



Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery
of The American Association of Neurological Surgeons
22 South Washington Street, Park Ridge, IL 60068-4287

SHORT CUTS

John P. Laurent, MD, Editor

November, 1994

Chairman's Report

As the annual Section meeting draws near, I would like to provide some of my reflections of the past year, and update you on the activities of the Section.

The Section remains quite financially sound as you will see from the Treasurer's report. The money in the Section is sequestered in such a fashion, however, that approximately one hundred thousand dollars are placed in funds to assure the continuation of the Shulman Award and the Matson Lecture. The Section donated \$20,000 to the AANS Research Foundation to support a pediatric neurosurgical project. We hoped to be able to decrease significantly the financial burden on the members for the upcoming meeting. Indeed, we have made some significant reductions but not the drastically reduced fees we had hoped to achieve. This was due to the projected losses these reductions would have caused. I think that it remains very important in the current milieu that the Section remains financially strong and I do not think it wise to significantly jeopardize our general fund. We have made efforts to reduce the registration fees and resident fees, and are charging the minimum for breakfast seminars; essentially the cost of the room and breakfast. We have changed the banquet as this has been a major source of revenue lost in past years, due to the neces-

sity to guarantee numbers to the hotel in preparation for the banquet. Thus, we will now request that you register for the banquet. This will be done on a trial basis. If this decreases the number of people attending the banquet, we will go back to our old ways.

The Section has embarked on several important projects. The Ad Hoc Committee on CPT Codes has not been as active as we had hoped, primarily because of the tremendous bureaucracy involved in trying to change these codes and create new ones. We will, however, continue to have this committee and continue to have it attempt to work in our behalf. Richard Coulon has been very active in the Publications Committee and we hope that we will have several patient information publications that will be of use to our membership over the next year. A list of intended topics should be available by the December meeting.

I hope indeed that this activity of the Section will tend to make our lives a little easier. There has been a considerable flurry of activity regarding guidelines in head injuries and indeed this has been addressed both by non-neurosurgeons and neurosurgeons. Tom Luerssen is working to coordinate our activities here with both the AANS, the ASPN and with the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Section

is trying to play a more active role in some child advocacy programs in conjunction with the Academy. The first major attempt to do more in conjunction with the Academy will be at the 1995 Congress meeting in San Francisco. Here members of the Academy, which is meeting at the same time, will be invited to the pediatric program and hopefully will be able to obtain CME credits for their attendance. We expect to pick topics of interest to pediatricians and neurosurgeons for this program. Tim Mapstone has worked very hard on this and I believe our input into the Congress meeting has been greater than ever before. I hope that this indicates a trend, and that we will be able to have significant input not only in the Congress meetings but also in the AANS meetings. It is very important for the Section to be active and vocal in the parent organization and in all pediatric topics.

I have been asked this year, I think more than ever before, to submit multiple reports about Section activity. The AANS is trying to consolidate and act as a single force in neurosurgery which is so important in this time of health care. Given that, however, I believe that it is extremely important for the Section to remain as independent as possible and to continue to have a very strong teaching effort both in its publications and Annual Section Meeting. It is important to interface

Minutes of the Executive Committee

San Diego, California • April 12, 1994

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by Chairman Arthur Marlin.
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in *Short Cuts*.

Future Meeting Sites

- 1994 St. Louis, Missouri
T.S. Park - Host,
December 6-9
- 1995 Pasadena, California
G. McComb - Host
- 1996 Charleston, South Carolina - Tentative
Cincinnati, Ohio - Alternate
B. Storrs - Host

Proposed future sites - Indianapolis, Indiana and Miami, Florida.

In the future all proposals for hosting the meeting must be submitted in writing to the Secretary.

Treasurer's Report

Total worth year end - 1993	\$173,573
of which	
Shulman Award	\$ 55,967
Matson Fund	\$ 59,743

These awards and Memorial funds are now self sustaining.

Ad Hoc Committee on Utilization of Funds - Dr. Winston

Dr. Winston has received from Dr. Weiss (ABNS) approval of the idea of funding travel fellowships by the Pediatric Section of the AANS. The time for these fellowships is not to be taken from the 30 month core block of basic neurosurgical training.

Membership Committee

No Report

Nominating Committee

No Report

New Committees

- ▶ **Publications Committee**
A new committee was appointed by its chairman, Dr. R. Coulon (New Orleans, LA).
- ▶ **Child Advocacy Committee**
Dr. H. James will coordinate activities with the American Academy of Pediatric Neurosurgery.
- ▶ **Guidelines Committee**
Drs. Tom Luerssen and David McLone are Co-Chairmen. Dr. Marlin has written to the parent organization stating that the AANS Committee on Guidelines should limit its activity to adult neurosurgery.
- ▶ **Relative Value Update Committee**
Drs. J. Piatt and Peter Carmel are the Chairmen. There are 14 pediatric related codes in the RBRVS System which are currently unvalued and this committee is working on this aspect. New pediatric code values will probably be published in the June Federal Register.

New Business

The proposal that the Section commit funds to be matched by the AANS Research Fund was discussed. These funds would be earmarked for pediatric neurosurgical research.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold L. ReKate, MD

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

San Diego, California • April 12, 1994

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Arthur Marlin.

The order of business and discussion paralleled that of the Executive Committee. It was agreed by the membership that \$20,000 should be donated by the Pediatric Section to the AANS Research Fund to be earmarked for Pediatric Neurosurgical Research and matched by the AANS fund.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold L. Rekate, MD

1994 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery will be held December 6-10, 1994, in St. Louis, Missouri. The venue will be the gracious Adam's Mark Hotel built in the shadow of the Gateway Arch, the nation's tallest and most elegant memorial commemorating the role St. Louis played in our nation's surge westward.

The meeting will open with the welcoming reception on December 6th. Thursday, December 8, will be the evening for the annual dinner banquet. The scientific program will include the presentation of papers all day Wednesday, half a day on Thursday, and all day Friday. Breakfast seminars will also be held all three mornings before the general scientific sessions.

As in previous years, the Shulman and Hydrocephalus Foundation Awards will be given for the best resident presentation. This year's Paolo Raimondi Lecture will be given by Blaise F. Bourgeois, M.D., Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics, Washington University School of Medicine. Dr. Bourgeois will speak on the present presurgical evaluation of pediatric epilepsy.

The Special Guest Lecture will be presented by Susan E. Mackinnon, M.D., Professor of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine. She will be speaking on brachial plexus surgery with emphasis on birth brachial plexus injury.

Membership

The following applications for membership in the Pediatric Section of the AANS are completed and are being reviewed by the Membership Committee.

Frederick Boop, MD
John A. Duncan, MD
Mary E. Dunn, MD
Kathleen B. French, MD
Mark Hamilton, MD
Robert Jones, MD
John Kestle, MD
S. David Moss, MD
Jogi Pattisaper, MD
Peter Ruzicka, MD

The following applications are incomplete.

Michael Burke, MD
Benjamin S. Carson, MD
Charles Chang, MD
James Dozier, MD
Karin Muraszko, MD
Michael Partington, MD
Antonio Pratts, MD
Tariq Siddiai, MD
Jeffrey Wisoff, MD

Announcement

A Pediatric Neurosurgery Research Grant has been established for \$40,000. For further information, contact Chris Ann Philips of the AANS National Office at (708) 692-9500.

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Park Ridge, IL 60068

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► as much as possible with our colleagues, not only in the AANS and CNS, but also in the American Academy of Pediatrics and ASPN. In an effort to do this we have had to develop several ad hoc committees. This, I think, gives us the opportunity for people interested in becoming more active in the Section a chance to become involved. I would very much appreciate input from Section members, and any thoughts you have on how the Section can assist you with your practice and in the neurosurgical care of children. If anyone is interested in becoming more active in the Section, we now have ways in which you can accomplish that. We have a strong Section and I think that if we can find more ways to fulfill our needs from both a practice and personal standpoint, we will become even stronger.

These are very difficult times in medicine. You will notice one breakfast seminar deals with practice management. The breakfast seminar on medical malpractice presented last year, while not particularly well attended, was very well received by those who did attend. If this is an area of interest, and if the Section should devote more time to this area of education, which in both neurosurgical training and post graduate education has largely been ignored, let us hear from you. Being a physician in private practice, my perception of the importance of certain issues may be very much different from those in academia. While the Executive Committee remains primarily people from academia, it becomes also more important that we hear of the concerns of our member-

ship at large. It is very easy to grumble about the activities of the Section, but unless we have constructive criticism, in the form of complaints and suggestions brought to the Executive Committee, it is difficult to make the necessary changes.

Over the past year, I have perhaps imposed more upon members of the Section to help me with work than others in the past. I certainly appreciate all those who have willingly given of their time. Once again I encourage all those interested in becoming more active in the Section to become more involved.

Arthur E. Marlin, MD