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Pediatric SHORT CUTS

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

Editor: Ann-Christine Duhaime, MD

Spring 2006

From the Chair

New Committee Needs Your Help

Structural Reorganization Supports Education Goals

[Rick Abbott, MD](#)

In my letter to you in December 2005, I laid out an agenda for my tenure as chair of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery. I would like to share with you the progress that has been made.

Increasing demands are being placed on the Pediatric Section for meeting planning, materials for publication and participation with other neurosurgical entities in the education of both the professional and lay public about pediatric neurosurgery. In response to this, we have reorganized the section's committee structure to better delineate who will be charged with these responsibilities and to streamline the section's response to such requests.



The ad hoc Education Committee has been formed and a chair appointed. The chair will coordinate the activities of the Scientific Committee, Publication Committee and the newly formed Examination Question Committee and Training Requirement Committee. Additionally, liaisons from the American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery, the Section on Neurological Surgery of the American Academy of Pediatrics and such international organizations as the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery will be members of this committee.

The chair of the Education Committee will be responsible to the Executive Committee of the Pediatric Section for the performance of these committees and for our educational effort to the lay and professional public both nationally and internationally. It is envisioned that this committee will evolve into a standing committee of the Pediatric Section.

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Many of you have asked how you might become more active in the Pediatric Section. As you review the new committee structure, you can see that this new committee has a very full plate, creating ample opportunities for those of you wishing to donate time. The structure of the committee will be as follows:

Ad Hoc Education Committee Chair

Ex-officio Members: Section Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer

Scientific Committee Chair

Publication Committee Chair

Examination Question Committee Chair

Minimum Training Requirements Committee Chair

International Liaison

Liaison from ASPN Education Committee

Liaison from SONS, AAP

Paul Steinbok, MD, has agreed to serve as chair for the new Education Committee, and the chairs of the listed committees and liaisons also have been appointed.

The Scientific Committee, with Joseph Madsen, MD, assuming its chair, will combine the duties of the Scientific Program and the Continuing Education Committees; the Scientific Program chair will be one of the Scientific Committee's members.

Douglas Brockmeyer, MD, will be assuming the chair of the Publication Committee. We have received requests from the American Association of Neurological Surgery and the American Academy of Pediatrics for manuscripts on numerous topics in pediatric neurosurgery. It is to be Dr. Brockmeyer's responsibility to identify those of you willing to participate in this effort. Understand that participants will not only earn the gratitude of the Pediatric Section, they will also gain visibility with the readership of the AANS and AAP.

Corey Raffel, MD, has agreed to serve as chair of the Examination Question Committee, responsible for supplying board questions to the American Board of Neurological Surgery and the American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery. They will also be exploring whether we can create a set of practice board questions, along the lines of the Self Assessment in Neurological Surgery. This will require much work that Dr. Raffel simply cannot do by himself. The section will be deeply indebted to participants in this effort.

Jeffrey Blount, MD, has agreed to be our chair of the Minimum Training Requirement Committee, which will develop a proposed curriculum for both residency and fellowship training in pediatric neurosurgery. These guidelines will undoubtedly have an impact given the vacuum of information currently available on these subjects. Participants in this committee can have a lasting impact in the future of pediatric neurosurgery.

Dr. Steinbok will also be working with George Jallo, MD, our international liaison, to participate in educational courses held outside of North America. Volunteer faculty will be needed for these courses. Some of you have expressed interest in such an endeavor, and the more volunteers we have the easier it will be to structure these courses.

It is my hope that the creation of this Education Committee will

allow the Pediatric Section and its members to better meet the last point in our statement of purpose as a section: to assist the AANS and CNS to advance education, research and patient care in the area of pediatric neurosurgery. I look forward to hearing from those of you interested in participating in these exciting new challenges.

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Pediatric SHORT CUTS

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

Editor: Ann-Christine Duhaime, MD

Spring 2006

Pediatric Neurosurgery Prevails in New Orleans

The following note from Joseph Nadell, MD, to Pediatric Section Chair Rick Abbott, MD, details conditions after Hurricane Katrina created widespread damage in New Orleans.

"Children's Hospital reopened on Oct. 10 having sustained very minimal damage. The Joint Commission showed up on Oct. 12 to reinspect and 'bless' the opening. All four of us had opened satellite clinics in the four corners of the state and continued seeing both old and new patients. We owe a heartfelt thanks to our colleagues across the country for stepping in and rendering care to our displaced patients who showed up on their doorsteps with no records, little history, no money and usually a blocked shunt.

"The hospital is back to about 60 percent of the pre-Katrina patient census. New Orleans has about 30 percent of the pre-Katrina population back, but few of the children, while the surrounding area is back up to the 75 percent level. We estimate that it will be three to five years before our patient base is back to normal. The hospital is financially fit to stay the course for that length of time and we are committed to staying for the long haul."

In March, Dr. Nadell sent Dr. Abbott the following update on progress in New Orleans.

"We have continued to increase our caseload. The two neurosurgical programs are still out of town (LSU in Baton Rouge and Tulane in Houston), but both are planning to return in the late spring.

Children's Hospital is one of only two hospitals that have reopened in the city proper. Three out of the four hospitals in our group suffered significant flood damage and are in the process of rebuilding or obtaining new housing.

Again, we thank the numerous children's hospitals that assisted us in evacuating our hospital four days after Katrina and our colleagues who took care of our patients while the hospital was closed."

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2006 AANS Annual Meeting in San Francisco

The 2006 AANS Annual Meeting will be held at the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco from April 22 to 27. The official meeting hotel is the San Francisco Marriott. This year's Pediatric Section sessions will be held on the afternoons of Monday and Tuesday, April 24–25, including two scientific sessions, the Matson symposium, and the business meeting.

This year's AANS Annual Meeting chair is James Rutka, MD, and there will be a number of presentations of interest to Pediatric Section members. There are several practical clinics and breakfast seminars of interest to pediatric neurosurgeons. Monday's afternoon scientific session, moderated by Rick Abbott, MD, focuses on specific predictors of long-term success of a variety of pediatric neurosurgical procedures. Also, Gordon McComb, MD, will be speaking on MR spectroscopy in diagnosis and treatment of pediatric brain tumors.

Tuesday's offerings include a morning plenary session on the outcome of patients with childhood hydrocephalus based on the Hydrocephalus Association Database, and the Matson symposium and scientific session in the afternoon. The symposium, "The Pulsatile Brain," features James McAllister, MD, James Drake, MD, Joseph Madsen, MD, and Edward Olfield, MD. The scientific session that follows also includes papers on a wide variety of interesting topics.

In addition, pediatric posters under the direction of Tim Mapstone, MD, who serves as the Annual Meeting poster chair, will be available for viewing on Wednesday afternoon. Finally, a number of sessions throughout the week focus on nurses and physician's assistants and may be of interest to our pediatric neurosurgical team members.

The complete schedule is available at
<http://www.aans.org/annual/2006/default.asp>.

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2005: A Banner Year for Peds Traveling Fellowships

Each year, the Pediatric Section sponsors traveling fellowships in pediatric neurosurgery for residents in training who wish to further their exposure to specific aspects of the field of pediatric neurosurgery. This one-month experience enables the trainee to spend time at a host institution. Two domestic and one international fellowship are awarded each year.

In recognition of the importance of promoting the specialty of pediatric neurosurgery and because of an outstanding applicant pool, the Pediatric Section was able to increase its commitment to education by funding seven Traveling Fellowships in 2005. These include three international fellowships and four domestic fellowships.

The domestic fellows are: Emanuel Ferreira, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital; Keyne Thomas, MD, Duke University; Patricia Bravo Quebada, MD, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center; and Ali Raja, MD, University of Arkansas.

The international fellows are: Sujoy Sanyal, MD, All India Institute, New Delhi, India; Jude-Kennedy C. Emejulu, MD, University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria; and Orlando Moreno Nunez, MD, Abel Santamaria General Hospital; Pinar Del Rio, Cuba.

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Awards Advance Pediatric Neurosurgery

The Pediatric Section offers two awards and two traveling fellowships intended to promote scholarship and enhance educational experience in pediatric neurosurgery.

Hydrocephalus Award

This award is given for the best paper presented at the winter meeting of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery by a resident-in-training on the topic of hydrocephalus.

Kenneth Shulman Award

This is an endowed award given in the name of Kenneth Shulman,

MD. The award is for the best paper presented at the annual meeting of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery by a resident-in-training.

Traveling Fellowship (Domestic) Award in Pediatric

Neurosurgery This fellowship is intended to cover the domestic travel and living expanses for up to one month for residents who wish to pursue additional experience in pediatric neurosurgery during their residency years. Two traveling fellowships for \$2,500 are given each year. For further information, contact michael.scott@childrens.harvard.edu.

Traveling Fellowship (International) Award in Pediatric

Neurosurgery The fellowship is intended to cover the international travel and living expenses for up to one month for residents who wish to pursue additional experiences in pediatric neurosurgery during their residency years. One \$5,000 fellowship is given each year. For further information contact michael.scott@childrens.harvard.edu.

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Hydrocephalus Association News

The Hydrocephalus Association's ninth National Conference on Hydrocephalus, "Unity and Diversity: Learning from One Another," will be held in Baltimore, May 26–29, 2006. The goal of the 2006 conference is to give individuals, families and professionals the tools they need to address the medical, educational and social challenges of people with hydrocephalus. The association aims to educate and empower attendees to establish long-term plans for their medical care. Links to the complete conference brochure and to online registration can be found under "What's New" at <http://www.hydroassoc.org>.

The association is pleased to announce the winner of our 2005 Resident's Prize, Jeffrey Greenfield, MD, of New York Hospital Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Greenfield has been invited to present a synopsis of his paper, "Intraoperative Assessment of Third Ventriculostomy Success," at the AANS meeting in San Francisco in April. The resident's prize, awarded by a panel of doctors at the Pediatric Section meeting each year, is one way that the Hydrocephalus Association encourages young doctors to focus their research on bettering the treatment and care of individuals with hydrocephalus. We congratulate Dr. Greenfield for his outstanding research.

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New American Academy of Pediatrics Fellows Named

Several new fellows of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Neurological Surgery were added recently. These include:

Ian M Heger, MD, Hollywood, Fla., Specialty Fellow
Stanley Skarli, MD, Salt Lake City, Utah, Specialty Fellow
Luis Rodriguez, MD, St Petersburg, Fla., Candidate Fellow

The Annual Report of the SONS of the AAP can be found in the January issue of the *Journal of Neurosurgery (Pediatrics)* 104(1): 72-74, 2006.

The SONS is an excellent way for Pediatric Section members to get involved with national issues of interest to pediatric practitioners, including education, quality and advocacy. Interested members are encouraged to check out the publication above and contact Joseph Piatt, MD, SONS chair, at Joseph.Piatt@tenethealth.com.

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International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery Annual Meeting

The 34th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery will be held at the Taipei Grand Hotel in Taipei, Taiwan, Sept. 10–14, 2006. The deadline for abstracts is April 30. This promises to be an exciting meeting, and Pediatric Section members are encouraged to participate. For more information, go to <http://www.ispneurosurgery.org>.

The Pediatric Section's liaison to the ISPN is Cheryl Muszynski, MD. For an application to the ISPN, click here: [http://www.ispneurosurgery.org/Membership/ISPNAApplicationForm\(2000\).doc](http://www.ispneurosurgery.org/Membership/ISPNAApplicationForm(2000).doc).

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Membership Update

[John Kestle, MD](#)

New members voted into the Pediatric Section at the December 2005 business meeting include Philipp Aldana, MD, Richard Anderson, MD, Benedicto Baronia, MD (International), Ray Chaseling, MD, John A. Grant, MBChB, Ann Ritter, MD, Edward Smith, MD, Monica Wehby, MD, and Alexander Zouros, MD.

The individuals who have applied for membership to the Pediatric Section for the spring meeting include the following: Daniel J. Curry, MD, Mostafa El Khashab, MD, A. Graham Fieggen, MD (International), Robert Geertman, MD, Patrick Graupman, MD, P. Daniel McNeely, MD, Vivek Mehta, MD, Greg Olavarria, MD, David W. Pincus, MD, Mark J. Puccioni, MD, Ashutosh Singhal, MD, Thomas Steineke, MD, and Willard Thompson Jr., MD.

The membership committee will present a slate of candidates at the Executive Committee meeting and voting will take place at the Pediatric Section business meeting on Tuesday April 25, 5:30 p.m., in San Francisco.

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Business Meeting Minutes

2005 Winter Meeting

Omni Orlando at Champions Gate, Ballroom C
Dec. 1, 2005

Call to Order—4:55 p.m. by Rick Abbott, MD, section chair

Approval of Minutes—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 balance. We ended fiscal 2005 with total assets of \$461,176, which represents an increase over fiscal 2004 of approximately \$67,000. In a similar vein, fiscal 2004 represented an increase in total assets of approximately \$72,000 over fiscal 2003. Some suggestions for the use of these assets were made at the Executive Committee meeting and will be discussed later in the meeting.

Membership Committee—Dr. Abbott for John Kestle, MD
Candidates having completed the requirements for membership in the Pediatric Section and whose names were circulated to the membership via the newsletter, Pediatric Short Cuts, include Philipp Aldana, MD, Richard Anderson, MD, Benedicto Baronia, MD (International), Ray Chaseling, MD, John A. Grant, MBChB, Ann Ritter, MD, Edward Smith, MD, Monica Wehby, MD, and Alexander Zouros, MD. These names were approved by the Executive Council at its meeting earlier in the week. It was moved and seconded that all candidates be accepted, and the membership voted to approve the list.

Rules and Regulations Committee—Cheryl Muszynski, MD
Proposed changes to Article VI, Section 1, parts (d) and (e) of the Bylaws were submitted by the Rules and Regulations Committee and circulated to the membership by e-mail prior to the Business Meeting:

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d) Program Committee. The Program Committee shall consist of five members. Three of these members will serve ex-officio and will be the Chairperson (who will serve as the Chairperson of the Program Committee), the Secretary and the Treasurer. The fourth member of the committee will be the Annual Meeting Chairperson. The fifth member will be the Chairperson of the CME Committee. If the Section Chairperson is also the Annual Meeting Chairperson, another member will be appointed by the Section Chairperson and approved by the Executive Committee. The Program Committee will be charged with the responsibility of reviewing abstracts submitted for presentation and assisting the Annual Meeting Chairperson in the planning of the scientific portion of the program. The Committee is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the scientific session of the Annual Meeting represents matters of interest and concern to the membership of the Joint Section.

e) CME Committee. The CME Committee is composed of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and 1–3 additional members, approved by the Section Chairperson and Executive Committee. The Committee has the following responsibilities:

- To ensure that CME credit is obtained for attendees of the Annual Meeting
- To organize pediatric programs for the Section at the Annual Meetings of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons
- To oversee the review and judging process of submitted manuscripts and awarding of the Shulman and Hydrocephalus Awards

These changes were approved by vote of the Executive Council and were approved by the membership by vote.

Annual Meetings

Orlando 2005—Jerry Oakes, MD

Dr. Oakes reported that there were 227 registrants to the 2005 Pediatric Neurological Surgery Annual Meeting as of Nov. 30. He thanked everyone for their efforts in overcoming the challenges of changing the meeting venue due to Hurricane Katrina.

Denver 2006—Mike Handler, MD

Dr. Handler reported that the Denver City Marriott room rate has been arranged, and that meeting plans are progressing smoothly at present. The meeting will be held from Tuesday to Friday after Thanksgiving. There will be a cervical spine course run by Douglas Brockmeyer, MD, on the Tuesday before the meeting begins, and pre- or post-meeting ski packages are being explored.

Miami 2007—John Ragheb, MD

Dr. Ragheb reported that the meeting will be held at the Loews Hotel on South Beach, and expressed that this site should be popular with attendees. The dates are in late November to early December.

Spokane 2008—Jeff Wisoff, MD Dr. Wisoff announced that Spokane, Wash., has been chosen as the 2008 Annual Meeting site. The venue is in a renovated railroad terminal, which will be a bit different from the typical meeting sites, but the central area and the surrounding balconies should offer plenty of meeting space for the section's needs.

Sites being considered for 2009 include Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and St. Louis.

Old Business—None.

New Business

Meeting Format

Dr. Abbott discussed the decision to strictly adhere to time limits for oral presentations to allow for more time for questions and discussion. Most people agreed that this appeared to be working well.

Formation of Education Committee

Dr. Abbott announced the decision to form an ad hoc Education Committee, which will be charged with reviewing all educational activities of the AAN/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery. The Annual Meeting Standing Committee and the Program and CME Standing Committee will become subcommittees of the Education Committee. This will help to coordinate the various educational activities of the section, to ensure that the educational mission of the section is fulfilled, and to provide a means for section members to volunteer and to provide new input and develop leadership skills in the section. Rick Boop, MD has volunteered to document some of the suggestions made in the Executive Committee meeting and will circulate this for input from the Executive Council. Once this has become organized, interested members will be able to participate by becoming involved in the committee's activities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A.C. Duhaime, MD
Secretary

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Section: AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

Purpose of the Pediatric Neurosurgery Section

The objectives of the Section shall be to enhance and assure the advancement of the subspecialty of pediatric neurosurgery by:

- serving as a forum for the intimate exchange of ideas and information among a group of neurological surgeons whose interests are directed towards the infant and child.
- serving as a vehicle through which the Board of Directors of the AANS and the Executive Committee of the CNS can be apprised of the activities and the advances in the subspecialty of pediatric neurosurgery.
- serving as a resource for the Board of Directors of the AANS and the Executive Committee of the CNS for conducting special studies and proposing solutions to problems in pediatric neurosurgery when directed to do so.
- service as a section to assist the AANS and CNS to advance education, research, and patient care in the area of pediatric neurosurgery.

Founders Kenneth Shulman, MD, first Chairman Robert McLaurin, MD

Officers

Executive Committee Members at Large

(Four members serving two year terms)

[Bruce Kaufman, MD](#) (2004)

[Nalin Gupta, MD](#) (2004)

[Sarah Gaskill, MD](#) (2003)

[Michael Partington, MD](#) (2003)

Standing Committees

Nominating Committee:

(3 members: Last three chairmen of the section)

Chairperson: [Andrew Parent, M.D.](#) (2005)

[Harold L. Rekate, MD](#) (1999)

[Thomas G. Luerssen, MD](#) (2003)

Rules and Regulations Committee:

(3 members serving 2 years)

Chairman: [Cheryl A. Muszynski, MD](#) (2002)

2 Committee Positions OPEN

Membership Committee: [Sarah Gaskill, MD](#) (2002)
(3 members serving 2 years)

Chair: [John Kestle, MD](#) (2004)

Program and Continuing Education Committee:
(5 members: Chair and Vice Chair serve two years. Vice Chair assumes chair at next sequence. Other members are the Annual Meeting Chairman, and two Ex Officio members: the Section Chair and Secretary/Treasurer)

Chairman: [Ann Marie Flannery, MD](#) (2001)

Vice Chairman: [Jerry Oakes, M.D., Annual Meeting Chairperson](#) (2002)

Ex Officio Members:
[Rick Abbot, MD](#) and [Alan Cohen, MD](#)

Representative to Referral Guidelines Committee:
[Harold L. Rekate, MD](#) (1997)

Representatives to Practice Guidelines Committee:
[Thomas G. Luerssen, MD](#) (1996)
[John Kestle, MD](#) (1996)

Future Annual Meeting Chairmen and Venues

2006: [Michael H. Handler, MD](#)
2007: [John Ragheb, MD Miami](#)

Ad Hoc Committees

Traveling Fellowship: (3 members)

Chair: [R. Michael Scott, MD](#)
[Ken Winston, MD](#)
[Alan Cohen, MD](#)

Two members selected by the committee chairman

Distinguished Service Award (Chaired by most recent Ex-Chairperson of the Section)
Chair: [Andrew Parent, MD](#)

NEUROSURGERY://ON-CALL® Web site:
Chair: [Douglas L. Brockmeyer, MD](#)

Publications Committee:
Chair: [Sarah Gaskill, MD](#)

Representatives and Liaisons

Liaison to the AANS Sections:
[Rick Abbot, MD](#) (2005)

Liaison to the American Academy of Pediatrics:
[Joseph H. Piatt, Jr. MD](#) (1997)

Liaison to the Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies:
[Michael Heafner, MD](#) (2000)

Representatives to the Quality Assurance Committee:
Chairman: [Tom Luerssen, M.D.](#) (2001)

[Sarah J. Gaskill, MD](#) (1999)

[James Drake, MD](#) (1999)

Representative to the Washington Committee

[Thomas G. Luerssen, MD](#) (1996)

Representative to Referral Guidelines Committee:

[Harold L. Rekate, MD](#) (1997)

Representatives to Practice Guidelines Committee:

[Thomas G. Luerssen, MD](#) (1996)

[John Kestle, MD](#) (1996)

Liaison, International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery:

[Cheryl Muszynski, MD](#)

Devices and Technology Committee:

[Mark Proctor, MD](#)

Liaison to the Young Neurosurgeons:

[Tom Steineke, MD](#)

Liaison to the Education and Practice Management Committee:

[David Gruber, MD](#)

American Board of Pediatric Neurosurgery:

[Michael Scott, MD](#)

Accreditation Council for Pediatric Neurosurgery (ACPNS):

[Marion Walker, MD](#)

American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery (ASPN):

[Tom Luerssen, MD](#)