



SHORT CUTS



John P. Laurent, MD, Editor

March 1997

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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



As my tenure as chairman of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery of the AANS and CNS officially ends after the business meeting at the AANS Annual Meeting in Denver this April, this will be my last message to be published in Short Cuts. I would like

to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Jack Laurent, who has served as secretary/treasurer for my chairmanship, and to acknowledge the enthusiastic support and energy shown by the entire Executive Committee for the past two years, including Dr. Arthur Marlin (immediate past president), and members at large Drs. Rick Abbott, Joe Piatt, Leland Albright, Tim Mapstone, Paul Steinbok and Ken Winston.

I also want to congratulate the newly elected Section officers Dr. Jack Walker, chairman, and Dr. Tom Luerssen, secretary/treasurer, as well as the new members of the Executive Committee. It is my perception that the work of the Section has increased dramatically in the past few years and is destined to become even greater in the face of new demands on our energy in a constantly changing health care environment

SECTION ANNUAL MEETINGS

Many thanks to Dr. Bruce Storrs for an outstanding job organizing the Section Annual Meeting in Charleston this past December, and to Mike Alberts of the AANS National Office for his on-site attention to the meeting's coordination.

In response to a previous call for information from members as to how the Section may better serve the needs of its membership, there were several suggestions as to the possibility of changing the timing of the Section Annual Meeting. A poll was taken at the Charleston meeting, and the results showed that a large percentage of those attending were in favor of continuing the recent tradition of beginning the meeting with a welcoming cocktail party on Tuesday night and ending the meeting on Friday evening with expected departures on Saturday. The next

most popular response (about 2/3 as popular) would end the meeting on Sunday in order to take advantage of airline fees including a Saturday stay. About 60 percent of the members showed a distinct preference for holding the meetings at warm resort settings. Approximately 30 percent wished to maintain the tradition of having the meeting held in a city with host members. There was little enthusiasm for changing to a cold weather/ski venue.

SECTION COMMITTEES

Each chairman is enthusiastically working on specific projects to support the mission of the Section. These programs will be continued under the direction of their founders. Dr. Michael Scott will now be the chairman of an ad-hoc committee to evaluate and award traveling fellowships to residents in training who wish to pursue specific goals related to the neurosurgical care of children. Announcements regarding these fellowships will appear in the journals, and letters describing the program will be sent to each of the residency program directors.

LIAISON EFFORTS

My own energies on behalf of the Section over these past two years have emphasized the improvement of the transfer of information between the Pediatric Section and other Joint Sections of the AANS and CNS. We have much to learn from one another. Thought and technology are advancing so rapidly that we must ensure that we continue to educate each other in areas which may benefit our patients.

A Liaison Committee was announced at the Charleston meeting. We are looking for Section members who would commit to becoming active in the Spine, Cerebrovascular, Functional and Stereotactic, Tumor, Trauma and Critical Care, and History Sections so that joint educational programs may be fostered. Also, those interested and active in minimally invasive neurosurgery and new technology will

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prove to be specific resources for the Section in the production of educational programs. Members with any of these subspecialty interests and the energy to become active at these interfaces should contact me at my office in Phoenix, or via e-mail (76323.3315@compuserve.com). Once several neurosurgeons are identified in each area, we will contact the volunteers to set up an organizational meeting. The Section needs your help in this important function.

1997 MATSON LECTURER

I am excited to report that Professor Maurice Choux will serve as the 1997 Matson Lecturer on Wednesday afternoon, April 16, at the AANS Annual Meeting in Denver. Professor Choux is an internationally recognized teacher of neurosurgery. The subject of his presentation will be "Surgical Excellence in Pediatric Neurosurgery." There will be a cocktail party in honor of Professor Choux the preceding evening. The scientific program for the Section in Denver will also contain a seminar on "The Differences Between Adult and Pediatric Brain Tumors."

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

The Pediatric Joint Section is dedicated to meeting the educational needs of all neurosurgeons who care for and about children. Suggestions for educational programs are therefore requested from all who are interested. Recent feedback suggests that the programs of the Section are helpful in the updating of information regarding the care of children. We need the support and suggestions of those we are trying to serve in order to be successful in our mission. Thank you all for your help.

Dr. Arthur Marlin and his partner, Dr. Sarah Gaskill, will be responsible for the assessment and publication of parent educational brochures to be sponsored by the Section. A brochure on the Dandy-Walker Malformation is being developed and others are nearing completion. Any member who has an interest and desire to write such an educational brochure is encouraged to contact Dr. Gaskill.

Harold L. Rekate, MD, Chairman

Maximize Your Participation at the AANS Annual Meeting in Denver



Don't miss these educational offerings designed just for the pediatric neurosurgery specialist at the AANS Annual Meeting in Denver from April 12-17.

JOINT SECTION ON PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY SESSION

Wednesday, 2:45-5:30 PM

Special Lecture: Donald Matson Memorial Lecture
Surgical Excellence in Pediatric Neurosurgery, Maurice Choux
Kenneth Shulman Memorial Presentation
Special Symposium: Pediatric Brain Tumor Similarities and Differences
Six Scientific Papers

BREAKFAST SEMINARS

Pediatric Epilepsy
Monday

Moderator: Robert Maxwell, MD

This seminar will present the indications, evaluation process, surgical options, technical approaches, and results and outcomes of treatment for the childhood epilepsies.

Controversies in Pediatric Craniofacial Surgery
Tuesday

Moderator: Harold Rekate, MD

This seminar will deal with current controversial areas in the management of craniofacial problems. Problems to be emphasized include occipital plagiocephaly, syndromic craniofacial disorder and new technology.

Pediatric Brain Tumors
Tuesday

Moderator: Harold Hoffman, MD

This course offers an overview of pediatric brain tumors and treatment options.

Pediatric Critical Care
Wednesday

Moderator: Thomas Luerssen, MD

This seminar will include a discussion of the latest options for the care of critically ill pediatric patients.

Management of Pediatric Hydrocephalus
Wednesday

Moderator: Kerry Crone, MD

This seminar is designed to examine the spectrum of interdependent factors which impact the management of pediatric hydrocephalus. The state-of-the-art technologies which may be used to assess and track cerebrospinal fluid dynamics will be highlighted.

Decision Making in Pediatric Endoscopy
Thursday

Moderator: Marion Walker, MD

This seminar will discuss decision making in pediatric endoscopy.

JOINT PEDIATRIC SECTION OF THE AANS/CNS
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/ BUSINESS MEETING
December 11, 1996 • Charleston, South Carolina

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Executive Committee/Business Meeting was called to order by Dr. Harold ReKate at 12:30 PM [Executive Committee] and 5:30 PM [Business Meeting].

II. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and a correction was made in regard to the proposed future meeting sites: The minutes should have read "suggested" sites, not "selected" sites.

III. SECRETARY/ TREASURER 'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was given and it was noted that there was an increase in the financial obligation to the AANS:

<u>Investments - Consolidated Pool</u>	1996	1995
General Operating Fund	\$ 97,076	\$ 58,092
Shulman Award Fund	59,919	58,724
Matson Fund	<u>64,810</u>	<u>92,378</u>
	\$221,805	\$209,194
 <u>Total Assets</u>	 \$230,012	 \$208,878

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Annual Meeting Report: Dr. Bruce Storrs

Dr. Storrs reported that there are 210 registered (medical) participants and 22 exhibitors at this week's meeting. It was also noted that this year's Spouse Program is the largest since its inception at the JSPNS Annual Meeting.

B. Committee Reports

1. Membership Committee: Dr. Terence Myles
Dr. Myles reported the questionable concurrence with the AANS and the CNS rules as to whether a CNS member has direct access to becoming a member of the Section. This was reported as being present in Section 3B of the Bylaws. It was also noted that a candidate member should apply directly to the membership committee chairman. New members elected were:

Active Status:

Carolyn Marie "Lyn" Carey, MD - Salt Lake City, UT
Gregory R. J. Criscuolo, MD - Cheshire, CT
Robert F. Keating, MD - Bronx, NY
Lenwood P. Smith, Jr., MD - Columbia, SC

Active Provisional Status:

Cheryl A. Muszynski, MD - New York City, NY

It was noted by the membership chairman that there are approximately 300 active members in the JSPNS. There is a provisional status available for many neurosurgeons who are not members of the AANS/CNS.

2. Rules and Regulations Committee: Dr. Alan Cohen

It was reported that this meeting has been approved for 25.5 CME credits, which has necessitated a Standards Committee to oversee the Scientific Program and thus be separated from the CME

Committee. Dr. Cohen will send a letter with this proposal to the secretary/treasurer.

3. Scientific Program & CME Committee:

Dr. Bruce Kaufman & Dr. Frederick Boop
Dr. Boop gave this committee's report. He stated it is important that the Educational Objectives be observed. The assessment forms will determine the type of meeting to be held in the future.

4. Neurosurgery On-Call™ Web Site Committee:
Dr. Mark Dias

Recent changes in the Editorial Board of the **Neurosurgery://On-Call™ [N://OC®]** Web site, as well as changes in the content and emphasis of the site, were reviewed. Concern was voiced by several members that content on the site would be sacrificed in the name of new technologies, such as Shockwave documents, multimedia presentations, etc.

The Editorial Board decided on three major objectives for its part of the **N://OC®** Site:

1. To facilitate communication among practicing pediatric neurosurgeons
2. To disseminate information on pediatric neurosurgical topics both to practicing neurosurgeons whose primary interest is not pediatric neurosurgery, as well as to neurosurgeons in training
3. To educate the public (including, but not limited to, children with pediatric neurosurgical disorders and their families) about issues relating to pediatric neurosurgery.

It was decided that the content on the site should reflect the Editorial Board's and the Section's commitment to these three objectives.

Dr. ReKate had asked for a discussion of the Pediatric Consultants' Corner, a forum whereby neurosurgeons with problematic cases or questions regarding treatment options for pediatric neurosurgical problems could be e-mailed to experts in the field of pediatric neurosurgery. The AANS/CNS allowed that the answer in some cases might be to send the patient to a pediatric neurosurgeon. It was the board's decision that a Consultants' Corner was an appropriate role for the Section's part of **N://OC®**. An ad hoc committee had been formed at the Executive Committee Meeting to address issues of concern regarding medico-legal issues, disclaimers, the definition of an expert and who among pediatric neurosurgeons should be included. It was decided to have these issues addressed by the ad hoc committee before any decision would be reached.

The Board decided to post a roster of pediatric neurosurgeons on the site on a password-protected page; names, business addresses, business phone numbers, and e-mail addresses would be posted. Neurosurgeons who are certified by the American

JOINT PEDIATRIC SECTION OF THE AANS/CNS
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/ BUSINESS MEETING
(continued)

Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery (ABPNS) would be so designated, and those who finished a pediatric neurosurgical fellowship would also be so designated. The list would be accessible by any neurosurgeon with the appropriate password for protected sections of the Web site.

The fellowship roster for pediatric neurosurgery fellowships needs to be updated. Several of the fellowships are no longer available, and others have been added since the list was originally created. It was decided that fellowships which are accredited by the accreditation body for pediatric neurosurgery should be designated as such, so that prospective applicants recognize which fellowship training programs are acceptable for pediatric neurosurgical board certification. For each program, a description of the following would be listed: The program's strengths/interests, the number and distribution of pediatric cases, and the names and qualifications of the program's pediatric neurosurgeons. Contact information would be provided, as well as a link to the program's own Web site, if requested. It was decided to post fellowship information on the pediatric site in addition to the general fellowship page.

It was also decided to have a portion of the site devoted to the dissemination of information about pediatric neurosurgery and pediatric neurosurgical disorders to the general public. A series of pages would be introduced which might provide a review of information on specific pediatric neurosurgical diseases, together with a focused bibliography for families who require further information. In addition, each page would, when appropriate, provide a comprehensive list of links to other pages having related information. These sites would be asked to provide reciprocal links back to **N://OC**®.

The Board decided to initiate and support a digital database of images (clinical, radiographic, operative, etc.) representing various aspects of pediatric neurosurgical diseases and therapies. These images would be posted without copyright or royalties, free for downloading, and with the intent of creating a library of images which could be shared with others for teaching purposes. Finally, the Board decided to enlist the support of Karger in some manner to post abstracts, keywords, etc., from pediatric neurosurgery on the site. The newly created book review and journal club sections of pediatric neurosurgery (edited by Mark Dias, MD, and Michael Partington, MD, respectively) would also be posted on the pediatric site for educational purposes.

These are the initial projects which would be supported by the group.

5. Consultants' Corner Committee: Dr. Mark Dias Drs. Rick Abbott, Robin Humphreys, Leland Albright, and Bruce Storrs recommended that the Consultants' Corner be a part of the **Neurosurgery://On-Call**™

Web site. (See above in **Neurosurgery://On-Call**™ Web Site Committee)

6. Traveling Fellowship Committee: Dr. Michael Scott The Joint Section has established a traveling fellowship for residents in neurosurgical training. The fellowship is intended to cover the traveling and living expenses for up to one month for residents who wish to pursue additional experience in pediatric neurosurgery during their residency years. The one month fellowship can be spent in any activity which broadens the resident's exposure to pediatric neurosurgery, and might include observation at a clinical or research center, or any other relevant activity. The maximum fellowship stipend is \$2500. Interested residents should prepare a brief statement regarding the purpose of the proposed fellowship and their expenses, obtain the written permission of their program director and that of the institution where they will seek the fellowship, and direct their application to:

R. Michael Scott, MD
Department of Neurosurgery
The Children's Hospital
300 Longwood Avenue, Bader 319
Boston, MA 02115

7. Guidelines & Outcomes Committee:

Dr. Thomas Luerssen

Dr. Luerssen reported that the pediatric head injury outcome study report has copyright problems.

8. Distinguished Service Award Committee:

Dr. Robin Humphreys

Purpose: The purpose of this award is to recognize a member of the Section for outstanding, continued and/or lifetime contributions to the field of pediatric neurosurgery.

Eligibility: To be eligible for this award, the recipient must:

1. Be a member in good standing of the Pediatric Section.
2. Be recognized by his/her peers for leadership in pediatric neurosurgery and for achievements in clinical care, education and investigational studies as they pertain to pediatric neurosurgery.
3. Be nominated in writing by any two members of the Section.

Their recommendations are to be submitted to the Section chairman and the decision will be made by the Executive Committee.

(Note: Service on the Executive Committee does not guarantee eligibility for the award.)

Award: The award does not necessarily have to be given each year.

1. The award will be presented during the Pediatric Section of the Annual Meeting of the AANS. It consists of:
 - a. a gift of \$1000 to be directed to the recipient's children's hospital foundation.
 - b. expenses incurred for travel to and accommodation at the meeting at which the award will be presented, up to a maximum of \$4000.
 - c. a token for the recipient (plaque, ring, etc.)

**JOINT PEDIATRIC SECTION OF THE AANS/CNS
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/ BUSINESS MEETING
(continued)**

2. It is not incumbent upon the recipient to deliver a formal address at the time of receipt of the award.

Decision: The decision as to the eligibility of candidates and the identity of the one to receive the award will be made by the Executive Committee. All decisions will be final. The announcement of the award winner will be made at the Annual Section Meeting in the fall and the award given to the recipient the following spring.

9. Nominating Committee: Dr. Michael Scott
The Nominating Committee approved the following:
Chairman: Dr. Marion Walker
Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Thomas Luerssen
At-Large positions: Dr. Andrew Parent
Dr. Mark Dias

These were seconded and approved.

Following the Nominating Committee's direction to approve Dr. Walker, Dr. Luerssen, Dr. Parent, and Dr. Dias for their positions, Dr. Steve Haines requested comments concerning conflict of interest of the new incoming President of the Section and his position as secretary of the American Board of Pediatric Neurosurgery [ABPN]. Dr. Haines requested details of the relationship between the Pediatric Section and the ABPN. Dr. Walker's response concluded that certification was already established and would continue to be maintained. Dr. Walker hoped that this would not be a wedge between the adult neurosurgical community of the AANS/CNS and the pediatric neurosurgeons.

10. Publications Committee: Drs. Arthur Marlin and Sarah Gaskill
Dr. Harold Rekate gave this committee's report. The Dandy-Walker educational brochure should be available soon. The Chiari I brochure is completed, although it is not ready for publication, and the Chiari II brochure has not been addressed as yet. These will be marketed at \$1 after cost per pamphlet and distributed to those members wishing to purchase them from the AANS National Office.

11. JCSNS: Dr. Scott McLanahan
The JCSNS met and expressed their anger at the pediatric neurosurgeons for separating from the AANS. Enclosed is a paragraph written verbatim from their minutes of their Montreal meeting on September 27, 1996.

"The first of these was an indication to the group that Pediatric Neurosurgery had broken away from the AANS by forming a separate American Board of Pediatric Neurosurgery and incorporating in the state

of Ohio. This was a move that had been announced in the "Red Journal" and was not supported by the American Board of Neurosurgery, the CNS, the AANS, or the JCSNS. The so-called American Board of Pediatric Neurosurgery is not recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties and it is not clear what effect this will have on the general practice of neurosurgery. There is considerable comment and opposition to the move by Pediatric Neurosurgery in this direction, primarily in terms of splitting the efforts in an already small speciality."

12. CPT Coding Committee: Dr. Joseph Piatt
Dr. Piatt reviewed ventriculoperitoneal shunt and endoscopic procedures charges and felt it was not economical to change the CPT coding.

VI NEW BUSINESS

**A. New Committee: Liaison Committee:
Dr. Harold Rekate**

Dr. Rekate appointed himself as a member of the new Liaison Committee, with the approval of Dr. Marion Walker, to work between the different Sections.

B. Concerning Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee was discussed at a pre-Executive Committee Meeting as to its role in nominating a particular slate that may not be concurrent with the Executive Committee's decision. It was felt that a change in the by-laws should be written. Dr. Rick Abbott volunteered to write a statement which would include both the timing of the nominations to the Executive Committee [3 months prior to the meeting] as well as a statement regarding the relationship of the Executive Committee to the Nominating Committee.

C. Future Meeting Sites:

Dr. Joseph Nadell presented the next meeting site to be New Orleans on December 2-5, 1997. The 1998 meeting will be held in Indianapolis with Dr. Thomas Luerssen as the host. Further meeting sites were not discussed. Presentations at future meetings should include:

1. An increase in the number of invited talks
2. Decreased presentation time to allow increased discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Laurent, MD, FACS, FAAP
Chief, Pediatric Neurosurgery
Associate Professor
Texas Children's Hospital
Houston, Texas

Award Presentations at the Fall, 1996, Meeting of the Joint Section of Pediatric Neurosurgery

The Shulman Award:

Tae Sung Park, MD
St. Louis Children's Hospital
1 Children's Pl./Neurosurgery
St. Louis, MO 63110

The Matson Award:

Maurice Choux, MD
Hospital Des Enfants
De La Timone, Cedex 5
Marseille, 13385
France

The Hydrocephalus Association Award:

Martha J. Johnson, PhD
(associated with Pat McAllister, PhD & Mark Luciano, MD)
Cleveland Clinic Foundation, SBO
9500 Euclid Ave./Neurosurgery
Cleveland, OH 44195

1997 Course Schedule

Socio-Economic Courses

1997 Reimbursement Update for Neurosurgeons
August 22-23 – Chicago, Illinois
October 24-25 – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
November 16-19 – Maui, Hawaii

A Proactive Approach to Managed Care:
Strategies & Solutions
June 21-22 – Cleveland, Ohio
November 7-8 – Palm Beach, Florida

Clinical Skill Courses

Neurosurgical Critical Care for Neurosurgeons,
Neuroscience Nurses & Physician Assistants
June 5-7 – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Neurosurgery Review by Case
Management: Oral Board Preparation
May 3-5 – San Diego, California

For more information or to register, call the Professional Development Department at (847) 692-9500.
Or e-mail us at info@aans.org

**Don't miss the 1997 Pediatric Section meeting
in New Orleans, December 2-5, 1997!**

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and Congress of Neurological Surgeons
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