

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

Editor: Sarah J. Gaskill, MD, FAANS, FACS



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From the Chairman

Alan R. Cohen, MD, FAANS, FACS



Alan R. Cohen, MD, FAANS, FACS

Here's the news from the Pediatric Section...

AANS Annual Scientific Meeting

Pediatric neurosurgery will have a major presence at the 81st Annual Scientific Meeting of the AANS in New Orleans this spring. We will sponsor Scientific

Session IV, "Innovation," on Monday, April 29, 2013, at 2 p.m. John Kestle, MD, FAANS, will lead off the session with an update about quality improvement and a series of novel scientific reports will follow. The afternoon will end with the highly anticipated "Neurosurgical Face Off" about surgical treatment of the Chiari I malformation, with Jay Wellons, MD, FAANS, advocating for durotomy and duraplasty; and Matt Smyth, MD, FAANS, advocating for no durotomy or duraplasty. Come prepared with your questions for the panelists. This should be a real nail-biter, and several section members have suggested a cage fight to follow the debate. In any event, it is likely that blood will be drawn.

There will also be a Pediatric Neurosurgery Session on Tuesday, April 30, 2013, at 2 p.m., which will feature more novel scientific reports as well as the Matson Lecture (see below). Pediatric neurosurgeons are represented heavily at the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting this year in plenary session talks, practical courses and breakfast seminars.

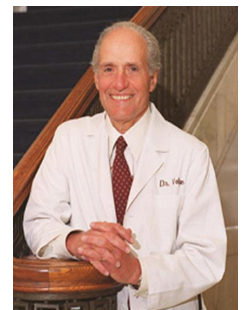
Matson Lecture

The Matson Lecture will be delivered by Joseph J. Volpe, MD, on Tuesday, April 30, 2013, at 2 p.m. to kick off the Pediatric Neurosurgery Session. His talk will be on "Brain Injury in the Premature Infant: More Than Just Injury." Dr. Volpe is the neurologist-in-chief emeritus at Boston Children's Hospital and the Bronson

Crothers Distinguished Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Volpe received his MD degree from the Harvard Medical School, completed a Pediatric residency at the Massachusetts General Hospital, carried out a postdoctoral research fellowship at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and trained in pediatric neurology at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He then served for 20 years on the faculty at Washington University in St. Louis, the last ten years of which he was the Stein Professor of Neurology and Director of the Division of Pediatric Neurology. In 1990, he was recruited to Boston as neurologist-in-chief at the Children's Hospital, Bronson Crothers Professor of Neurology at the Harvard Medical School and Chairman of the Department of Neurology at Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. Under Dr. Volpe's leadership over the next 15 years, the Department of Neurology grew to a faculty size of more than 50 child neurologists and neuroscientists. The clinical and research programs became the largest and most diverse of any child neurology facility in the world.

Dr. Volpe generally is credited with pioneering the field of neonatal neurology. His work in that field has included both clinical and basic research. The principal focus of his clinical research has been elucidation of the pathogenesis of the major hemorrhagic and ischemic lesions of the newborn, especially the premature newborn, and prevention of this brain injury. His basic research has used several model systems to investigate the mechanisms of oligodendroglial death in premature infants and the means to prevent this



Joseph J. Volpe, MD

cell death. He leads a long-standing NIH-funded program focused on brain injury in premature infants. He has contributed more than 300 original articles on the topic, and his single-authored book, "Neurology of the Newborn," currently in its fifth edition, is considered the bible in the field.

He is recognized widely also for his dedication to the training of academic child neurologists, and many of his past trainees are key figures in child neurology programs throughout the world. He also has trained approximately 50 research fellows in clinical and basic research, most of whom hold academic positions worldwide. He was awarded the William Silen Lifetime Achievement in Mentoring Award by the Harvard Medical School. He has served on the editorial boards of virtually all of the major journals in neurology and pediatrics, and has delivered numerous honorary and named lectures at universities throughout North America, Europe and the Far East.

Dr. Volpe has received many awards nationally and internationally. These include the two most prestigious awards of the Child Neurology Society, both the Hower Award for lifetime achievement in child neurology and the Sachs Award for scientific achievement. He has been similarly honored by national societies of child neurology and neonatology worldwide. He was the first child neurologist to be elected to the Institute of Medicine of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. In 2007 the Boston Children's Hospital created the Joseph J. Volpe Chair in Neurology. Currently, he is the Bronson Crothers Distinguished Professor of Neurology at the Harvard Medical School.

There will be a reception honoring Dr. Volpe on Tuesday, April 30, 2013, from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Napoleon Suite, 41st floor, at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel, 555 Canal Street.

Section Winter Meeting

The 41st Annual AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological

Surgery Winter Meeting was held at the St. Louis Union Station from Nov. 27-30, 2012. Meeting chairs Matt Smyth, MD, FAANS, and Jeff Leonard, MD, FAANS, did a spectacular job with their program on safety, efficacy and efficiency. The featured speakers were outstanding: Rosemary Gibson, MSc, gave the Raimondi Lecture on where we're headed in health care, and Terrie Inder, MD, gave the Section on Neurological Surgery (SONS)/American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Lecture on improving outcomes in the newborn brain. The meeting had a number of innovations that were well received, including practical courses on spine and endoscopy; symposia on spasticity, medulloblastoma and Chiari malformation; and breakfast seminars on negotiating with hospitals, academic vs. private practice, and entrepreneurship and career selection. This was the most highly attended meeting in the history of the Section.

Mark your calendars! Plans are already underway for the next winter meeting, which will take place in Toronto from Dec. 3-6, 2013. The theme of the meeting is "Embracing the Past, Leading the Future," so expect some surprises from meeting chairs Jim Drake, MD, FAANS, MSc, FRCS; Ab Kulkarni, MD, FAANS, FRCS; and Jim Rutka, MD, PhD, FAANS.

Other Section News

Ann Flannery, MD, FAANS, FACS, and her guidelines committee have completed their monumental evidentiary review on the treatment of hydrocephalus, and are preparing a publication for the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*. The Section continues to support the traveling fellowship programs (resident and international) and the Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation (NREF) research fellowships. Anyone wishing to become involved in Section activities should contact me or Sarah Gaskill, MD, FAANS, FACS, the section secretary.

Check out our new website at www.pedsneurosurgery.org. See you in New Orleans!

Al Cohen, MD, FAANS, FACS
Chairman, AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery
alan.cohen@childrens.harvard.edu

Candidate Members for Shortcuts

Active

Tomoko Tanaka, MD	Columbia, Mo.
Violetta Mathilde Renard-Recinos, MD	Cleveland
Mehmet Caglar Berk, MD	Portland, Ore.
Jeffery Peter Greenfield, MD, PhD	New York

Resident-Fellow

David Seongryong Hong, MD	Royal Oaks, Mo.
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International

Goktug Akyoldas, MD	Balçova, Turkey
Milton Martinez Madrigal, MD	Leon, Spain

Pediatric Section to Present at CNS Meeting in October

The 2013 Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco at the Moscone West Convention Center, Oct. 19-23, 2013. The theme is the "Evolution of Neurosurgery." The Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery will host an interactive session titled "Challenging Shunt Problems and Slit Ventricle Syndrome." An expert panel will discuss illustrative cases, and audience participation will be encouraged.

Council of State Neurosurgical Societies: Joint Section on Socioeconomics of the AANS/CNS

Catherine A. Mazzola, MD, FAANS

The Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (CSNS) is a joint section of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS). Although many neurosurgeons do not recognize the CSNS as a section, it is, and the CSNS meetings that occur the two days prior to the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting and the CNS annual meeting are open for public attendance. The CSNS organization is comprised of representatives from the AANS, the CNS and state neurosurgical societies. Attendees are thus elected or appointed by their state societies. The AANS caucus and the CNS caucus representatives are appointed to attend the CSNS meetings and represent their respective societies.

CSNSonline.org, the CSNS website, is a useful resource that provides invaluable socioeconomic and medicolegal information to all neurosurgeons. There is a “member-only” section of the website that provides access to toolkits, studies, and other useful data for billing and reimbursement, contract negotiation, and other practice management resources. At the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting and the CNS annual meeting, the CSNS, as the socioeconomic section, provides educational lectures and presentations for interested neurosurgeons.

I have been involved with the CSNS since 2002, when David Adelson, MD, FAANS, FACS, was kind enough to nominate me as a CNS representative and appoint me to the CNS caucus. I have moderated many sessions for the CSNS at both the CNS annual meetings and the AANS Annual Scientific Meetings. Year after year, the national organizations perform membership surveys that document a knowledge gap and desire to learn more about the medicolegal and socioeconomic aspects of neurosurgical practice. Michael Steinmetz, MD, FAANS, Alan Scarrow, MD, JD, FAANS, and others like me have worked diligently to provide speakers and educational programs in this area. However, after years of volunteering in this role, I was struck by the reality that many of these sessions had poor attendance.

Two years ago, I had the idea to bring the socioeconomic and medicolegal programs to the sections, attempting to make the presentations specific and relative to the hosting section. The CSNS Communication and Education Committee (CEC) has been developing content for the sections over the past year and a half. In November 2012, the Pediatric Section of the AANS/CNS hosted its first CSNS Socioeconomic Breakfast Seminar, where six presentations focused on the medicolegal and socioeconomic aspects of pediatric neurosurgery.

David Jimenez, MD, FAANS, FACS, gave an excellent presentation titled “Negotiating with Administrators: How to Keep the Upper Hand,” and AANS Secretary Frederick Boop, MD, FAANS, FACS, spoke about “Negotiating with Insurance Companies and Other Payers: How to Be an Advocate for Your Patients.” Both talks were well received. I gave a presentation focused on “Developing a Successful ‘Private Practice’ in Pediatric

Neurological Surgery,” while my friend Nate Selden, MD, PhD, FAANS, gave us guidance on “Developing a Successful Academic Career in Pediatric Neurological Surgery.” Paul Klimo Jr., MD, FAANS, offered a presentation titled “Neurosurgeons: How Well Do We Manage Burnout and Stress?” and my colleague, Liliana Goumnerova, MD, FAANS, FACS, spoke about “Why Quality Should Equal Value in Pediatric Neurosurgery.” The evaluations from the audiences demonstrated that presentations were useful and informative. One seminar attendee provided this remark: “FINALLY...socioeconomic education relevant to pediatric neurosurgery!”

The CSNS will continue to deliver informative and educational socioeconomic and medicolegal content to the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery. There has been a request to focus next year’s lectures on grant writing, research, funding and academic career development. The CSNS will continue to work with the Executive Committee of the Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery to provide speakers with expert knowledge in the socioeconomic and medicolegal aspects of neurosurgery. If there are any special areas of interest that YOU would like us to address, or any specific content that you would like us to cover, please contact me at cmazzola@njpni.com.

The AANS/CNS Pediatric Traveling Fellowship: Message to Programs Interested in Hosting North American and International Fellows

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)/Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery has established one- to three-month traveling fellowships for North American residents and international neurosurgeons, as stipulated in the fellowship announcement, which can be viewed by [clicking here](#). The deadline for receipt of applications is Nov. 1, 2013.

The Section would like to give all North American pediatric neurosurgery programs the opportunity to participate in hosting domestic or international pediatric traveling fellows. Information about interested programs will be published on the Section website. To have their information published, the programs are asked to fill out an online questionnaire available at the following link: <http://www.aans.org/Eblast/pdfs/sponsoringform.pdf>. Once the application is completed, please e-mail the questionnaire to Matthew Smyth, MD, FAANS, at smythm@wudosis.wustl.edu.

We would like to emphasize that these short-term fellowships are distinct from the formal one-year pediatric neurosurgery fellowships offered at select programs. There is no financial obligation for the host department, as the stipend provided by the section should cover the fellow’s expenses.

2013 AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery Research Support Awards

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) /Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery will accept applications for research funding designed to provide assistance for the design of new clinical research and natural history studies. The specific goal is to support faculty members as they transition studies from concept to design and then to implementation. Possible uses of the award include consultation services for biostatistics or study design, database development or data analysis. Applications are open to members of the Section who have a full-time appointment at a university or medical center. These awards are intended to provide \$2,500 of support. Centers that intend to develop collaborative projects may combine their applications and budget requests. In this case, the role of each center should be clearly stated.

The 2013 application submission deadline is July 1, 2013. Awardees will be expected to present their results at the 2014 Pediatric Section Annual Meeting. More information is available at the [Pediatric Section website](#).

AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatrics RFA: Research Support Awards • 2013

Aim: The Section will accept applications for research funding designed to provide assistance for the design of new clinical research and natural history studies. The specific goal is to support faculty members as they transition studies from concept to design and then to implementation. Possible uses of the award include consultation services for biostatistics or study design, database development or data analysis. Applications are open to members of the Section who have a full-time appointment at a university or medical center. Centers that intend to develop collaborative projects may combine their applications and budget requests. In this case, the role of each center should be clearly stated.

Amount: A maximum of four awards in the amount of \$2,500 will be available (direct costs only).

Applications should be in the following format:

- 1) Cover Page. Please use following page.
- 2) Project Summary (describe the overall project being proposed; two pages total)
 - Specific Aims
 - Background and Significance
 - Research Plan
 - Budget (state what the award amount will be used for and how it will help with the overall project)
- 3) PI's Biosketch (two pages, NIH format preferred)

Please combine all three items into one 'pdf' file and submit the completed application by email to Nalin Gupta MD, PhD, FAANS, at: guptan@neurosurg.ucsf.edu

Deadline: July 1, 2013

Applications will be reviewed by the Research Committee of the Section and announced in the Fall 2013. Awardees will be expected to present their results at the Pediatric Section Annual Meeting in 2014.

2013 AANS/CNS Pediatric Section • Research Support Awards

Cover Page

Applicant's Name (last, first): _____

Degree(s): _____

Current Title or Position: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Project Title: _____

Amount Requested: _____

List Other Sources of Funding Available for this Project: _____

Investigator's Assurance:

I agree to accept responsibility for the scientific conduct of the project and to provide the required progress and expense reports if a grant is awarded as a result of this application. I also agree to abide by the budgetary and other requirements as described in the instructions provided with the application.

I understand that as a condition of my receiving a Research Support Award, I am required to submit a written report (one page), of the progress achieved through the awarding of these funds, at the conclusion of the award period.

Date _____ Applicant's Signature _____

Attach Research Plan (two pages) and Biosketch (two pages) to this cover page

Washington Committee Report 3-1-13

The spring meeting of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Washington Committee was held in Washington, D.C., on March 1, 2013. The new chair of the committee is John Wilson, MD, FAANS, FACS. AANS Secretary Frederick Boop, MD, FAANS, FACS, was a guest of the committee.

Main topics for discussion included the Medicare budget and proposals put forth by various organizations for reform of the Sustainable Growth Rate formula, which is a recurrent problem every budget cycle. Guest speakers on this topic included John Kusske, MD, FAANS — who discussed accountable care organization trends — Christian Shalgian, Division Director of the American College of Surgeons, and John O’Shea, Senior Health Policy Advisor from the House Energy and Commerce Committee. With respect to reimbursement and insurance issues, while differences of opinion exist, we noted that pediatric neurosurgery generally continues to support universal health care coverage and any measures decreasing the likelihood that children are left uninsured or without access to specialty care.

A discussion ensued about whether the AANS should make a statement on firearms, and it was clear that there was no consensus on this issue due to various views on the topic. A statement could be made only that the AANS is against gun violence, but opinions on the best way to address the problem remain varied.

During the section reports, the Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery updated the committee on some of the issues regarding enfolded versus postgraduate pediatric fellowships, and reiterated the position of most pediatric organizations, stating that the established mechanisms for fellowship and pediatric neurosurgery board certification should be left in place as a working structure. It was noted that the Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery, the American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery (ABPNS), American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons (ASPN) and other constituents have been discussing this topic at various meetings. In recent years, the number of pediatric fellows has increased over prior years, but manpower issues still are not entirely quantified. The overall fear is that pediatric specialties will continue to see shortages due to economic and time concerns. The implication on enfolded fellowships for Canadian residents also is a significant issue. AANS Treasurer Robert Harbaugh, MD, FAANS, FACS, Liaison from the Senior Society, stated that pediatric neurosurgery would severely reduce the number of neurosurgery residents choosing the specialty by attempting to maintain postgraduate

fellowships. Other members disagreed with this assessment. During his presentation as liaison to the Young Neurosurgeons Committee, Cormac Maher, MD, FAANS, spoke strongly in support of postgraduate pediatric neurosurgery fellowships.

Attendees of the Washington Committee spring meeting also discussed the Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery’s Hydrocephalus Evidentiary Review effort, chaired by Ann Flannery, MD, FAANS, FACS. This showed that there are few firm data to make recommendations on most topics in hydrocephalus management, including who should be shunted, what kind of shunt, target ventricular size, role of endoscopic third ventriculostomy, etc. The committee was supportive of our plan is to publish results of evidentiary review in the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*. Guidelines Committee Liaison Timothy Ryken, MD, FAANS; and Mark Linskey, MD, FAANS; Liaison from the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (CSNS) and prior Guidelines Committee chair, praised the section’s efforts, and noted that determining absence of evidence has value, as it can target areas for future research, protecting neurosurgeons from claims that a specific treatment was not “standard of care.” It was noted that this work was performed almost exclusively with volunteer time, and we discussed the limitations of funding for research to “fill in the gaps,” noting that the most successful efforts, such as the Hydrocephalus Research Network, have funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which may become even more scarce in the future. Thus, while this type of effort is needed, a mechanism to pay for necessary evidence reviews and to perform the research needed to create new and better evidence is problematic.

There was a discussion about databases and quality. The Section’s efforts under the leadership of committee chair Lilly Goumnerova, MD, FAANS, FACS, were noted, namely the committee’s focus on various pediatric and neurosurgical organization’s mechanisms for quality tracking (e.g. National Surgical Quality Improvement Program and NeuroPoint Alliance).

Washington Committee collaborations were acknowledged, including support for freestanding children’s hospital’s GME, pediatric research networks and loan forgiveness for pediatric practitioners.

Bylaw Changes

Article II Membership

Section 1. Classes of Membership

a) Active Member. Active membership shall consist of neurological surgeons who are members of the AANS or CNS and who profess a true interest in the surgery of the pediatric patient. Active members must give proof of good professional standing, and hold unrestricted licenses to practice medicine in the United States of America, its Territories, or one of the Provinces of Canada, or of the Republic of Mexico, and must be actively engaged in the practice of neurological surgery. ~~unless~~ ~~By~~ unanimous vote of the executive committee, ~~an specific~~ exception to ~~this~~ these criteria ~~rule is deemed advisable~~ can be applied for a specific individual. Active (Foreign) members are those who reside outside the United States, Canada, or Mexico, but who are active members of the AANS or CNS. Active members shall be the only members with a vote in the affairs of the Section.

b) Associate Member. Associate membership may be accorded to those individuals who qualify as Associate Members of the AANS or CNS and who have an interest and an expertise in the area of pediatric neurosurgery. The total Associate Membership shall not exceed 10% of the Active Membership of the Joint Section.

c) Honorary Member. Honorary membership may be conferred in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

d) International Member. International members shall be practicing neurosurgeons residing outside the United States of United States of America, Canada or the Republic of Mexico who do not qualify as Active (Foreign) members. They shall be neurological surgeons who are certified or recognized by the peer review process in their native country. They shall be proposed and chosen because of their national and international recognition, devotion and contribution to neurological science. International members may serve on committees and as consultants, but may not vote, hold office or committee chairs.

e) Lifetime Member. Lifetime membership may be accorded to those individuals who qualify as Lifetime Members of the AANS or CNS and who have an interest and an expertise in the area of pediatric neurosurgery.

Section 3. Procedure for Application for Membership

(a) A candidate must meet the qualifications for membership as set forth in Article II, Section 1 of these Rules and Regulations.

(b) A candidate for membership shall apply ~~in writing to the Joint Section~~ and submit the names of two references that are active members of the Joint Section using the online application form available on the AANS or CNS website. A candidate for international membership who is not already a member of either the AANS or CNS shall ~~shall apply in writing to the Joint Section and~~ submit the names of three references, at least one of whom shall be an AANS Active, Active (Foreign) or International Member from the applicant's country, or an individual of international stature in that country or geographical region. The proposal shall be submitted to the membership ~~committee at least 30 days prior to its meeting~~, and must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae written in English.

(c) The Membership Committee shall investigate the credentials of a candidate for membership

(d) After approval of the Membership Committee, ~~the candidate shall be presented to the Executive Council in due order, the candidate's name shall be presented to the Executive Council.~~

Section 4. Procedure for Election to Membership

a) If a candidate is approved by a majority of the Executive Council, ~~the name or names of the proposed members shall be circulated for comments to the members of the Section one month prior to the business meeting occurring at any of the meetings of the Joint Section~~ the candidate will be notified in writing from the central office of their election to membership in the Joint Section.

Section 5. Successful Candidates

Successful candidates shall be installed at the business meeting at the time of their election. New members shall be notified in writing of their election to membership in the Joint Section.

Section 6. Section 5. Rejected Candidates

All rejected candidates shall be reviewed by the Executive Council prior to notification of the candidate. The Executive Council may request reconsideration of the candidate by the Membership Committee.

Section 7. Section 6. Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated when a member fails to pay annual dues for two years in a row, or is disqualified for membership in the American Association of Neurological Surgeons or the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

Pediatric Section Treasurers Report

February 27, 2013

First and Second Quarter, 2013

Summary

The Pediatric Section remains in good financial health. Total net assets are \$602,459, as compared to \$604,910 one year ago. This figure represents the total cumulative revenue of the Section since its inception.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting numbers are not final, with some expenses still pending. The gross revenue was \$316,735, which exceeded budget by \$11,000. However, expenses also were higher than projected.

The net revenue for this year's meeting in St. Louis will likely be \$32,000, which falls short of our optimistic budgeting of \$42,142, but still far exceeds the average.

Investments

The Section's long-term investment account remains favorable at \$543,148. The Section's long-term investments are handled via a pooled investment portfolio with the other sections, which allows the sections to get into funds not otherwise available to smaller investors.

Anticipated Expenses

Major expenses outside of our annual meeting for this year include \$30,000 in contributions (\$10,000 for FLANC /ISPN course and \$20,000 for the NREF Pediatric Fellowship), \$17,000 for travelling fellowships and small research grants, and an additional \$16,364 for new website design.

Overall, there appear to be no concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery Officers and Committees

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