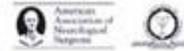


# Pediatric SHORT CUTS



AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

Editor: Ann-Christine Duhaime, MD

Spring 2007

## From the Chair

### Pediatric Neurosurgery Comes of Age

**Rick Abbott, MD**

In 1996, you honored me by first electing me to serve as a member at large on the Executive Committee of AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery. As I have moved through the offices of the Executive Committee, I have enjoyed watching our specialty come of age.

Over the past 10 years I have seen our section's business mushroom, resulting in the need to create a chair-elect position and to split the office of secretary-treasurer into two separate offices, secretary and treasurer. Through Tom Luerssen's leadership, the Pediatric Section stood behind the newly created American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery and the Accreditation Council for Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowships as they blocked a threat to be rendered meaningless. Our annual meeting in December has become the must-attend meeting for pediatric neurosurgeons, not only for North Americans but now for those in Europe and the Far East. Our treasury has grown to more than \$600,000, giving us the power to consider funding projects we could not even dream of a decade ago. All of this is a testament to your support for our specialty.



While we have much to be proud of, we still have much to accomplish. The creation of the Education Committee under the guidance of Paul Steinbok was done to revitalize our commitment to educating general neurosurgeons, neurosurgeons in training, other physicians and the general public about our field. Paul will need your support in this endeavor. Volunteers are needed to serve as faculty in instructional courses to be held both inside and outside North America. The Pediatric Section has committed to co-sponsoring a course in Colombia with FLANC, the neurosurgical society for Central and South America. We have also entered into an agreement with the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery to co-sponsor courses in emerging countries where there is minimal exposure to pediatric neurosurgery. The Pediatric Section is now receiving regular requests for manuscripts on pediatric neurosurgical topics. Doug Brockmeyer would welcome your support with manuscripts, and this is certainly a relatively easy way to become identified with a subject matter, not only by other neurosurgeons but also by physicians outside our field, such as pediatricians. It is also a good entry into the Educational Committee and its activities.

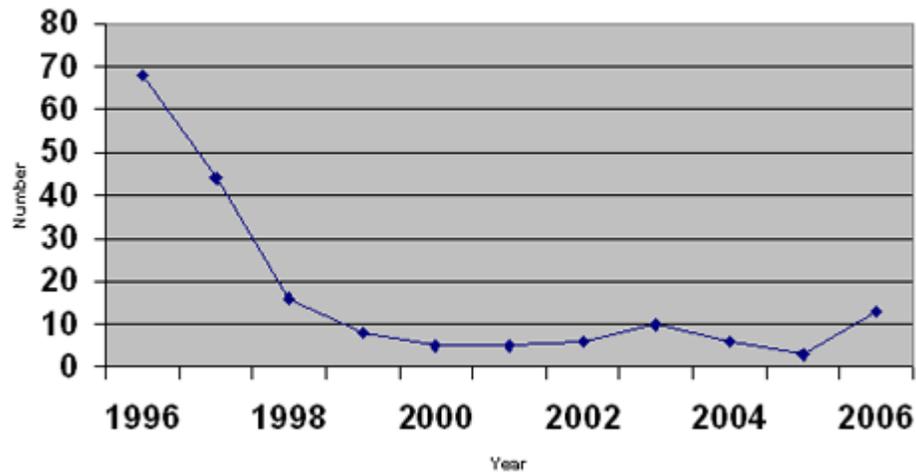
### Our Greatest Challenge

Perhaps the greatest challenge currently facing us is the rate at which we are training our replacements. A graphic that demonstrates the problem is shown below. For nearly a decade, we have been certifying, on average, only seven to eight pediatric neurosurgeons per year.

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Diplomates Certified per Year



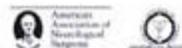
We all have a sense that there is a manpower shortage, but we do not know to what degree and how it affects the care of children. We do not know what the needs are in North America for ABPNS-certified pediatric neurosurgeons. We do not know how many pediatric neurosurgery call rosters are filled out by non-pediatric neurosurgical specialists. We do not know how many vacancies currently exist. We do not know why fewer than half our fellowships fill each year, and why some years only three or four residents enter into a pediatric neurosurgery fellowship. We must get the answers to these questions so that we can respond to this low rate of fellowship enrollment.

The Pediatric Section is currently in discussion with the ASPN and the SONS of the American Academy of Pediatrics to fund a pediatric neurosurgery manpower study. This study should provide us with powerful knowledge that we will also be able to use to negotiate support for our programs and practices. The incoming leadership has the strength, experience and desire to meet these and other issues. They also have exciting new ideas. I look forward to this reenergizing of the Pediatric Section and to the accomplishments that are sure to come. Thank you for all your support.

I will end with a special thanks to Ann-Christine Duhaime, MD, for all of her efforts as secretary. It is the most difficult job in our section, and she has done a spectacular job.

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## International Activities Surveyed

Paul Steinbok, MD, Education Committee Chair

The Education Committee of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery, in keeping with the vision of our chair, Rick Abbott, is attempting to involve Pediatric Section members more in international pediatric neurosurgical educational activities. From discussions at the Pediatric Section's meeting in Denver, it was clear that many members of the Pediatric Section were involved in worthwhile international activities.

It is important that these international efforts are tabulated and that any requirements to support these efforts in the future are documented. Such a summary made available to all members of the Pediatric Section could stimulate individual interest. The information also would be valuable to the Education Committee and Executive Committee in prioritizing requests for involvement in various international projects.

### How to Participate

At this time, I ask all Pediatric Section members to summarize their involvement in international activities and also to indicate if there are ways in which the Pediatric Section members, Education Committee, or Executive Committee could enhance these activities.

Please send this information to George Jallo, international liaison for the Education Committee. His E-mail address is: [gjallo1@jhmi.edu](mailto:gjallo1@jhmi.edu). George will collate and tabulate the information, and eventually post it on the section's Web site.

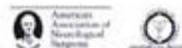
I look forward to your responses.

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## Book Sheds Light on Medical Malpractice

**David P. Gruber, MD**

A Review of "A Brief History of Medical Malpractice 2000 B.C. to 2000 A.D.,"  
by Robert L. McLaurin, MD, JD

"A Brief History of Medical Malpractice 2000 B.C. to 2000 A.D.," written by acclaimed pediatric neurosurgeon and attorney Robert McLaurin, provides a historical background for the current system of jurisprudence in the United States.

The author begins by detailing the first recorded extant laws promulgated by Hammurabi. Next, he discusses guiding legal principles from the Greeks and Romans, the Visigothic Code, and finally the history of English law as it relates to the medical profession.

Dr. McLaurin then reviews a history of medical malpractice law in the United States, noting that the first malpractice crisis occurred prior to the Civil War. The second malpractice crisis occurred in the 1970s and 1980s, based on insurance affordability. While the complexity of the present malpractice situation is not a primary objective of the discussion, the insights provided in this text provide a deeper understanding of the current tort system.

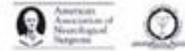
Note: Dr. McLaurin's address is Apartment 5C, 2412 Ingleside Avenue,  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45206-2165

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## Washington Committee Report

**Andrew D. Parent, MD**

The AANS/CNS Washington Committee met July 7, 2006, in Arlington, Va., A summary of the topics discussed follows.

**Transition to ICD-10.** As the 2010 deadline for implementing the ICD-10 approaches, the AANS, the CNS, and the ACS have petitioned to delay implementing the ICD-10 until the end of 2012. Collectively, they are concerned about several issues, of which one is a transition from the ICD-9 to the ICD-10. They question whether this transition from the ICD-9 (composed of 24,000 codes) to the ICD-10 (composed of more than 200,000 codes) will require an electronic medical record. At the present time, the Health Information Technology Bill has not been reconciled thoroughly enough to entail the level of financial support or the mechanisms that would effectuate implementation of the 200,000 codes required for the ICD-10.

**Pay for Performance.** Apparently, progress continues with respect to the programs governing payment for reporting and payment for performance. Unfortunately, because very few performance indicators have been developed and, because surgery tends to function as a team effort rather than as a series of separate, independent performances, the proposed incentive program would reimburse surgeons inadequately and inequitably.

**IOM Emergency Care Report.** In June 2006, the Institute of Medicine released its report, "The Future of Emergency Care" (Executive Summary). Of special interest to pediatric neurosurgeons was the attention paid by the IOM committee to tailoring and customizing facilities, technology, and policy in emergency care to pediatric patients. Included in these findings were recommendations for the availability of child-appropriate equipment when training personnel in the emergency department and for developing an explicit disaster plan that addresses issues faced by the pediatric population. The committee also recommended increasing funding for the children's program to \$37.5 million per year over five years.

**To FDA: Exempt Cranial Orthosis From Patent.** In early February 2006, the committee sent a formal letter to the FDA recommending that cranial orthosis be exempted from patent. The presidents of both the AANS and the CNS signed and endorsed this letter. Katie Orrico, director of the AANS/CNS Washington Office, informed us of a rumored early favorable response to this recommendation.

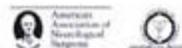
**Neurosurgeons/Neurointensivists?** Recently, neurosurgeons have become aware that they are not recognized as neurointensivists because they are not certified in intensive care. Vigorous discussion has ensued about the definition of neurosurgery and whether neurosurgery billing should include intensive care services. However, neither the CMS nor the JCAHO recognize intensive care services rendered by non-certified intensivists.

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## 2006 Traveling Fellowship Awards Announced

R. Michael Scott, MD and Alan R. Cohen, MD

One Resident Traveling Fellowship and three International Traveling Fellowships were awarded in 2006.

**Deanna Sasaki-Adams, MD**, is the recipient of the Resident Traveling Fellowship award. Dr. Sasaki-Adams is a fourth-year neurosurgery resident at the University of North Carolina. She will be taking her one-month traveling fellowship at The Hospital for Sick Kids in Toronto.

The International Resident Traveling Fellowship Award is open to non-North American residents-in-training or neurosurgeons within five years of the completion of their residency.

Three International Traveling Fellowships were approved for funding at the 2006 annual meeting of the Pediatric Section, as noted below.

**K.M. Bopanna, MD**. Dr. Bopanna, age 35, is currently a consulting neurosurgeon in Bangalore, India, having completed his residency three years previously. His three-month fellowship will be taken at The Hospital for Sick Kids.

**Alp Ozgun Borcek, MD**. Dr. Borcek, age 28, is currently a fourth-year resident at Gazi University in Ankara, Turkey. His three-month fellowship will be taken at The Hospital for Sick Kids.

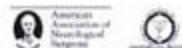
**G. Samson Sujit Kumar, MD**. Dr. Kumar, age 33, completed his neurosurgery residency in 2004. He is currently a consultant at the Christian Medical College in Vellore, India. He has worked during his residency on intraoperative monitoring in conus and cauda equina lesions, and on cadaver studies on the filum terminale. His three-month fellowship also will be taken at The Hospital for Sick Kids.

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## Business Meeting Minutes

Ann-Christine Duhaime, MD

### AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery 2006 Winter Meeting

Denver Marriot Ballroom, Denver, Colo.

Nov. 30, 2006

**Call to Order**—5:00 p.m. by Rick Abbott, MD, section chair

**Approval of Minutes from Spring 2006 meeting**—Ann-Christine Duhaime, MD, secretary

Moved for approval and accepted by acclamation.

**Financial Report**—Alan Cohen, MD, treasurer

The Pediatric Section remains in very favorable financial position. Total assets as of November 2006 exceed \$573,000, which represents an increase from last year. Some of these monies will be transferred to long-term accounts. The Executive Committee has designated some of these assets to support various educational projects, as will be outlined below.

**Membership Committee**—Rick Abbott, MD, for John Kestle, MD

New members proposed for election at the business meeting include:

Drs. Ethan A. Benardete, Robin M. Bowman, Gerald A. Grant, Naina Gross, Abhava V. Kulkarni, Jeffrey Leonard, Jonathan E. Martin, Renatta J.

Osterdock, Gary Tye, Elizabeth C. Tyler-Kabara, and John C. Wellons. All were approved by the Executive Committee. They were brought to the vote of the membership and approved.

**Rules and Regulations Committee**—Michael Vassilyadi, MD

A change in the bylaws allowing both Active and Active Foreign members to vote in Pediatric Section affairs was brought to a vote by the membership and approved.

**Annual Meetings**—Michael Handler, MD

Dr. Handler reported that this annual meeting in Denver appears financially successful; 130 abstracts were submitted; there were about 76 oral presentations and 30 posters. The spine course was sold out, and the coding course had nine attendees. Dr. Abbott reported on the 2007 meeting in Miami, which will be held at South Beach and preceded by an epilepsy course. Dr. Gruber discussed the 2008 meeting in Spokane, which will be held in a five-star historic hotel built in 1914. The 2009 meeting will be in Boston. Several sites have volunteered to host the 2010 meeting; the site will be chosen in the upcoming year.

**Traveling Fellowships**—R. Michael Scott, MD

Dr. Scott reported that four fellowships were recommended, one domestic (Deanna Sasaki-Adams, MD, from North Carolina to spend a month at Toronto Sick Kids' Hospital) and three international (two candidates from India, K.M.

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Bopanna, MD, and G. Samson Sujit Kumar, MD, and one from Turkey, Alp Ozgun Borcek, MD, all of whom have requested time in Toronto). The Executive Committee voted to approve all four candidates, for a total cost of \$17,500.

#### **Nominating Committee**

Rick Abbott, MD, and Andrew Parent, MD, announced that Tom Pittman, MD, and John Kestle, MD, were nominated for Members at Large for the 2007-2009 term, to join Jeffrey Blount, MD, and Nalin Gupta, MD (the term of Bruce Kaufman to expire). This will create an opening for Membership Committee chair, which is an appointed position. Additional nominations included the following: Chair-Elect: T. Duhaime, Secretary: A. Cohen, and Treasurer: B. Kaufman. These nominations were approved by the Executive Committee. Nominations from the floor were solicited; there being none, a vote was taken and all nominations were approved by the membership.

#### **Distinguished Service Award—Dr. Parent**

Dr. Parent announced that Robin Humphreys, MD, will receive this award at the winter 2007 Pediatric Section meeting.

#### **Education Committee—Paul Steinbok, MD**

Dr. Steinbok reported that one of the focus areas for the Education Committee has been on international education. The Executive Committee has agreed to contribute \$5,000 each to upcoming ISPN-sponsored courses in Beijing and Manila in 2007, and \$10,000 for a course sponsored by the Pediatric Section and the Latin American Federation that is planned for Colombia in 2007. The European Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery is also planning courses in South Africa, Asia, and Europe, and the committee is looking into participation by the Pediatric Section in these efforts.

The Education Committee has compiled a list of Pediatric Section members interested in participating in international outreach, and the ESPN can choose from this list for potential participants. Additional Pediatric Section members who are interested should contact members of the Education Committee, and the committee will request input from Pediatric Section members. The committee will compile a list of international meetings. Finally, the issue was raised that there may be differences of opinion among Pediatric Section members as to the role of the Pediatric Section in international outreach efforts. [A survey seeking feedback is discussed elsewhere on this issue.](#)

The Education Committee is also working with Joseph Piatt, MD, and other members of the AAP Section on Neurological Surgery to gather input on potential educational topics that both pediatric neurosurgeons and pediatricians agree are useful to pediatricians.

Dr. Abbott noted that the new Pediatric Section Web site is expected to be operational within the next few months and that it will be a vehicle for requesting and disseminating Pediatric Section educational publications.

#### **Old Business—none**

#### **New Business**

Dr. Abbott reported that the ISPM will be held in Liverpool on September 9-13, 2007, and William Harkness, MD, will be one of the meeting's organizers. The scientific program will include epilepsy, oncology, dysraphism, hydrocephalus, and trauma (especially, decompressive craniectomy). The 2008 ISPN meeting is planned for Capetown, South Africa.

John Ragheb, MD, spoke to the Pediatric Section membership about Project Medi-Share, an outreach project with Haiti. Haiti has a population of 8 million people and only three neurosurgeons, and they have little neurosurgical training or education. Dr. Ragheb has been involved in some outreach and

meetings with Haiti's Minister of Health as well as the Dean of the School of Medicine about establishing a training program. Paul Farmer, MD, has been involved in novel health outreach programs that have been effective against various endemic diseases and have garnered international attention. Dr. Ragheb is looking for additional teams of specialists, including neurosurgeons, anesthesiologists, and nurses. Interested Pediatric Section members should contact him for further information.

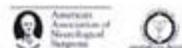
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A.C. Duhaime, MD  
Secretary

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## New and Proposed Members

### John R.W. Kestle, MD

The following new members were elected at the winter meeting in Denver: Ethan A. Benardete, Robin M. Bowman, Gerald A. Grant, Naina Gross, Abhava V. Kulkarni, Jeffrey Leonard, Jonathan E. Martin, Renatta J. Osterdock, Gary Tye, Elizabeth C. Tyler-Kabara, and John C. Wellons.

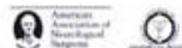
The following people have applied for membership in the Pediatric Section and will undergo voting at the Pediatric Section business meeting in April in Washington: William B. Betts, Kimberly D. Bingaham, Scott Elton, Cormac O. Maher, Tien Nguyen, and Dimitrios C. Nikas.

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## Officers

Chair: Rick Abbott, MD – [rabbott@montefiore.org](mailto:rabbott@montefiore.org)

Chair-Elect: Jeffrey H. Wisoff, MD – [jhw1@nyu.edu](mailto:jhw1@nyu.edu)

Secretary: Ann-Christine Duhaime, MD – [acd@hitchcock.org](mailto:acd@hitchcock.org)

Treasurer: Alan R. Cohen, MD FACS – [alan.cohen@uhhs.com](mailto:alan.cohen@uhhs.com)

Membership Chair: John R. W. Kestle, MD – [john.kestle@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:john.kestle@hsc.utah.edu)

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