS meeting in Orlando. The CNS is planning an online neurosurgical Wikipedia. The new president of the CNS is David Adelson.

AANS Executive Meeting (Dr. Wisoff)

JNS Pediatrics is about to become a stand alone journal and will no longer be a supplement. This will enhance its impact factor.

Old Business

Workforce Study (Dr. Durham)

Dr. Susan Durham reported on a workforce study she has conducted (Workforce Specialists at Dartmouth). Fewer than 8% of US neurosurgery residency graduates go on to complete pediatric neurosurgical fellowships. The pediatric neurosurgery workforce has been stable since 1998 with an average of 9 fellows graduating per year, but only 5-6 of them going on to achieve ABPNS certification. Approximately 1/3 of the ACPNF fellowship graduates do not belong to the Joint Section. An increasing number of foreign-trained neurosurgical graduates are filling fellowship positions, with 46% of fellowship positions filled by FMGs in 2005-06 compared to 0% from 1998-2001. The total supply of practicing pediatric neurosurgeons was calculated to be 342 (161 ABPNS certified, 274 members of the Joint Section, 130 members of the ASPN). The response rate for the study was 75.4%. \$2500 will be taken from the Treasury to support the work done by Dr. Durham. There was no report from the Brandeis study.

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

At the Society of Neurological Surgeons' CAST meeting it was agreed that pediatric neurosurgery would be in control of the training of fellows. Pediatric Neurosurgery was viewed as a model for subspecialty training. No further input was requested. Dr. Luerssen recommended that CAST be removed from standing business of the Section.

New Business

The Joint Guidelines Committee, a subcommittee of the Washington Committee, chaired by Dr. Ragheb, will respond to the American College of Radiology (ACR) Appropriateness Criteria. The ACR Appropriateness Criteria is a new initiative through which the American College of Radiology has developed criteria for determining the appropriateness of imaging. These criteria, which were drafted with little or no input from neurosurgery, have been a cause of great concern to neurosurgeons. The following individuals offered to assist Dr. Ragheb on this committee: Drs. Luerssen, Handler, Gruber, Gaskill and Steinecke.

Dr. Wisoff proposed three nominees from the Section for the *ABPNS*: Drs. Cohen, Drake and Partington, and they were approved by the Executive Council. New committee appointments will be made by Dr. Wisoff in the hope of involving younger members of the Section.

There was a discussion about whether the Education Committee should be made a Standing Committee. Currently, the Standing Committees of the Section are: Executive Council, Nominating Committee, Membership Committee, Program Committee, CME Committee and Rules and Regulations Committee. With this background, it was suggested that the classification of standing committees be reviewed by Dr. Selden and the Rules and Regulations Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan R. Cohen, M.D.
Secretary