



SHORT CUTS



Thomas G. Luerssen, MD, Editor

November 1997

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Joint Section, Parent Organizations Working Together

by Marion L. Walker, MD,
Chairman, Joint Section on Pediatric
Neurological Surgery of the AANS and CNS



The Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery now has the opportunity to be an active participant in the planning process for the Congress of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting, as well as with the AANS. The Congress has made specific efforts over the past year to include all of the various Section Chairmen in the planning process.

As a result, I feel that we will have a much more significant input into the issues facing us on a national level.

In addition, the Congress has now given the Pediatric Section two afternoons for a Section Meeting at the CNS Annual Meeting. This affords us an opportunity to have more presentations from some of our younger members and an opportunity for increased scientific input. The immediate past meeting of the Congress in New Orleans

allowed us to present a synopsis of several selected posters, as well as scientific presentations. There was concern that the length of time allotted for each paper was too short to allow for adequate discussion and indeed this proved to be true. We are in discussions with the Congress leadership and Annual Meeting Scientific Program Committee to try to allow sufficient time for adequate discussion.

As Section Chairman I am especially pleased to see the interaction that occurs between the Congress, AANS and Section leadership. The Pediatric Section was involved in the August Leadership Conference between AANS officers, CNS officers and representatives from the various Joint Sections. Although there are a number of issues raised by pediatric neurosurgery that are still contentious at a national level, there is now a forum for dialog that I am sure will lead to significant progress on these issues.

Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery Officers and Standing Committees, 1997-98

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Nominating Committee Chairman:

Harold L. ReKate, MD

Rules and Regulations Committee Chairman:

Alan R. Cohen, MD

Program and Continuing Education Committee Chairman:

Frederick A. Boop, MD

The Annual Meeting of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery New Orleans, Louisiana December 2-5, 1997

The Annual Meeting of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery will meet in New Orleans, Louisiana beginning Tuesday, December 2 through Friday, December 5, 1997. The Meeting, jointly sponsored by the AANS, will be held at the Westin Canal Place adjacent to the Aquarium of the Americas and on the edge of the French Quarter. The Co Annual Meeting Chairmen are Richard A. Coulon, MD, and Joseph M. Nadel, MD. Registration will start at 4:30 PM on December 2. A special symposium for nurses will be held on Tuesday afternoon. There will be a welcoming reception that evening and the Scientific Sessions will start Wednesday, December 3. Three excellent breakfast seminars are planned. They are: Posterior Plagiocephaly:

When to Treat and Not Treat; AVM: Non-surgical Treatment, Interventional Radiography and Radiation Therapy; and Cranial Base Surgery in Children.

The Paulo Raimondi lecturer this year will be Dr. M. Michael Cohen of Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. His talk will address the issues of cranial stenosis and positional molding.

Social activities for the Meeting include a plantation tour with lunch at Lafitte's Landing, and a tour of the Garden District, cemeteries and St. Elizabeth's, the home of novelist Ann Rice. For the Annual Meeting banquet, there will be a cruise on the Mississippi River aboard a paddle wheel steam boat.



Highlights of the Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

BREAKFAST SEMINAR, 7-8 AM

Posterior Plagiocephaly: When to Treat and Not to Treat

Faculty: Harold ReKate, MD,
James T. Goodrich, MD

PAOLO RAIMONDI LECTURE, 1-2 PM

Modern Prospective on Craniosynostosis
M. Michael Cohen, Jr., DMD, PhD
Professor of Oral Pathology, Faculty of Dentistry
Professor of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

BREAKFAST SEMINAR, 7-8 AM

AVM: Non-Surgical Treatment,
Interventional Radiography &
Radiation Therapy

Faculty: John J. Connors III, MD,
Roland B. Hawkins, MD

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

BREAKFAST SEMINAR, 7-8 AM

Cranial Base Surgery in Children
Faculty: Derek A. Bruce, MD



Shulman Award Nominees

The Shulman Award is given to outstanding work that is presented by a resident at the Section Annual Meeting. The winner will be announced at the AANS Annual Meeting in April. The following papers are being considered:

Paper 2. The "Crab Procedure" for the Late Repair of Scaphocephaly

Ken S. Sato, MD, John E. Kalesbeck, MD, Thomas Raley, MD,
Thomas G. Luerksen, MD, Robert Havlik, MD

Paper 3. Extended Vertex Craniotomy: Results in 63 Patients with Sagittal Synostosis

Jeffrey S. Weinberg, MD, Diana L. Freed, BS,
Howard L. Weiner, MD, Jeffrey Wisoff, MD

Paper 4. Biodegradable Fixation Techniques for Pediatric Craniofacial Surgery

Shekar N. Kurpad, MD, PhD, Jeffrey A. Goldstein, MD,
Alan R. Cohen, MD

Paper 5. Bio-Resorbable Plates and Screws in Pediatric Neurological and Craniofacial Surgery

Alan S. Waitze, MD, Joseph Petronio, MD, Ajay V. Kumar, MD,
David A. Staffenberg, MD, Christine Narad, RN, PN

Paper 14: The Living Shunt: Tissue Engineering in the Treatment of Hydrocephalus

Joseph R. Madsen, MD, Joseph Vacanti, MD,
George A. Taylor, MD, Wood Lee, MD

Paper 19: Endoscopic Third Ventriculostomy: Patterns of Failure

Shenandoah Robinson, MD, Alan R. Cohen, MD

continued on page 5

Results of Recent Survey of Membership Opinion

In July of 1997, the membership of the Joint Section on Pediatrics was surveyed regarding a variety of issues of interest to the Section leadership. There were 255 questionnaires mailed out and 137 responses were obtained. The results of the poll are as follows:

1. SECTION ANNUAL MEETING

The membership was asked whether or not the Section Annual Meeting should be extended into Saturday to more conveniently allow for a Saturday overnight stay and the attendant lower airfares. Of 134 responses, 28 percent of the membership voted to leave the format of the winter Section Annual Meeting unchanged, that is, beginning on Tuesday evening and finishing on Friday afternoon with Thursday afternoon free. Seventy-two percent of those responding voted to move the Meeting back in the week one day beginning on Wednesday evening with scientific sessions to follow Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning with no free afternoon and the Meeting being adjourned on Saturday at noon.

2. ANNUAL MEETING LOCATION

Thirty percent of those responding voted to continue the present format of allowing Section members to petition the Executive Committee to host the Meeting, regardless of geographical location.

When asked whether the membership would prefer the Meeting in a warmer climate, there were 108 responses to this question: 31 percent requested that the Meeting be held every year in a warm climate; 36 percent requested every other year; 9 percent requested three out of four years; and 23 percent indicated no preference.

Of the question regarding having the Meeting at a ski locale, 91 members responded: 41 percent indicated they would prefer this occasionally; 24 percent indicated they would prefer it one out of three years; 32 percent indicated they would never prefer a ski resort; and 24 percent had no opinion.

3. AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGEONS

The Section was polled regarding membership in the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons. When asked if they were a member of the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons, there were 123 responses: 56 percent indicated yes; 44 percent indicated no.

4. PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY BOARD CERTIFICATION

When asked if Section members would request certification by the American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery, there were 100 responses: 70 percent indicated yes; 16 percent indicated no; and 14 percent uncertain.

5. SURGICAL VOLUME FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION

The Section membership was polled regarding proposed surgical volumes necessary for certification in pediatric neurosurgery.

When asked about the relative volume of pediatric cases in a practice, there were 93 responses: 32 percent indicated that one should be expected to have a surgical practice of 50 percent or greater of pediatric cases; 45 percent a surgical practice of 75 percent or greater of pediatric cases; and 23 percent indicated other specific answers.

When asked how many surgical cases involving children 12 years of age or less should be performed per year in order to qualify for certification by the American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery, there were 97 responses: 24 percent indicated less than 100 cases should be necessary; 41 percent indicated 100-125 cases should be necessary; 22 percent indicated 125-150 cases should be necessary; and 16 percent indicated greater than 150 cases should be necessary.

The Executive Committee of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery extends its appreciation to all of the members who responded to this survey.

Guidelines Update

The Pediatric Neurotrauma Committee of the Joint Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care is continuing to work on the preparation of guidelines for severe brain injury in children. The specific ad hoc committee is composed of members of the Joint Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care, the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery and ASPN. These guidelines will be submitted to the Guidelines Committee of the AANS for initial review.

Mark Dias, MD, serves as the Section's liaison to the Editorial Board on **N://OC®**. There is an area of the site dedicated for the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery, and the Section is actively contributing to the **N://OC®** Public Pages, a resource for patients and families. The **N://OC®** Editorial Board recently changed the navigation link from "Clinical Topics" to "Sections" to make the link to the Joint Section area more prominent. In addition, the site "Welcome Page" now offers a "Section News" area, right under the "Hot Topics" area so that Joint Sections may provide more information and links on the front page.

Some new items are either available now or will be available very soon. Information about the Joint Section Annual Meeting and the preliminary program are already on the site. A roster of pediatric neurosurgeons with addresses and e-mail addresses, searchable by name, is in the works. A pediatric neurosurgical listserve is being created. All pediatric neurosurgeons would be encouraged to enlist. This will potentially allow group exchange of information among pediatric neurosurgeons worldwide.

The Section site would like to provide links to other sites of interest to Section membership. This would include such things as educational courses, meetings, and other organizations. The links to the American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgeons and the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons should be available shortly. If you have any questions about **N://OC®**, please contact Mark Dias, MD, at (716) 878-7386, or Allison Casey, Interactive Communications Specialist at the AANS National Office, (847) 692-9500.

A Proposed Change in the Rules and Regulations of the Joint Section

The following proposal to change the wording and description of the standing committees described in Article VI, Section 1, of the Rules and Regulations of the Section has been made. This proposal will be voted upon at the Business Meeting of the Section in December.

Article VI: Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees.

OLD WORDING:

(D). Program Committee: The Program Committee shall consist of four members. Two of these members will serve *ex-officio* and will be the Chairman, who will serve as the Chairman of the Program Committee, and the secretary-treasurer. The third member of the committee will be the Chairman of the Annual Meeting. A fourth member will be appointed by the chairman with the approval of the executive committee and will serve for one meeting only, although he/she may serve more than one time. If the Chairman is also the Chairman of the Annual Meeting, a second member will be appointed by the chairman and approved by the Executive Committee. The Program Committee will be charged with the responsibility of reviewing abstracts submitted for presentation and assisting the annual meeting chairman in the planning of the scientific portion of the program. The committee is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the scientific session of the annual meeting of the section represents matters of interest and concern to the membership of the Joint Section.

NEW WORDING:

(D): Program and Continuing Education Committee. The Program Committee shall consist of five members. The Chairman of the Program and Continuing Education Committee will serve two years, and will be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Chairman shall serve as the representative of the AANS Joint Sponsorship Subcommittee and as liaison with the AANS and CNS Education Committees. A Co-Chairman will be appointed for two years by the Executive Committee and will assume the Chairmanship at the completion of the term, at which time a new Co-Chairman will be appointed. Two members will serve *ex officio*, and will be the Chairman of the Joint Section and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Joint Section. The fifth member of the committee will be the Chairman of the Annual Meeting.

The Program Committee will be charged the responsibility of reviewing abstracts submitted for presentation and assisting the annual meeting chairman in the planning of the scientific portion of the program. The committee is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the scientific session of the annual meeting of the section represents matters of interest and concern to the membership of the Joint Section.

Shulman Award Nominees, *cont.*

Paper 21: Evaluation of Patency of Endoscopic Third Ventriculostomy Using MRI

Haroon R. Choudhri, MD, Menahem M. Maya, MD, Jeffrey Weinberg, MD, David Feinberg, MD, Jeffrey Wisoff, MD

Paper 23: Endocrinologic Sequellae Following Third Ventriculostomy for Hydrocephalus

Christopher G. Gaposchkin, MD, PhD, Alan R. Jacobs, MD, Mark M. Souweidane, MD

Paper 24: Endoscopic Third Ventriculostomy for the Treatment of Acute Hydrocephalus

David P. Gruber, MD, Jeffrey J. Larson, MD, Adam I. Lewis, MD, Jamal M. Taha, MD, Kerry R. Crone, MD

Paper 27: Cerebellar Astrocytomas During the Age of Modern Imaging

Jeffrey W. Campbell, MD, Ian F. Pollack, MD, Ronald Hamilton, MD, Barbara Shultz

Paper 29: Neurologic Manifestations of Cowden Disease: Further Characterization

Shenandoah Robinson, MD, Alan R. Cohen, MD

Paper 32: Up-Front Chemotherapy as the Primary Treatment Modality for Hypervascular Tumors

Ashfaq Razaq, MD, Alan R. Cohen, MD

Paper 34: Sodium Phenylbutyrate for Medulloblastoma

Jeffrey W. Campbell, MD, Ian F. Pollack, MD, John Freund



Paper 38: Limitations of Image-Guided Techniques in the Surgical Management of Pediatric Brain Tumors

Roger Frankel, MD, Joseph Petronio, MD

Paper 40: Been Surfing Lately? A Critical Appraisal of the Internet as a Pediatric N/S Information Resource

Todd A. Maugans, MD

Paper 45: Simple Repair of Open Neural Tube Defects

Carla A. Toms, Teresa Harpold, MD, J. Gordon McComb, MD, Michael L. Levy, MD

Paper 46: The Timing of in Utero Myelomeningocele Repair: Quantitative Analysis

Michael J. Drewek, MD, Joseph P. Bruner, MD, William O. Whetsell, MD, Noel B. Tulipan, MD

Paper 47: Relationship Between Anorectal Anomalies and Tethered Spinal Cord

Tanvir F. Choudhri, MD, Indro Chakrobarti, BS, Neil A. Feldstein, MD, John Shullinger, MD, E. Sander Connolly, MD

Paper 54: Separation of Craniopagus Twins

Keyvgan Abtin, MD, Marion L. Walker, MD

Paper 59: Treatment of Intracranial Aneurysms in the Pediatric Population

Howard A. Riina, MD, Alejandro Berenstein, MD, Eugene S. Flamm, MD, Leslie Sutton, MD

Paper 60: Cerebral Aneurysms in Children: A Series of 39 Patients

Larry T. Khoo, MD, Michael L. Levy, MD, J. Gordon McComb, MD, Steven L. Giannotta, MD

Posters number 1, 5, 9, 10, 13, 16, and 25 are also being considered for the Shulman Award.

1998 ANNUAL MEETING SITE:

THE WESTIN HOTEL
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
DECEMBER 1-4, 1998

Request for Proposals on Upcoming Annual Meeting Sites and Program Chairs

The Executive Committee is interested in receiving a request for proposals for future winter meetings of the Joint Section. The Executive Committee needs to decide the Meeting venues through at least the year 2000. Proposals have already been received from San Diego, California; Phoenix/Tucson, Arizona; New York, New York; Orlando, Florida; and Atlanta, Georgia. Those members interested in hosting a winter meeting of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery are asked to contact either Marion L. Walker, MD, Chairman, or Thomas G. Luerssen, MD, Secretary/Treasurer. The requests must be made in writing and by the person designated to be the meeting chairman for that year.

Professional Development

W I T H



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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