



Pediatric Section of Neurological Surgery
of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons
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SHORT CUTS

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

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AUGUST, 1984

PEDIATRIC NEURO-ONCOLOGY ISSUES DISCUSSED

At the San Francisco meeting of the AANS, interested participants in the Pediatric Section met to discuss ongoing activities of the various pediatric oncology study groups in the country. A major effort is currently being mounted to identify those patients with medulloblastoma who will not respond to current regimens of surgery and radiation therapy and to develop effective adjuvant chemotherapy protocols. Because of the numerous reports of long-term harmful side effects of radiation therapy, attempts are also being made to minimize radiation therapy in patients who otherwise represent low risks of tumor recurrence. In the discussion, it was brought out that there are perhaps only 400 new cases of medulloblastoma in the United States per year, limiting any one institution from gaining knowledge in any of these areas except over the very long-term.

Harold Hoffman of Toronto, Jack Laurent of Houston and Michael Edwards of San Francisco discussed some of the ongoing protocols and their advantages and disadvantages. It seems apparent that the majority of neurosurgeons in the United States do not participate in any protocols studying pediatric neurooncology topics. Of the 29 interested members of the Pediatric Section who attended the meeting, only 14 were part of active research protocols in either the Pediatric Oncology Group (POG) or the Children's Cancer Study Group (CCSG).

Because of the value of this brief meeting in disseminating information about pediatric-neurooncologic efforts in various areas in the country, it was decided to continue the exchange of information at the forthcoming meeting in Salt Lake City. In addition, several members of the Pediatric Subsection participated in a pediatric brain tumor workshop in June, 1984 in an effort

to establish a pediatric brain tumor registry, and this subject will also be discussed in Salt Lake City.

Jack Laurent has recently circulated protocols generated by the POG dealing with the treatment of supratentorial astrocytomas, brain stem astrocytomas, posterior fossa ependymomas, and medulloblastomas, and those interested are urged to write him directly at the following address:

John P. Laurent, M.D.
Neurologic Surgery
Suite 0-202
Texas Children's Hospital
Houston, Texas 77030

REDUCED REGISTRATION RATE FOR SECTION MEETING IN SALT LAKE CITY

Jack Walker has announced details of the upcoming Section meeting in Salt Lake City which will be held in the Hotel Utah in downtown Salt Lake City. This elegant deluxe hotel has received highest ratings from both AAA and Mobil and its restaurants are acclaimed as among Utah's finest. Special room rates of \$45 for single and \$55 for double occupancy have been offered to members of the Pediatric Section. Combined with an extremely low registration fee this year of \$20 for members and \$50 for residents, the total meeting cost should be extremely reasonable. Initial registration and an opening reception will be held on Tuesday, December 11 with the meeting following on Wednesday and Thursday, December 12 and 13. The annual banquet will be held on Wednesday evening, December 12. One of the highlights of the meeting will be the opportunity for members and guests to attend a

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rehearsal of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir on Thursday evening, December 13, as the choir prepares for its annual Christmas concert. This evening will represent a unique opportunity to hear a world class musical organization and should not be missed. Following the meeting, Jack is arranging a ski trip for all those who are interested for the weekend of December 14, 15, and 16. Details are being made available to the membership.

A fascinating spouse's program is being planned involving tours of areas of interest in downtown Salt Lake relating to the Mormon religion, including the massive geneological library and the Lion House, the home of Brigham Young. Time will be made available for Christmas shopping in the nearby shopping facilities. Members who have additional questions or have not received registration materials should write directly to Jack at the following address:

Marion L. Walker, M.D.
Primary Children's Medical Center
320-12th Avenue
Salt Lake City, UT 84103

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR AANS ANNUAL MEETING

Members of the Pediatric Section of the AANS are encouraged to submit abstracts on pediatric neurosurgical topics for the annual meeting of the AANS to be held April 21-25 in Atlanta, Georgia. Abstracts may also be submitted for presentation at the poster sessions, which have proven to be an extremely effective method of presenting data and promoting exchange of ideas among the members of the association. The deadline for the receipt for abstracts for both paper and poster presentations is October 1, and abstract forms are available from chairman of the program committee at the following address:

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Address Correction requested