

# SECTION ON NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

Summer 2016

## Message from the Chairman



John Ragheb, MD, FAAP

Welcome to your Section on Neurological Surgery (SONS) Summer newsletter. As the Chair of our Section, I would like to keep you informed on the interesting activities, initiatives and goals of the Section.

The SONS continues to look for opportunities to use the power of the AAP and its 64,000 plus membership to improve the care of children through education, advocacy policy and outreach. For those of you actively involved in the SONS, you see the benefits to our patients. For those on the sidelines, hopefully I can convince you to step up and get involved. Let me tell you why.

The SONS is asked for input whenever the AAP creates health policy, book chapters, patient care online material, consumer website HealthyChildren.org material, medical policy for private payers, new CPT coding proposals for neurosurgical conditions, and federal and state

legislation, and takes a stand on an issue important to children. Section members may also be called upon to be a media contact on a neurological issue.

The AAP has a unique mission: it's the only organization that focuses entirely on kids and all areas, e.g., rather than a small group within a larger adult society or a society focusing on one subspecialty. The AAP is a "One-Stop-Shop" for comprehensive pediatric care that can address all needs of the child and co-morbidities. The AAP has extensive resources for medical home, transition to adult, infectious diseases, quality improvement and patient safety, pediatric workforce, practice and ambulatory medicine, trainee and early career physicians. It is home to the National Coordinating Center for Children and Youth With Epilepsy, the National Center for Medical Home Implementation, and the Genetics and Primary Care Institute, to name a few. When the SONS authors were developing their clinical report policy on congenital brain and spinal malformations, they were able to easily consult with plastic surgery, ambulatory medicine, dermatology and ENT experts to create a multidisciplinary policy.

We all have many demands on our time, both in our professional and personal lives. I've always felt that the time spent away from our practices and our families could be better spent talking to the pediatricians who take care of our patients. I hope those of you on the sidelines of the SONS, or who are not members, will consider getting involved....

# 2015 AANS/CNS Ped Section Meeting

At the 2015 AANS/CNS Section of Pediatric Neurological Surgery meeting in Seattle, Dr. Kristopher Hooten received the 2nd annual AAP SONS award for the Best Oral Presentation. Dr. Hooten was a Chief Resident in Neurological Surgery at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He has a strong interest in treating children with neurosurgical diseases. Dr. Hooten's presentation, "Establishing Standard Performance Measures for Pediatric Brain Tumor Patients," was a retrospective review of the Kids' Inpatient Database (KID) with a focus on establishing quality national benchmarks. In addition to a modest stipend, Dr. Hooten will receive a free AAP membership.



Kristopher Gray Hooten,  
MD



Wendy Sue Swanson, MD, MBE,  
FAAP

The SONS lecturer for the Pediatric Section Meeting in Seattle was Dr. Wendy Sue Swanson. Dr. Swanson is a pediatrician at Seattle Children's Hospital. She has led the Digital Health initiative at Seattle Children's. Dr. Swanson is also author of the book [Mama Doc Medicine](#) and a blog [Seattle Mama Doc](#), and has served as a medical consultant to several local and national news outlets.

Dr. Swanson gave a dynamic lecture entitled, "How 140 Characters Are Changing Healthcare." She described various approaches to collaborate with tech innovators to discover ways to more effectively deliver meaningful information to patients and families. She made a strong argument that the mastery of social media and telemedicine are the future of efficient delivery of healthcare services. Dr. Swanson also previewed a new tool called Virtual Handshake™, a community-centered application designed to introduce patients and families to providers, care delivery and medications before and after the visit. The SONS lecturer is supported by KLS Martin.

Congratulations to Drs. Amy Lee and Sam Browd for hosting a successful (and record-breaking) 2015 AANS/CNS Section of Pediatric Neurosurgical Surgery in Seattle as Meeting Chairs. Dr. Lee is an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery in the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Washington and is an attending surgeon with subspecialization in craniofacial surgery at Seattle Children's Hospital.



Amy Lee, MD



Samuel R. Browd, MD

Dr. Browd is an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery in the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Washington. He practices at Seattle Children's Hospital where he also takes on the role as Director of the Hydrocephalus Program and Medical Director of the Concussion Program.

# Meetings

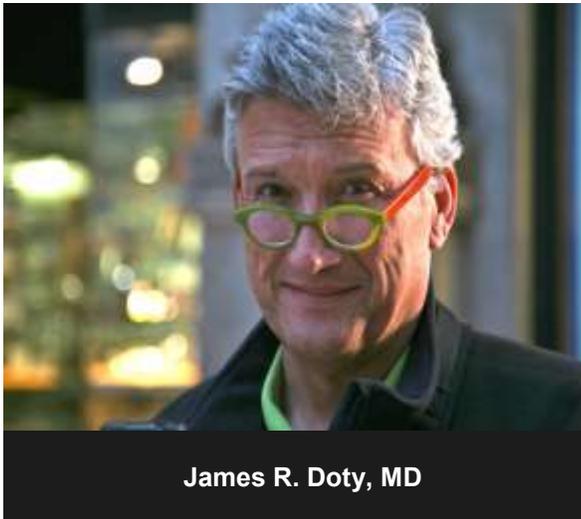
The AANS/CNS annual meeting featured a presentation by Chair-Elect Dr. Philipp Aldana, reporting the survey results of fellows of the AAP regarding the screening, referral, and treatment for neurosurgical conditions, “Prioritizing Pediatricians’ Neurosurgical Education: Results of an American Academy of Pediatrics Survey of 505 Pediatricians.” Results of this study will help SONS develop educational programs customized to the inclinations of our pediatric associates.

The SONS participated in the Annual Leadership Forum (ALF) March 10-13 in suburban Chicago. The meeting brings together leadership from AAP sections, committees and councils, and chapters. The forum’s primary purpose is to develop health policy, advocate for children, provide networking opportunities for practitioners, and to present, discuss, and vote on ALF resolutions and AAP priorities.



Philipp Aldana MD FAAP

## Upcoming AANS/CNS Ped Section Meeting



James R. Doty, MD

The SONS Lecture for the 2016 AANS/CNS Pediatric Section meeting in Orlando will feature James R. Doty, M.D., professor of neurosurgery at Stanford University and also the founder and director of the Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education of which the Dalai Lama is founding benefactor. His lecture entitled, *Hacking Your Brain for Happiness*, will be held on December 7. His research interests in the area of neurosurgery have focused on CyberKnife stereotactic radiosurgery and has been a pioneer in the development of the technology being at one time CEO of Accuray, manufacturer of the CyberKnife. Additionally, he was director of the Stanford minimally invasive and complex spine

surgery program and holds patents in multiple devices. More recently his research has focused on the how compassion and altruistic behavior are represented in the brain and their effect on peripheral physiology using a variety of modalities.

Doty serves as an operating partner of the Capricorn Healthcare and Special Opportunities fund and is as an advisor to a number venture capital firms and medical oriented start-ups. Doty is the author of the New York Times bestselling book, *Into the Magic Shop: A Neurosurgeon's Quest to Discover the Mysteries of the Brain and the Secrets of the Heart*.

# Your SONS in Action

The AAP SONS has been busy helping to plan the **2016 National Conference & Exhibition (NCE)** in San Francisco. SONS will educate our pediatric colleagues through our sponsored session, “Neurosurgical Problems: When Not to Worry, When to Refer”. Please contact Dr. Philipp Aldana ([Philipp.aldana@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:Philipp.aldana@jax.ufl.edu)), Chair of the SONS Education Subcommittee, if you are interested in helping to develop future educational programs for pediatricians.

The Section has recently formed two new subcommittees to focus on priority areas. SONS members Greg Albert and Philipp Aldana are on the new **Education Subcommittee**. The subcommittee suggests topics we feel are of important educational value for pediatricians and the health of children and provides topics and speakers to the AAP National Conference and Exhibition (NCE). Recent topics include sacral dimples, vascular lesions, tufts, and other spine problems, vascular anomalies update, occult dysraphism, positional molding, neurosurgical emergencies, and concussion. For the 2017 NCE they have proposed programs on abnormal head shapes, cutaneous markers of a tethered spinal cord, concussion and clearance, and back pain.

SONS members Andrew Jea, Sandi Lam and Nick Wetjen comprise the new **Policy and Advocacy Subcommittee**, which reviews all related policy and book chapters, etc. and coordinates with the AANS and CNS joint section on pediatric neurological surgery for policy development. They have also responded to media requests on neurosurgery topics like TBI and rehabilitation.

The SONS facilitated AAP endorsement of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons *Systematic and Evidence Based Guidelines for the Management of Patients with Positional Plagiocephaly*. SONS members, **Drs. Thomas Luerssen and Sandi Lam**, along with members of the AAP Section on Plastic Surgery and Committee on Practice and Ambulatory Medicine, are collaborating to develop an education compendium to streamline these guidelines for pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists.

The Section is collaborating with the Section on Plastic Surgery (SOPS) to write a clinical report, Craniosynostosis, craniofacial disorders, deformational plagiocephaly, and the management of the misshapen head. Mark Dias is the primary SONS author and Thomas Samson primary SOPS author.

If you would like to review clinical reports, policy statements or clinical/technical reports, textbook chapters, Patient Care Online, HealthyChildren.org and offer your valued opinion on important matters as they relate to pediatric neurosurgery, please write to Dr. Andrew Jea, Chair of the Advocacy and Policies Subcommittee of SONS ([ahjea@texaschildrens.org](mailto:ahjea@texaschildrens.org)).

The SONS interfaces with the AAP Department of Federal Affairs to actively engaged in federal advocacy for the needs of academic and subspecialist pediatricians and children. Through its dedicated staff, the AAP works to promote medical research for children, funding for medical education, child access to needed providers through appropriate payment, and a pediatric workforce able to meet the needs of children across the country and beyond.

The Section also participated in the AAP’s Surgical Advisory Panel which discusses many topics of interest to surgeons such as advocacy for improve access to care and payment formulas for pediatric surgical specialty care, active engagement in advocacy to advance tort reform, optimal timing of neuroanesthetic agents, multi-disciplinary surgical co-management, quality metrics and enhanced

# Your SONS in Action

reimbursement, linking of registries across pediatric societies, and with the adult world), “safer” opioid prescribing and planning for surgical plenary sessions at the NCE.

SONS members have also been asked to submit stories for AAP News. In past issues, reviews of the ScolioScore and its impact on the care of pediatric spinal deformity, and clinical implications of incidental findings on neuro-imaging were composed by SONS. If you have story ideas, please write to Dr. Andrew Jea, SONS Executive Committee Secretary ([ahjea@texaschildrens.org](mailto:ahjea@texaschildrens.org)).

## Membership

The SONS would like to welcome our newest members:

- **Eric M. Jackson, MD, FAAP - Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD**
- **Robert Bollo, MD, FAAP– University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT**
- **Francesco Mangano, DO, FAAP – Cincinnatti Childrens Hospital, Cincinnatti, OH**

We look forward to your involvement in Section activities and initiatives

SONS is also offering free national AAP membership to pediatric neurosurgical fellows-in-training with Fellowship Program Directors that are also members of the AAP. If you are a Fellowship Program Director who is an AAP member, please send your trainees’ contact information to Lynn Colegrove ([lcolegrove@aap.org](mailto:lcolegrove@aap.org)).

Please encourage your NPs and PAs to join the Academy! Discounted memberships are available to pediatric neurosurgical advanced practice providers (NPs and PAs). For more information about this campaign, please contact Dr. Ann-Christine Duhaime, Chair of the Membership Subcommittee of the SONS ([aduhaime@partners.org](mailto:aduhaime@partners.org)).

A strong word-of-mouth marketing campaign is an important way to promote the continued growth of SONS and the AAP. As an active member, you not only know the value that your membership provides in advancing your career and strengthening your profession, but you are also in daily contact with a wealth of prospective members at your institution and through your network of professional colleagues.

**Have you as a SONS member received a promotion, changed institutions, spoken at a conference or been recognized with an award? Send your vitals (who, what, when, where, why) — plus a hi-res headshot or other image, if possible — to Dr. Andrew Jea ([ahjea@texaschildrenshospital.org](mailto:ahjea@texaschildrenshospital.org)) and we will post your good news to the SONS Newsletter!**



## Section on Neurological Surgery Executive Committee

### Chairperson

John Ragheb, MD, FAAP  
Miami, FL

### Members

Philipp R. Aldana, MD, FAAP  
Jacksonville, FL

Douglas Lee Brockmeyer, MD, FAAP  
Salt Lake City, UT

Ann-Christine Duhaime, MD, FAAP  
Boston, MA

Andrew H. Jea, MD, FAAP  
Houston, TX

### Ex-Officio

Michael D. Partington, MD, FAAP  
Minneapolis, MN

### Staff Manager

Lynn Colegrove, MBA  
lcolegrove@aap.org  
Phone: 800-433-9016 Ext 7820

## Contact Us

For more information about our Section please visit our [website](#).

American Academy of Pediatrics

141 Northwest Point Blvd  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1019  
Phone: 847/434-4000  
Fax: 847/434-8000