

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

Editor: Mark R. Proctor, MD, FAANS

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From the Chairman

Bruce Kaufman, MD, FAANS

Bruce Kaufman,
MD, FAANS

Welcome to the fall newsletter of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery. I hope that everyone has had an enjoyable summer. The section is busy preparing for our fall into spring schedule, which includes our annual winter meeting and our participation in the American

Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Annual Scientific Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Here is a brief summary of some of the activities and work of the section. As always, if you have any questions, ideas or comments, please feel free to contact any of the officers.

Selected Section Activities Guidelines on Hydrocephalus

The Guidelines on Hydrocephalus, sponsored by the Joint Pediatric Section, will be published later this year in a supplement to the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*. All who have reviewed them have been impressed by the breadth and depth of the material. We think that this documentation will be helpful to our colleagues and is likely to generate a great deal of discussion in the coming year.

In the past, I have extended our congratulations to those who have been contributors to the manuscript itself. I would now like to extend our appreciation to the individuals and groups who have made a financial contribution to the project (in addition to our section), including the Hydrocephalus Foundation, the *Journal of Neurosurgery*, and Jogi Pattisapu, MD, FAANS(L), through his university affiliation.

Optimal Resources for Children's Surgical Care and Certification of Pediatric Surgical Centers

You may have seen or heard more about this project in the last few months — in announcements from the American College of Surgeons (ACS) or the recent article in the *Wall Street Journal*. As I had previously communicated, the section was one participant in a consortium that defined “optimal surgical care for children” in a paper that was published in the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*. The AANS and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) had also reviewed and supported that document.

In the past six months, the ACS has developed a program to begin to “certify” pediatric surgical centers, according to the previously defined criteria in a manner similar to the way they certify trauma centers. There were pediatric neurosurgeons present during the discussions about certification, and having learned from the experiences of our colleagues in the trauma certification, we feel comfortable that the final certification process will not be burdensome to neurosurgery/neurosurgeons. It is anticipated that the first centers will be surveyed and the certification process will start at the beginning of 2015.

Personally, I feel that this endeavor has an opportunity to accomplish exactly what was intended by the consortium — the optimization and the coordination of pediatric surgical care in this country. As this roles out, please contact the executive committee if you experience any issues related to the certification; we have access to the leaders of this program and would hope to mitigate any such issues.

Joint Task Force on Outcomes and Quality

The Pediatric Section, in concert with the

American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons (ASPN), is attempting to promote outcomes research and to encourage quality improvement projects. These topics are frequently brought to our attention by our hospitals, by governmental and payor groups. The section and the ASPN are hopeful that a joint effort, led by Jay Wellons, MD, FAANS; and Mandeep Tamber, MD, PhD, FAANS, can facilitate pediatric neurosurgical efforts in these areas. Their first step is to try and define the current pediatric neurosurgical practices around reducing shunt infections.

Please see their comments in this issue of *Pediatric ShortCuts*, and I encourage you to participate in their survey.

Annual Winter Meeting

The next winter annual meeting of the section is scheduled for Dec. 2-5, 2014, to be held at the Omni Hotel on Amelia Island outside of Jacksonville, Fla. Phil Aldana, MD, FAANS, has led the organization of the meeting, and it looks like this will be another great meeting.

There will again be an all-day advanced practice provider (APP) session for our physician assistant and registered nurse colleagues on the day before the meeting begins. I would encourage all who can to send their associates to this popular course. In addition, the APP training is being enhanced with additional specific breakfast seminars during the meeting. For our medical participants, the meeting group has also organized several very pertinent courses and breakfast seminars.

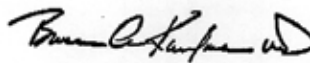
This winter meeting will continue the tradition of stimulating lectures — with our annual Raimondi Lecture by a pre-eminent scientist and the AAP/SONS lecturer. We have chosen Pascal Lee, PhD, planetary scientist and chairman of the Mars Institute, as our Raimondi lecturer. He will discuss progress being made around the world to achieve the first human voyage to Mars. As the 2014 AAP/SONS Lecturer, David L. Wood, MD, MPH, will present *Transition of Care with Pediatric Neurosurgery Patients*.

Coming from Wisconsin, I would be less than truthful if I did not say I look forward to a December break from “real winter” with the trip to Florida. The Omni completed a total renovation last year, and the facilities appear perfect for our group’s gathering. I am sure you will enjoy the meeting, but if able, take advantage of the surrounding area (perhaps come a little earlier or stay a little later).

We always welcome neurosurgery residents at our meeting. I hope you can help them attend. I think that it is one of the more “resident-friendly” meetings in our specialty, not only helping them to learn about us but also by being able to actively participate. We will again be hosting a breakfast gathering where the resident attendees will be able to meet and talk with the section’s leadership (this year on Friday morning).

Finally, it is my great pleasure to announce that Marion L. “Jack” Walker, MD, FAANS(L), will be given the section’s highest award — the Franc D. Ingraham Award for Distinguished Service and Achievement at the winter meeting. A warm and gracious colleague, Dr. Walker is truly deserving of this honor. It will be presented to him on Thursday afternoon, with a special reception break immediately following.

See you soon at the meeting.



Bruce A. Kaufman, MD, FAANS

Section Guidelines Committee Updates

The Hydrocephalus Guidelines Task Force of the Pediatric Section is looking forward to the publication of *Pediatric hydrocephalus: systematic literature review and evidence-based guidelines*. This document will be e-published in October and will appear in print in November as a supplement of the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*. It is the first practice guideline produced by and for pediatric neurosurgeons; it was created under the auspices of the Section Guidelines Committee and the Joint Guidelines Committee of the AANS/CNS.

Section members involved in the effort include Ann Marie Flannery, MD, FAANS, chair; Catherine Mazzola, MD, FAANS; and Paul Klimo Jr., MD, FAANS, co-chairs; and Lissa Baird, MD; David Limbrick Jr., MD, PhD, FAANS; Tina Duhaime, MD, FAANS; Kurtis Auguste, MD, FAANS; Mandeep Tamber, MD, PhD, FAANS; Jay Riva-Cambrin, MD, FAANS; Dimitrios C. Nikas, MD, FAANS; and Alexander Post, MD.

The next topic under development by the Section Guidelines Committee is the evaluation and treatment of positional plagiocephaly. The task force involved in this project includes topic leaders Drs. Klimo, Mazzola, Tamber, Flannery and Baird. Additional members include Dr. Duhaime, Rachana Tyagi, MD, FAANS; Dr. Nikas, Alexandra Beier, DO; Catherine McClung-Smith, MD; David F. Bauer, MD; Mark Krieger, MD, FAANS; Susan Durham, MD, FAANS; and pediatric craniofacial plastic surgeon Alex Lin, MD.

The next document should be in draft form by the section meeting, with plans for publication in 2015. The Guidelines Committee would like to express thanks to the leadership of the pediatric section for the support received.

National Meetings Subcommittee Report

Co-chairs Benny Iskandar, MD, FAANS; and Cathy Mazzola, MD, FAANS

The National Meetings Subcommittee is charged with helping plan the Pediatric Section activities at the AANS and CNS National meetings. After much retrospective evaluation and consideration, there was general agreement among the all organizations to make attempts to improve the quality of lectures and abstracts, promote timely topics and stimulate general interest and attendance.

Notably, unlike our annual pediatric conference in which the majority of attendees are pediatric neurosurgeons, the AANS and CNS meetings have been populated with a larger fraction of general neurosurgeons and residents. It seemed that this was the right time to redesign the format to appeal to a wider audience and tailor them to meet Pediatric Section priorities so that they complement the annual pediatric meeting. The following is a short summary of changes made so far, and they are applicable starting with the Fall 2014 meeting of the CNS and the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting in Spring 2015:

CNS meeting

Pediatric Program for 2014 CNS Meeting

2014 CNS Monday Section meeting: The Pediatric Hydrocephalus Guidelines (Monday 7-8:30 a.m.).

This session allows the “Pediatric Hydrocephalus Guidelines” group to present some data from their newly completed project.

Moderators: Alexander Post, MD; and Bermans Iskandar, MD, FAANS

Speakers: Ann Marie Flannery, MD, FAANS; Tina Duhaime, MD, FAANS; Alexander Post, MD; Lissa Baird, MD; Mandeep Tamber, MD, PhD, FAANS; and David Limbrick, MD, PhD, FAANS

2014 CNS Tuesday Section Meeting: Oral abstracts

Moderators: Liliana Goumnerova, MD, FAANS; and Mark Souweidane, MD, FAANS

Abstracts reviewed by a committee of four neurosurgeons selected by the Pediatric Section.

2014 CNS Hot Topics: #1 the Management of Concussion in Children and Young Adults (Tuesday 2-3:30 p.m.)

Moderators: Jeff Greenfield, MD, PhD; and Tom Luerssen, MD, FAANS

Speakers: Richard Ellenbogen, MD, FAANS; Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS; and Hugh Garton, MD, MHSc, FAANS

2014 CNS Moderators for the paper poster session (Neurosurgical Forum):

Taryn Bragg and Brent O’Neill

AANS Annual Scientific Meeting

The major changes that we’ve instituted with complete support of the AANS are as follows:

- A. Cut down on time for abstract presentations by converting most to digital posters with two-minute presentations, and rewarding the best five abstracts with a certificate and a nine-minute presentation.
- B. Organize into categories that include multi-topic reviews, controversies, board review and point/counterpoint, etc. The highlight of this category are topical reviews, which are designed primarily for the neurosurgery residents and general neurosurgeons, and will be given by invited experts in the fields. They consist of recurrent three-year programs, in which experts discuss three to four topics yearly in the form of a course.
- C. Targeted hands-on workshops on the weekend and breakfast seminars that complement the seminars.
- D. Pre-meeting course (starting 2016)

Book Review

“Childhood Brain & Spinal Cord Tumors: A Guide for Families, Friends & Caregivers.” T. Shiminski-Maher, C. Woodman, N. Keene. Childhood Cancer Guides, Bellingham, Wash., 2014.

This is a terrific book. It is written by a nurse practitioner (TSM) with more than 30 years of experience in the field of pediatric neurosurgery and neuro-oncology and by the parents of survivors of pediatric cancer, all providing a unique view and expertise. Comprehensive, the book covers the many facets of care and has useful information for both families and providers. It provides

personal experiences and insights, as well as basic medical information that help families and patients navigate through the course of their treatment. It is well-written and easy to read; we would recommend it to all who take care of children with these tumors — families and providers.

Mary-Ann Zimmerman, RN, CPNP, Dana Farber Cancer Institute

Liliana Goumnerova, MD, FAANS, Boston Children’s Hospital/ Dana Farber Cancer Institute

Pediatric Section Treasurer's Report

For the Fiscal Year 2014

The AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery remains in good financial health. Total net assets are relatively stable. The section's monetary assets are handled via a pooled investment portfolio with the other joint sections, and administered by the AANS. This allows the sections to get into investment funds not otherwise available to smaller investors. The section's long-term investment account remains favorable with investment earnings for fiscal year (FY) 2014 totaling \$69,418.

The 2013 Pediatric Section Meeting in Toronto was very successful in terms of participation (with a record-high 287 registrants), but did incur a relatively small financial loss. The deficit was due to higher-than-anticipated food and beverage expenses, as well as increased production costs (i.e. staff time) due to the additional practical clinics and breakfast seminars. The next annual meeting (Amelia Island, Fla., 2014) is budgeted to be close to breaking even.

The section has a number of recurring expenses each year. These include:

- \$10,000 contributed to a joint course with the Latin American Congress of Neurological Surgery (FLANC) — this was spent in FY 2014 and is budgeted again for FY 2015.
- \$20,000 continuing the section's five-year commitment to the NREF — again, this was spent in FY 2014 and is also budgeted for FY 2015.
- \$17,000 was budgeted for two domestic pediatric fellowships at \$2,500 each and \$6,000 for two foreign fellowships; the executive committee elected to award a third foreign fellowship at an additional \$6,000; in FY 2015, \$17,000 has been budgeted for four such fellowships.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark D. Krieger, MD, FAANS

Research Funding

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) is pleased to announce that more than \$800,000 has been specifically allocated for pediatric spinal cord tumor research through the ALSF 2015 grants program. Research proposals with the potential to provide insight into the biology, diagnosis or treatment of spinal cord tumors are strongly encouraged.

Applications are now open for Innovation, Young Investigator and Epidemiology research grants to help support your efforts to find better treatments and cures for all children with cancer. For more information, please visit ALSFgrants.org or contact Kay Schaul by calling 866-333-1213 or emailing Grants@AlexsLemonade.org.

Note from the Editor

James T. Rutka, MD, PhD, FAANS, a long-standing member of the section and past-president of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, became editor-in-chief of the Journal of Neurosurgery Publishing Group on July 1, 2013. This includes the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*. Dr. Rutka would like to encourage all section members to submit their work to the journal.

Survey: Pediatric Coding Course

The Pediatric Section has been working with the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (CSNS) and the AANS to develop better socioeconomic and medicolegal content for both the section meeting and the annual meetings. We will be providing an in-depth pediatric coding course at the upcoming Pediatric Section meeting on Amelia Island, Fla., in December 2014. We would appreciate your input and opinions about coding information that would be **most** useful to you. Please take a moment and [follow this link](#) to complete a two-minute survey. We thank you in advance for your time.

Future Meetings

2015 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting – Washington, D.C.
May 2-6, 2015

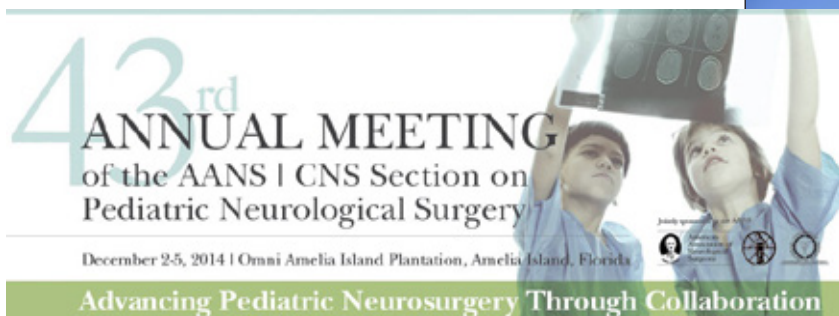
The AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery will be sponsoring sessions on Monday and Tuesday afternoon, including the Matson lecturer on Monday afternoon, as well as a business meeting.

44th Annual Meeting of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery – Seattle

Dec. 8-11, 2015

Save the date for the 2015 Pediatric Section annual meeting, to be held at the Sheraton Seattle.

Annual Meeting Information



Meeting Registration and Hotel Reservations

Make your plans now to register for the 43rd Annual Meeting on Amelia Island, Fla., on Dec. 2-5, 2014. Visit www.pedsneurosurgery.org to register online and reserve your room at the Omni Amelia Island.

Important Dates to Remember

- **Nov. 4, 2014** — The discounted advanced registration deadline ends.
- **Nov. 10, 2014** — The hotel reservation cutoff date

Program Highlights

With the focus of the meeting on collaboration, the keynote speakers, breakfast seminars and clinical symposia address topics of current interest for today's pediatric neurosurgeon.

Highlights include:

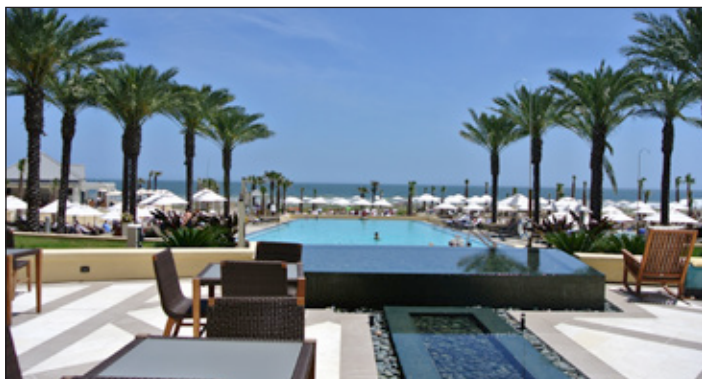
- **Raimondi Lecture:** Pascal Lee, PhD, will present *From the Earth to Mars: Steps Toward the First Human Mission to the Red Planet*.
- **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Section on Neurological Surgery (SONS) Lecture:** David L. Wood, MD, MPH, covers *Transition of Care with Pediatric Neurosurgery Patients*.
- **Franc D. Ingraham Award for Distinguished Service and Achievement** to be presented to Marion L. Walker, MD, FAANS(L)

- An optional, full-day, hands-on practical course on pediatric craniocervical surgery
- An optional, half-day pediatric neurosurgery-specific coding course including ICD-10 update
- Two breakfast seminars focusing on key socioeconomic topics of NERVES research data and on developing and maintaining collaborative research groups in neurosurgery
- Plenary symposia on endoscopic and open craniostomosis surgery; fetal myelomeningocele repair and pediatric neurosurgery collaboration in research, education and quality
- A full-day, dedicated educational track for advanced practice providers
- A final social event featuring a Florida-style evening with a local pirate flair
- **Back by popular demand:** The 2nd Annual 5K Run, "Sunrise on the Beach"

New in 2014

- Two optional Breakfast Seminars for advanced practice providers, covering radiographic interpretation, and basic knot-tying and suturing
- **New awards:** The AAP SONS will select an oral presentation whose findings broadly impact and improve the health of children; awards will be given out, recognizing the top posters in Basic Science Research and Clinical Research.
- Attendees will explore the exhibit hall using a treasure map and have the chance to win free registration to the 2015 meeting in Seattle. Attendee must be present to win; complete details are available in the Preliminary Program.

Be sure to visit the [AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery website](http://www.pedsneurosurgery.org) for complete annual meeting information. We look forward to seeing you in Amelia Island!



Awards and Fellowships

Did you know that the section actively sponsors fellowships and research awards to promote and advance the field of pediatric neurosurgery? Two types of awards are sponsored independently by the section, in addition to our support of a specific pediatric-focused Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation (NREF) award available by application to the NREF program. The traveling fellowship is designed to facilitate North American and international residents traveling to sponsoring programs of their choice in North America. The research awards are small seed grants to help investigators get research projects off the ground. In-depth information and applications are below for both applicants and programs that wish to participate as sponsoring institutions for the traveling fellows.

Research Support Awards • 2014

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.

A total of two awards, \$5,000 each, will be available.

The application submission deadline is Nov. 1, 2014. Awardees will be expected to present their results at the Pediatric Section meeting in 2015. More information is available at the Pediatric Section website. Specific questions can be directed to Nalin Gupta (guptan@neurosurg.ucsf.edu).

Resident Traveling Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery

The AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery has established a traveling fellowship for residents in accredited North American neurosurgical training programs. The fellowship is intended to cover the traveling and living expenses for one month for a resident who wishes additional experience in pediatric neurosurgery during residency.

The one-month fellowship can be spent at any pediatric neurosurgery program within North America to pursue an activity which broadens the resident's exposure to pediatric neurosurgery, including observation at a clinical or research center, participation in a research project, or any other relevant activity.

Up to four fellowships per year are awarded on the basis of a competitive evaluation by a committee of the Pediatric Section. The maximum fellowship stipend is \$2,500.

The application must include:

1. A statement defining the purpose of the proposed fellowship;
2. Written permission from the applicant's residency program director to pursue the one-month fellowship if it is awarded;
3. A letter of acceptance from the pediatric neurosurgical program where the applicant will seek the fellowship;
4. The applicant's current curriculum vitae. The strict deadline for application submission is Nov. 1, 2014.

The completed application should be emailed to Matthew Smyth, MD, FAANS, at smythm@wudosis.wustl.edu.

See the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery's website for details for application.

International Traveling Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery

The AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery has established an international traveling fellowship for neurosurgeons who at the time of their application are either training in a residency program outside the United States and Canada, or who have completed residency training outside the United States and Canada within the past five years.

The fellowship will cover the traveling and living expenses for a three-month period to be spent observing the activities of an established pediatric neurosurgical service of the applicant's choosing in the United States or Canada. Up to two fellowships will be awarded yearly on the basis of a competitive evaluation by a committee of the Pediatric Section at the annual meeting in December. The maximum fellowship stipend is \$7,500.

The application must include:

1. A statement defining the purpose of the proposed fellowship;
2. A letter of recommendation from the applicant's current Neurosurgical program director;
3. A letter of acceptance from the institution where the applicant intends to take the fellowship, confirming the description of the fellow's potential activities during the period of the award;
4. The applicant's current curriculum vitae.

The strict deadline for application submission is Nov. 1, 2014. The completed application should be emailed to Matthew Smyth, MD, FAANS, at smythm@wudosis.wustl.edu.

See the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery's website for details for application.

Message to Programs Interested in Hosting Pediatric Neurosurgery Traveling Fellows

The section would like to give all North American pediatric neurosurgery programs the opportunity to participate in hosting domestic or international pediatric traveling fellows, as stipulated in the fellowship announcement above. 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 provided at the link below, which should then be emailed 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.

To learn more, visit the [Pediatric Section website](#).

Membership Report

Membership to the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery remains strong. Our current roster includes 325 Active, 11 Associate, 70 Lifetime, 28 International and 37 Resident/fellow members.

Since the last edition of *Pediatric ShortCuts*, the newly approved Pediatric Section members are:

Active:	Kevin Z. J. Chao, MD; Patrick J. McDonald, MD, FRCSC; Ali I. Raja, MD, MSc, FAANS
Associate:	Allison M. Rathmann, DO; Mary Kathryn Wade, MSN, RN, CPNP-AC
International:	Mohamed Reda Abdelghany Mohamed, MD; Shabal Sapkota, MD
Resident:	Jason Elliott Blatt, MD

Other member updates:

Luis Alberto Rodriguez, MD, FAANS, from Hollywood, Fla., has resigned from the Pediatric Section.

Leslie Sutton, MD, FAANS, from Philadelphia has moved to Emeritus status.

For membership information, please visit the [Pediatric Section website](#).

Pediatric Neurosurgical Education

Team Portal

The American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons (ASPN) leadership has assembled a team of volunteers to help vet the content that will be used to populate the new educational portal for pediatric neurosurgery. The Matrix curriculum, developed in concert with the AANS, CNS and Society of Neurological Surgeons (SNS), will be the source for organization of the Portal content. The ASPN will collaborate closely with the section members to centralize this effort to develop the most comprehensive Portal resource. This effort would be a great way to get more involved in the section. If you would like to learn more about this initiative and how you could help, please contact Gerry Grant, MD, FAANS, at gerald.grant@stanford.edu to join the Portal Team.

Board Examination Questions

The section is working to provide examination questions that will be considered for future use on the written board examination. This is an ongoing endeavor, and we can always use more questions. If you are interested in participating in this effort, please contact Cormac Maher, MD, FAANS, at cmaher@med.umich.edu.

Many thanks to David Harter, MD, FAANS; Andrew Jea, MD, FAANS; Amanda Yaun, MD, FAANS; Nick Wetjen, MD, FAANS; Hugh Garton, MD, MHSc, FAANS; Jay Riva-Cambrin, MD, FAANS; Paul Klimo Jr., MD, FAANS; and Stephanie Greene, MD, FAANS, for submitting questions.

Secretary's Report

Mark R. Proctor, MD, FAANS

This edition of *Pediatric ShortCuts* is coming out in advance of the CNS meeting that will take place here in my hometown of Boston. There is an exciting schedule, and I have highlighted the components of the scientific program most pertinent to pediatrics in the section below. Of course, the Pediatric Section is busily preparing for its annual meeting, which will take place in Amelia Island, Fla. The meeting highlights are listed in another section of *Pediatric Short Cuts*, and this is shaping up to be a terrific meeting. Please be sure to register in time to get the early registration discounts. This will be the first warm-weather resort location in several years, and the scientific content should be excellent. We hope to see you there.

The section continues to strive to represent the interests of both children and pediatric neurosurgeons throughout North America and the world. As always, I would like *Pediatric ShortCuts* to serve as a forum for open discussion and expression by pediatric neurosurgeons. Please feel free to submit content to me at any time, and I would be happy to publish it in either the fall or spring editions. *Pediatric ShortCuts* is distributed to all members of the section, and is archived in perpetuity on our website. You can submit content to me at mark.proctor@childrens.harvard.edu.

Pediatric Highlights at the CNS Meeting, Boston, 2014

(For additional information, please see National Meetings report in this issue.)

Saturday, October 18

Practical Courses

- PC11 8-11:30 a.m. Update in Epilepsy Surgery
PC12 12:30-4 p.m. 3-D Anatomy (infratentorial)

Sunday, October 19

Practical Courses

- PC22 8-11:30 a.m. Surgical Management of tumors in eloquent regions

1:30-4 p.m. **Choice Abstracts: Spanning the Spectrum of Neurosurgery** — includes several pediatric-focused talks

Monday, October 20

7-8:30 a.m. Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

Lunch Seminars

M02 Athletic Head Injuries: Return to Play

2-3:30 p.m. Hot Topics: The management of concussion in children and young adults.

Tuesday, October 21

7-8:30 Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

Lunch Seminars

- T11 Interactive Lunch: Pediatrics
T13 Guidelines for the management of acute cervical spine and spinal cord injuries
T17 Guidelines for Neurocritical care management for patients with severe TBI

2-3:30 p.m. Hot Topics: The management of Chiari Type I Malformation

4:15-5:30 p.m. Neurosurgical Forum: section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

Wednesday, October 22

8-10:30 a.m. General Session

Moyamoya in Kids — new horizons

Lunch Seminars

W19 Incorporating Telemedicine into your practice

We look forward to seeing you in Boston.

Sincerely,
Mark R. Proctor, MD, FAANS

Request from the Joint Task Force on Outcomes and Quality

Dear Pediatric Neurosurgical Colleagues,

The AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery and the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons are developing a subspecialty-wide effort to promote outcomes research and quality improvement projects. The first step in this initiative is to determine how frequently the results of established quality improvement research are being incorporated into contemporary pediatric neurosurgical practice. This knowledge will inform further quality, outcomes and implementation research not only as it relates to hydrocephalus but to other clinical areas in our subspecialty.

As part of an earlier quality improvement initiative, the Hydrocephalus Research Network (HCRN) has published a standardized peri-operative protocol designed to reduce the incidence of shunt infection (*Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*, 2011). This clinical support tool has been effective in decreasing the risk of shunt infection at institutions where it has been implemented.

We are conducting a survey to gain a better understanding of current pediatric neurosurgical practice with respect to peri-operative strategies designed to minimize the incidence of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) shunt infection. The survey will also seek to identify potential surgeon- or institution-level barriers to implementation of standardized peri-operative protocols within various practice environments.

Your contribution to this initiative is important to us. This survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Please follow the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WTQ8JCN>. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

John C. "Jay" Wellons, III, MD, MSPH, FAANS
Vanderbilt University
Chair, Joint Task Force on Outcomes and Quality
ASPN and the AANS/CNS Joint Pediatric Section

Mandeep S. Tamber, MD, PhD, FAANS, FRCSC
University of Pittsburgh
HCRN Site Investigator and Study PI

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