



SHORT CUTS



John P. Laurent, MD, Editor

December 1996

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Chairman's Message



Submitted by
*Harold L.
Rekate, MD,
Chairman, Joint
Section on
Pediatric
Neurological
Surgery of the
AANS and CNS*

Scientific Program Presented at CNS Meeting

The scientific program of the Joint Section of Pediatric Neurological Surgery presented at the 1996 CNS Annual Meeting in Montreal represents the first official act of participation in the Congress program by this organization as a Joint Section. The program planned and moderated by Thomas Luerssen, MD, with assistance from Bruce Cherny, MD, and Ann-Christine Duhaime, MD, dealt with the acute management of severe closed head injuries in children. The session took its inspiration from the new monograph entitled *Guidelines for the Management of Severe Head Injury*.

The primary focus of the presentation was to educate pediatric neurosurgeons and other neurosurgeons who care for severely head injured children as part of a more general neurosurgery practice, and to systematically review the *Guidelines* book as to its relevance to the care of children. Based on the number of attendees present, the subject matter was timely and relevant to a large number of neurosurgeons. While the evaluation forms have not yet been returned, the lack of attrition of attendees during the presentation as well as the spirit of the discussion following the presentation must be judged a success.

We have asked the meeting planners of the CNS and AANS to assist the Section in identifying topics such as this which will be useful to those neurosurgeons who are taking care of children in their practices. The Section is committed to providing current information through didactic programs to satisfy the needs of the neurosurgical community relative to continuing education in pediatric neurosurgery.

Seminar Planned for Annual Pediatric Section Meeting

The Annual Pediatric Section meeting will be held in Charleston, South Carolina December 10-13, 1996. In response to enthusiastic member participation in the breakfast seminars presented at the 1995 meeting in Pasadena, California, we will continue with these sessions this year. Seminars will be offered from 7:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. on December 11-13th and will deal with subjects which we hope will benefit our members and guests.

Dr. Luerssen will chair a seminar on the current management of traumatic brain injury in children, Arnold Menezes, MD, will chair a session on indications and techniques in the stabilization of the pediatric spine, and Robin P. Humphreys, MD, will chair a session on professional communication in pediatric neurosurgery (writing papers, submitting abstracts, making slides, giving presentations and the critical evaluation of the literature that we read).

We would very much like the membership to participate in these presentations particularly by suggesting pediatric neurosurgical topics which would contribute to their professional growth and skill maintenance.

Active Participation in Other Sections Encouraged

We have identified a need for improved communications between the Joint Section of Pediatric Neurological Surgery and the other Joint Sections in Neurosurgery. It is clear that members of the Section take an active role in both the Joint Section on Trauma and Critical Care, and the Joint Section on Tumors. However, fewer members of the Pediatric Joint Section have been active participants in the Spine, Cerebrovascular and Functional Sections. We have many interests in common and much to learn from each other.

We hope to encourage active participation in all of the Joint Sections by members of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery. These members will be asked to assume the responsibility for the dissemination of ideas among us to help provide the best possible neurosurgical care to the children as the technology and understanding of these matters increase. For instance, we as pediatric neurosurgeons need to know the importance of spinal instrumentation, its techniques and outcomes. We, as pediatric neurosurgeons, may have a better understanding of the special needs of children and how those needs change with age.

We are seeking members of the Pediatric Joint Section who are willing to attend and become active in one of the other Sections to improve the transfer of information between the Sections. They would

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25th Annual Meeting to be Held in Charleston, South Carolina



The Pediatric Section Annual Meeting will be headquartered in the picturesque Mills House Hotel

Participants attending the 25th Annual Meeting of the Joint Section of the AANS/CNS on Pediatric Neurological Surgery (JSPNS), jointly sponsored by The American Association of Neurological Surgeons, will be exposed to the newest ideas and thoughts on a variety of topics related to the practice of pediatric neurosurgery. The meeting will be held December 10-13, 1996 in Charleston, South Carolina. The Mills House Hotel will serve as meeting headquarters.

The Breakfast Seminars will provide participants with an opportunity to meet with several recognized authorities to discuss the following specific topics:

Wednesday, December 11:

Management of Traumatic Brain Injury in Children

Faculty: Thomas Luerssen, MD, and Ann-Christine Duhaime, MD

The participant will be able to recall the basics of evaluation, resuscitation, and critical care of head injury; extrapolate and apply appropriate adult treatment "guidelines" to the care of infants and children; recognize the special situations of infants with brain injury; identify the factors affecting outcome from traumatic brain injuries; and evaluate current research and new treatment possibilities as they may apply to pediatric head injury.

Thursday, December 12:

Fusions and Spinal Instrumentation in Pediatric Neurosurgery

Faculty: Arnold Menezes, MD, Henry Bartkowski, MD, Douglas Brockmeyer, MD, and Paul Sawin, MD

The participant will be able to recognize the components of bone healing and grafting involved in fusion in children; evaluate and compare the indications and procedures for instrumentation of the cervical and thoracolumbar spine in children; and develop an approach to the evaluation and treatment of cervical instability through the use of case presentations.

Friday, December 13:

Communications in Pediatric Neurosurgery

Faculty: Robin Humphreys, MD, John Kestle, MD, and Harold ReKate, MD

Participants will be able to extract the important information from their reading, insert the important information into their publications, and produce an effective abstract and presentation, including appropriate audiovisual aids, to enhance the exchange of appropriate medical information.

Open Scientific Sessions

During the Open Scientific Sessions, the participant will be able to

interpret outcomes of the investigations and treatments reported, and relate and integrate the information presented from the interventions into their own practice.

Four-Star Hotel

The JSPNS meeting will take place at the delightful Mills House Hotel, an exact reproduction of the original antebellum Mills Hotel, circa early 1800's. The guest rooms all have demi-canopied beds and antique, or antique reproduction, furniture. It is a four-star, four-diamond hotel in the heart of Charleston's historic district, within easy walking distance of incredible restaurants, tours, and night life.

Historic Charleston

Charleston is America's most beautifully preserved architectural and historic treasure with a rich, 300 year heritage. Since its founding in 1670, Charleston has played an important role in the course of American history and has been the scene of numerous "firsts." The first decisive American victory during the Revolution occurred at the Battle of Fort Sullivan. The first regularly scheduled passenger train service in America was established here in 1830. And of course, everyone knows the initial shots of The War Between the States (only Yankees call it The Civil War) were fired on Union troops stationed at Fort Sumter. History is around every corner, providing a focal point for a visit to this intriguing city.

Visitors to Charleston are amazed at the quality and variety of restaurants that can be enjoyed. These range from southern-style to five-star French and everything in between. Don't forget to try the She-crab Soup with sherry and benne seed wafers. Beautiful homes, churches, and public buildings line the city's tree-lined streets. A carriage ride is recommended to amble down the old streets and alleys—even cobblestone streets—which are still in use today. Shopping is also very close by: the open air Old Slave Market has everything from crafts, vegetables, and boutiques, to ladies weaving sweetgrass baskets (a dying art).

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

April 30, 1996

The meeting was called to order by President Harold Rekate, MD, at 1:00 p.m. at the Minneapolis Hilton and Towers. The minutes of the previous meeting were noted as recorded in the news section of the *Key Reporter* and approved by unanimous vote.

Dr. Rekate presented his Chairman's Report, which concerned outcome data and clinical guidelines.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report showed that the section has \$175,669.00 in the General Operating Fund, \$68,040.00 in the Shulman Award Fund, and \$63,776.00 in the National Award Fund. The total asset value for the Section, including the operating fund was \$303,884.00. The Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

Committee Reports

The Membership Committee recommended the following individuals for Section membership:

William Boydston, MD
Michael Chaparro, MD
Jeffrey Cozzens, MD
James Doty, MD
Richard Ellenbogen, MD
Sara Gaskill, MD
James Rutka, MD

Their applications were approved.

Richard Coulon, MD, reported that the Education Committee had reviewed two manuscripts concerning Dandy-Walker Malformations and Chiari Malformations. The estimated cost of publishing these two texts is being determined by The American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

Mark Dias, MD, the pediatric liaison to the **NEUROSURGERY://ON-CALL™** Web site, presented an overview of the contents of neurosurgery's new Internet location. There will be some exciting new changes and additions to the site over the next few months. You can access the web site at www.neurosurgery.org

The Guidelines Committee report was given by Chairman Rekate on

behalf of committee chairman Thomas Luersson, MD, who could not be present. He focused on the AANS/CNS guidelines on head injury developed in liaison with the Quality Assurance Committee of the Academic Pediatric Association. The guidelines have been completed and reviewed by the AANS. It was suggested that to cover the costs of publishing the *Guidelines For Severe Head Injuries in Children* booklet, the American Association of Pediatric Neurosurgeons contribute \$3,000 and the Joint Section contribute \$3,000.

The Rules and Regulations Committee, headed by Alan Cohen, MD, suggested that the Program Committee be increased to include up to five members. This will require Bylaws and rules changes and will have to be agreed upon. It was also further noted that the agreement between the AANS and the Congress for this scientific program committee had been completed

The CME Credit Committee, led by Bruce Kaufman, MD, noted that they are the liaison between the Program Committee and the AANS/CNS. Dr. Kaufman reminded the Executive Committee that the Section is required to keep adequate documentation on all CME programs and must evaluate the previous meetings prior to development of future meetings.

The new CPT Code Committee, chaired by Joe Piatt, MD, reported that they are attempting to rewrite the codes for shunt and endoscopic surgery. This panel meets twice per

year. The earliest that the CPT Codes can take effect is 1998.

The Outcome and Guidelines Committee, under the leadership of Rick Abbott, MD, suggested that each Section give money to support the Guidelines and Outcomes Committee. He also reported that the debate on the silicone shunt was before the Drugs and Device Committee of the AANS.

The Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies Committee did not give a report.

New Business

Robin P. Humphreys, MD, suggested that an award from the Pediatric Section be established for distinguished service in the field of pediatric neurosurgery. The award would be presented to a retired individual. The recipient would be chosen by a three-member committee appointed by the Chairman of the Section. No monetary stipend would be offered, although travel expenses to the annual fall meeting to receive the award would be given.

The Matson Lecture Award was given to Maurice Choux, MD.

The Future Meetings Committee announced the following meeting dates, locations and chairmen:

1997 - New Orleans at the Westin Hotel, Richard Coulon, MD
1998 - Indianapolis, IN, Thomas Luerssen, MD
1999 - Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Harold Hoffman, MD

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be given time at our annual meeting to update everyone's knowledge of what is current in these areas. They would also be expected to present the new findings in pediatric neurosurgery to the other Sections if it impacts on their program or practice. Members with special interests in specific areas of neurosurgery as covered by any of the other sections are encouraged to send this information to myself or the Section's Secretary/Treasurer. They will be placed on the appropriate liaison committees.

The Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery is committed to being responsive to the desires and needs of its membership. We are anxious to hear from you about how the Section can help you in your practice and in dealing with the children in your practice.

Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery
of The American Association of Neurological Surgeons
and Congress of Neurological Surgeons
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2000- Orlando, FL, Jogi Pattisapu, MD
2001 - Banff Alberta, Canada, Terrence
Myles, MD

It was suggested that \$30,000 for this year be given again to the AANS Research Foundation for a matching research grant.

It was noted that pediatric neurosurgery abstracts are not generally selected for the Open Plenary sessions of the AANS Annual Meeting. The six papers that are selected are presented at the Pediatric Section session part of the AANS meeting. The AANS Plenary Session has the first pick of those that may be presented at the open session.

Since no further business was presented, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by

John P. Laurent, MD
Secretary

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Winter 1997 Meeting to be Held in New Orleans

By Dick Coulon, MD, and Joe Nadell, MD

The Winter 1997 meeting of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery of the AANS and CNS will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The official dates will be Tuesday, December 2, 1997 through Friday, December 5, 1997. We will be joint hosts.

The meeting will be headquartered at the Westin Canal Place Hotel in the heart of downtown New Orleans. It is within walking distance of the French Quarter, Aquarium of the Americas, River Walk, and many other attractions. We have already begun planning the social aspects of the meeting and the many and varied attributes of the city offer great possibilities for both members and their spouses.

We will begin work on the scientific program as soon as the meeting in Charleston is concluded. We have some new ideas which we think will make the meeting more stimulating professionally. Achieving this goal will depend upon the membership's participation so we encourage you all to take part.

We hope to make your stay in New Orleans both an educationally-rewarding and socially-satisfying event. We look forward to seeing "ya'll" in '97.