As we reflect on the successes of the Oklahoma City Annual Pediatric Section Meeting, the Executive Committee and annual meeting hosts are already hard at work planning our next meeting, scheduled for December 12–15 at the Sheraton Times Square in New York City. Meeting attendance is expected to be very high, but not just because of the fantastic location. Our local hosts are partnering to develop a rich scientific program with the theme of Partnership — a theme reflected in multiple New York City pediatric neurosurgeons working together to pull this off (Rich Anderson, Neil Feldstein, Saadi Ghatan, David Harter, Caitlin Hoffman, Peter Morgenstern and Mark Souweidane.)

As in recent years, we anticipate awarding a large number of fellowships and awards, including the Schulman Award for best overall paper, the Hydrocephalus Association Award for the best resident paper on hydrocephalus, the AAP SONS award, the Global Surgery award, the Bobby Jones Chiari and Syringomyelia Foundation award, the Meghan Rose Bradley Foundation Award, the Molly Hubbard Award and the Timothy George Awards for best poster and oral presentations regarding inclusion and diversity in pediatric neurosurgery.

We also anticipate awarding multiple travelling fellowships in pediatric neurosurgery (domestic and international) and the Bhatia travelling fellowship.

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However, before getting ahead of ourselves anticipating and promoting the next winter meeting, I would like to encourage our members to attend the 2024 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago May 3–6. Hal Meltzer and Jeff Campbell have been working with the AANS Annual Meeting Scientific Program Committee to provide a wide range of content relevant to our section members, including a rapid-fire abstract session on Sunday May 5. I am also delighted to announce that John Kestle will deliver the 38th Annual Matson Memorial Lecture, titled “What Matters (to me) in Clinical Research” on May 4. We look forward to hearing his insights as we reflect on his impact on clinical care of our patients over the past quarter of a century.

I hope you enjoy the following ShortCuts content prepared by our various officers and committee chairs. As you will see, the financial, organizational and academic health of our section is robust!

Matt Smyth
Chair, AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

LOGO UPDATE

The AANS/CNS section on pediatrics is proud to present a new logo for the section. The design and selection process involved months of soliciting submissions and reviewing different logo designs to ensure that logos included bright colors to represent our work treating children, an easily identifiable neurosurgery focus in order to highlight our specialty, clean lines to make it easily recognizable and sharp, as well as inclusivity to all in order to represent the approach we have to treat any and all children. After deliberating among several excellent submissions, the committee was able to agree upon our ultimate selection. This was then voted upon by the section leadership. The group unanimously felt that the new logo represented us all and would symbolize the future of our great organization. Thank you to the logo committee members, with special recognition to Louis V. Carius, who submitted the winning artwork.

Andrew Kobets — Co-Chair
Jessica Lessing — Co-Chair
Neil Feldstein — Advisor
Elizabeth E. Wicks
Melody Watral
Mian Awais
Shawn Vuong
Hassan Akbari
Carrie Muh
Samantha Spellacy
Lauren Schwartz
Louis V. Carius***
Juan Miguel Aleman Iniguez
INDUSTRY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

By Michael McDowell and Brian Hanak

The Industry Relations Committee is eager to announce the second annual KLS Martin Innovation Award. The award amount is $20,000 and will be distributed in one allotment. The goal of this award is to support early work toward developing innovations that could one day be adopted by industry partners or result in new companies. Eligible work should be at an early enough level where this amount of funding could significantly help with moving work to the next stage. Applicants must be registered members of the AANS/CNS Pediatric Section. Specific details will be announced later this year but those interested in applying can anticipate an application deadline in the autumn of 2024. The award winner will be announced at the 2024 AANS/CNS Pediatric Section meeting in New York City. Last year’s award received more than a dozen excellent proposals from section members. Last year’s award was given to UNC resident Andrew Abumoussa for his project “Utilizing Built in TrueDepth Data on iOS Devices to Provide Stereotactic Navigation for Flexible Endoscope.”

The committee is also actively working on a new funding mechanism for AANS/CNS Pediatric Section physician innovators in the form of a “Neurosurgical Shark Tank” pitch competition, which will be held during the 2024 Section Meeting in New York. Section members that have secured intellectual property protection for their work and are at the early stages of developing a start-up (pre-seed or seed phase) will have an opportunity to apply to participate in a pitch competition in front a panel of representatives from biotech venture capital firms. Attendees of the section meeting will be invited to attend the event. The competitors will have the chance to secure investments directly from the judging panel and receive funding through an audience choice award. Further details on the application process for this new funding mechanism will be forthcoming but those interested should anticipate an application deadline in early autumn of 2024.

TREASURER’S REPORT

By David Limbrick

The AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery remains in good financial health. Total net assets as per the financial statement dated 6/30/2023 totaled $1,098,665. This reflects a slight increase from the prior year ($1,081,354) and continues to present a comfortable reserve to support an entire annual meeting, plus section activities for two years without any revenue. Our updated annual balance sheet is expected after the close of the fiscal year and will be available in June 2024.

Annual Meeting
The 2023 Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City was a tremendous academic success, but also yielded a surplus of $22,227, providing optimism that the final FY24 budget will also be $33,777 (est.) positive. The expense for the forthcoming 2024 meeting in New York City is estimated at $619,334, reflecting an increase over prior years; however, when meeting revenue, dues payments and financial support and staff time are included, only a modest net loss of ($28,004) is anticipated for FY25.

Long Term Investments
The section’s long-term investment account continues to trend the markets, with a modest loss of $21,201 to $890,998. Short-term investments are stable at $179,781. The section’s long-term investments are handled via a pooled investment portfolio with the other sections, which allows the sections to participate in funds not otherwise available to smaller investors.

Honor your Mentor Funds
As of 8/1/2023, the A. Leland Albright Fund had accumulated $55,055, with $11,097 in investment earnings, and had disbursed $32,200. The Sanjiv Bhatia Fund had accumulated $58,400. With collective support from the section and the ASPN, the Bhatia Fund made its second disbursement at the section meeting in OKC. The Marion “Jack” Walker fund had accumulated $25,290, without disbursement. The Jerry Oakes HYM fund was established in May 2022 and as of 8/1/2023 had accumulated $10,300 with a total of $16,300 pledged to date.

Specific Expenses and Financial Resolutions
The section has expanded its commitment toward its educational and research missions. Between the section research awards, the pediatric NREF fellowship award, domestic and international traveling fellowships, industry-matched innovation awards and private foundation donations, the section now offers nearly 20 different awards.
AANS / CNS SECTION ON PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY
MEMBERSHIP REPORT—SPRING 2024
By Jennifer Ronecker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Class</th>
<th>2024 Dues</th>
<th>2024 Spring</th>
<th>2023 Fall Members</th>
<th>2023 Spring Members</th>
<th>2022 Fall Members</th>
<th>2022 Spring Members</th>
<th>2021 Fall Members</th>
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<tr>
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<td>159</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>161</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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<td>676</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>734</td>
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<td>689</td>
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Membership Retention

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Unpaid</th>
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<th>% Unpaid</th>
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<td>370</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjunct/Associate</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Membership Recruitment

New application system is now active and simplifies the process of applying online through the www.myaans.org website.

Members are inactivated if they have not paid their dues for more than 36 months. Those who have been inactivated are being contacted and encouraged to re-apply.

PEDIATRIC CODING AND REIMBURSEMENT COMMITTEE (PCRC) REPORT
By Viren Desai and Meena Vessell

The Pediatric Coding and Reimbursement Committee (PCRC), which was formerly an individual liaison position, continues to expand its membership since its inaugural year. We have expanded to 24 members and continue to welcome new membership. The PCRC provides a forum to deliberate on coding and reimbursement issues specific to pediatric neurosurgery, serving as a voice on behalf of our community. Within this realm, the PCRC is dedicated to advocacy, inquiry, education and study of pediatric neurological coding.

Clinical Resources

PCRC remains committed to improving pediatric coding resources and enhancing value and accuracy. Our primary effort over this term will be to add detailed pediatric coding recommendations to the “2025 AANS Guide to Coding” book edited by Joseph Cheng, John Ratliff and Luis Tumialan. We anticipate this will serve as a primary coding reference for daily practice.

Education

The PCRC will contribute pediatric content to the AANS Coding & Reimbursement courses on June 14, 2024. More information regarding registration is forthcoming. Chief resident at Upstate Medical University, George Koutsouras, is leading efforts to write a whitepaper, which codifies the pediatric coding landscape, unique aspects of pediatric coding and future directions. Both efforts aim to encourage the pediatric perspective in the overall neurosurgical coding community.

Study & Inquiry

In early 2024, PCRC will release a survey to section members through the section Survey Committee. The survey objectives are to delineate how pediatric neurosurgeons learn to code, what resources are useful, how neurosurgeons interface with their billing associates and coding variations. This data will assist the PCRC in its future advocacy efforts.

PCRC’s hope is for members to become informed and actionable with regards to coding and reimbursement for the betterment of pediatric neurosurgeons nationwide. Please consider joining if these sentiments resonate with you. The committee looks forward to reporting back on further work in the next edition of ShortCuts.
2023 ANNUAL MEETING AWARDS

Many thanks to Esther DuPepe and Smruti Patel for coordinating and executing the award process at the meeting in Oklahoma City. Award winners are listed below. We encourage all members to consider applying for an award with their annual meeting abstract submission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Title</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bobby Jones Chiari &amp; Syringomyelia Foundation Award</td>
<td>Belinda Shao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Oral Presentation on Global Surgery Award</td>
<td>Alexander Tenorio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrocephalus Association Award</td>
<td>Peter Chiarelli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meghan Rose Bradley Foundation</td>
<td>Anand Thiraviyam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Hubbard Award</td>
<td>Aaron Michael Yengo-Khan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schulman Award</td>
<td>Nebras Warsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim George: Best Poster Presentation Regarding DEI</td>
<td>Amber Gaulden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim George: Best Oral Presentation Regarding DEI</td>
<td>Logan Muzyka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2023 Travelling Fellowships and second Sanjiv Bhatia fellowship awardee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic</th>
<th>Destination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scott Mitchell (Indiana U)</td>
<td>Boston Children’s (Proctor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Still (U Florida)</td>
<td>Texas Children’s (Weiner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Moor (U Florida)</td>
<td>Boston Children’s (Baird)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelsi Chesney (George Washington)</td>
<td>Cincinnati Children’s (Mangano)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanjiv Bhatia</th>
<th>Destination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victor Lu (U Miami)</td>
<td>La Paz, Bolivia</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International</th>
<th>Destination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mohamed Eissa (Egypt)</td>
<td>Nicklaus Children’s (Niazi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muhammad Lazuardy (Indonesia)</td>
<td>Lurie Children’s (Lam)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Innovation Award</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Co-Sponsored with KLS Martin)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Abumoussa</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
TRANSITION OF CARE COMMITTEE (TOCC)

By Brandon Rocque and Bermans Iskandar

The TOCC has now met twice for the purpose of developing strategies, processes and templates that would assist neurosurgical programs in instituting transition of care initiatives, with initial focus on hydrocephalus and spina bifida. The committee is discussing solutions at the level of the patient, health care provider, infrastructure and reimbursement.

The Patient
From a patient standpoint, the first phase of the work will consist of researching, cataloguing and summarizing existing programs, which would help develop a national consensus on best practice.

The Health Care Provider
Arguably, the biggest present-day challenge of transition of care is to identify well-trained health care providers that can care for adult patients with congenital disease, with the same level of commitment and competence as the pediatric neurosurgery community has done until now. A major potential solution identified is to divide the care into surgical and medical components, with the medical care being delivered at an APP-led clinic. To that end, our goal would be to establish a comprehensive training of adult APPs. This would include: A yearly bootcamp, webinars to provide updates and long-term consistency and mentor relationships with pediatric neurosurgeons to support the APPs as they build experience. In turn, the APPs would coordinate surgical management with adult neurosurgeons, with the idea that the surgeons would be unencumbered by time-consuming non-surgical issues and challenges.

The Business
For these plans to succeed, they need to be financially viable. Accordingly, one of the committee’s major goals is to research the best available business and reimbursement models and develop recommendations to be discussed with the leading neurosurgical societies. In addition, the committee is in the process of securing long-term funding for the APP training portion of the program.

Ongoing Work
We have received significant engagement from pediatric neurosurgeons and APPs, as well as leaders of the major non-profit advocacy societies, who joined the TOCC Committee. Active work is now on-going in the following subcommittees: Patient Subcommittee, Health Care Provider Subcommittee and Business Planning Subcommittee. We also plan to engage with other section committees, including the Education Committee to collaborate on webinars and courses, the Communications Committee for website and social media strategies, the Young Pediatric Neurosurgeons Committees to encourage involvement of trainees and the Coding and Reimbursement Committee.

What Can You Do
We encourage anyone who’s interested in joining the committee to contact one of the Co-Chairs Benny Iskandar (iskandar@neurosurgery.wisc.edu) and Brandon Rocque (Brandon.Rocque@childrensal.org). It would be useful if volunteers can provide us with background information about prior work they had in this area, or skills that support one or more of the committee’s goals. We welcome pediatric neurosurgery faculty, APPs, fellows, residents and students.
In this edition of the Shortcuts, we wanted to highlight our 2nd DEI Outreach Program offered at our annual meeting. During the 2023 Pediatric Neurosurgery Joint Section Meeting, with the help of our host city team in Oklahoma City, we successfully hosted 15 local high school, undergraduate and first- and second-year medical students of varying backgrounds and ethnicities. Students were provided with an immersive experience in all that is pediatric neurosurgery, to include one-on-one time with their faculty or advanced practice provider chaperones, visiting the exhibit hall and attending the general and luncheon sessions. We surveyed each of the students and received great feedback regarding their experience. All students noted that they were equally or more likely to pursue medicine in the future with the majority stating that they were equally or more likely to consider pediatric neurosurgery!

The Timothy George Award for best oral presentation at the meeting was presented to Logan Muzyka for the talk entitled, “Gender Disparities in Pediatric Neurosurgery: An Analysis of Work-Life Balance, Discrimination and Family Responsibilities.” The Timothy George Award for best poster presentation at the meeting was presented to Amber Gaulden, MD, for the poster entitled, “Identifying Patterns and Outcomes in Traumatic Brain Injury Secondary to Non-Accidental Trauma Utilizing the Material Community Deprivation Index.” Congratulations to each of the winners on their work to help highlight disparities in the field of pediatric neurosurgery and addressing health inequities that exist in our patient population!

We would love to hear from our membership regarding any ideas that would move our mission forward. In addition, we will seek volunteers to help precept students at the 2024 annual meeting in New York City! If you are interested in volunteering or being involved on the committee, please reach out to Smruti Patel or Kurtis Auguste at smruti.patel@cchmc.org or kurtis.auguste@ucsf.edu.
The National Meetings Committee has been diligently working to craft outstanding pediatric content for this year’s AANS and CNS Annual Meetings. The 2024 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting will be held from May 3-6 at the McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago. Housing options are now available directly adjacent to this, which greatly improves the convenience for attendees. Returning after a few years absence, there will be a practical course offered with a significant pediatric focus. Dr. Sandi Lam will be distilling her very popular three-day minimally invasive approaches course to a focused content suitable for all attendees. Dr. John Kestle is the 2024 Matson Lecture honoree and will also participate in the discussions of this year’s most highly rated abstracts. Be sure to plan on attending the hosted reception in his honor!

Focused ultrasound is an exciting and evolving therapeutic intervention. We will be highlighting this minimally invasive technology with a special seminar. Presenting experts include Drs. P. David Adelson, Robert F. Keating and John Ragheb. An expanded rapid-fire abstracts session will also be a highlight of this year’s meeting and will include more than 30 highly rated abstracts. This session will be moderated by Drs. Caitlin Hoffman and Winson Ho.

The 2024 CNS Annual Meeting will be held from September 28-October 2 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. This more traditional five-day format allows for expanded content, which will likely include symposia on cerebral spine disease, achondroplasia, clinical practice guidelines and mentorship. Interactive case-based sessions will review the treatment of Chiari and Cavernous malformations. Luncheon Seminars will focus on pediatric neurosurgery program building and evolving epilepsy treatment strategies. We look forward to partnering with our colleagues on the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion to curate optimal faculty participation for our pediatric focused content.

The Hands-On Workshop Committee, led by Peter Morgenstern and Joanna Gernsback, continues planning for the New York Pediatric Section Meeting.

The Examinations Questions Committee, led by Patrick McDonald and Lance Governale, strives to continue to provide high-quality questions for the SANS CNS Exam relevant to pediatric neurosurgery. In addition to the current group of question writers, they seek to expand the number of question writers by recruiting individuals based on subspecialty expertise to encompass the breadth of pediatric neurosurgery. They will continue collaborating with the ABNS in creating answer choices and educational narratives for all of the ABNS question stems.

The Traveling Fellowship Committee, Co-Chaired by Jason Blatt and Eric Thompson, collected and reviewed applications for the domestic and international fellowship. The awards were particularly competitive this year due to the robust number of excellent applicants. There were 11 domestic and 12 international applicants. Congratulations to the following awardees. Kelsi Chesney, a resident at George Washington University, will be traveling to Cincinnati Children’s to train with Francesco Mangano. Megan Still, a resident at the University of Florida, will be traveling to Texas Children's Hospital to train with Howard Weiner. Scott Mitchell, a resident at Indiana University, will be traveling to Boston Children's Hospital to train with Mark Proctor. Rachel Moor, a resident at The University of Florida, will travel to Boston Children’s Hospital to train with Lissa Baird. Mohamed Eissa from Egypt will be traveling to Nicklaus Children's Hospital to work with Toba Niazi. Muhammad Lazuardy from Indonesia will be traveling to Lurie Children's Hospital to work with Sandi Lam. This year, the Traveling Fellowship Committee will be working closely with the International Relations Committee to administer the Sanjiv Bhatia Fellowship. Announcements for this coming year’s fellowships will be made in the Spring 2024 via the joint section website and most neurosurgery journals.

The Lectures and Webinars Subcommittee, Co-Chaired by Toba Niazi and Jeff Greenfield, presented a well-attended webinar on supratentorial tumors in September. More webinars are to come in 2024.
The Pediatric Section Guideline Committee has been active over the last six months. This committee serves many purposes. We initiate the production of practice guidelines for pediatric neurosurgeons by submitting ideas to the CNS Guidelines Committee, then creating a working group to produce the guidelines through a process supported by CNS. We also nominate committee members to the CNS/AANS Joint Guideline Review Committee (JGRC), where we review internally and externally produced guidelines for endorsement by the CNS/AANS, a review which often serves as ad hoc peer review for publication in Neurosurgery. Finally, we serve as an internal Pediatric Section Review Committee for any pediatric specific practice parameter, guideline or practice statement that might be submitted from external sources to the section. Overall, the committee provides many services to the section, all of which revolve around the goodwill of section membership donating time to these efforts. The defining attribute of a committee member is either a knowledge of methodology or a desire to learn the methodology through CNS sponsored methodology educational courses.

Guidelines for the Surgical Treatment of Chiari I Malformation were published August 30, 2023. We are in the process of completing an update to the Guidelines for Positional Plagiocephaly. The working group should have a final document this spring. We are also in the process of creating guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of tethered spinal cord. The literature search was completed by PCORI / AHRQ, and the working group is currently writing the manuscript. The Spina Bifida Association is working with this effort, and we are appreciative of their support. Finally, we are in the early stages of starting on the update of the previously published Spina Bifida Guidelines. The working group will be created in a few months to start this process.

Outside of the section, section committee members are currently helping with the SFNS Surgical Treatment of Epilepsy guidelines with AAN/AES/CNS. This process is being expedited through outsourcing of the systematic literature review. Manuscript preparation is set to begin later this year.

As chair of the guideline committee, I appreciate the many hours committee members donated to producing and reviewing guidelines, and I look forward to continuing this work for the section.

I would like to thank the following members for serving on the Joint Guideline Review Committee in 2022/2023: Jonathan Pindrik, Brandon Rocque, Alex Beier, Laurie Ackerman, Howard Silberstein, Eric Jackson, Daniel Donoho and Tina Sayama. I am excited to have the following new members serve in 2024: Carolyn Quinsey, Jennifer Strahle and Mari Groves.

I would like to thank the following members for serving on the Chiari Guideline Working Group: Toba Niazi, Rabia Qaiser, Shobhan Vachhrajani, Eric Jackson, Jeffrey Raskin, Sarah Jernigan, Jogi Pattisapu, Laurie Ackerman, Cormac Maher, Brandon Rocque, Carolyn Quinsey, Libby Infinger and Howard Silberstein.

I would like to thank the following members for serving on the plagiocephaly update working group: Alex Beier, Cathy Mazzola, Catherine McClung-Smith, George Koutsouras and Brandon Laing.

I would like to thank the following members for serving on the tethered cord working group: Mari Groves, Daniel Donoho, Peter Chiarelli, Alex Ropper, Rich Anderson, Carrie Muh, Eylem Ocal, Raj Iyer, Steve Hwang, Nisha Gadgil, Zulma Tovar-Spinoza, Jon Pindrik, Jen Strahle and Greg Heuer.

I would like to thank prior committee chairs Cathy Mazzola and Ann Flannery for continued mentorship and support and Angela Price and Brent O’Neil for volunteering for the AES Epilepsy Guideline project.

If anyone is interested in helping with future projects, or if you would like to learn more about the development of guidelines, please reach out to me at any time.
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

IR Committee
Co-Chairs: Rebecca Reynolds and Heather Spader

Education Subcommittee
Co-Chairs: Ariana Barkley and Aaron Robison

Research Mentorship Initiative: In recognition of the significant obstacles to publication of pediatric neurosurgical research by neurosurgeons and trainees in low-middle income countries, the International Education Subcommittee is in the process of establishing a structured research mentoring program that will match senior members of the section with international neurosurgeons. In its first iteration, we will match a senior research mentor and a junior partner (either a resident/fellow or junior faculty member) from the Pediatric Section with an international neurosurgeon or neurosurgical trainee. The mentor will guide the research design and provide resources as needed, with the deliverable goal of a first or last author publication for the international neurosurgeon based on their unique local patient population or clinical experience. A pilot program with a single partner country will commence in summer 2024 and run over the ensuing academic year, with plans to expand in subsequent years if successful. We are currently soliciting volunteers from the section to serve as both mentors and junior partners, so please contact Aaron Robison at arobinson@llu.edu for more information if you are interested.

Video Database: This project aims to provide a new strategy for technical neurosurgical education by creating a comprehensive, multilingual international video database. This resource will feature detailed step-by-step representations of various neurosurgical procedures, complemented by a standardized pictorial language to facilitate a universal understanding of operative procedures. The initiative addresses the critical need for accessible, comprehensive educational materials in neurosurgery, particularly in multilingual and multicultural contexts. By integrating videos with universally recognizable pictorial representations, the project seeks to transcend language barriers and enhance communication of technical nuances amongst neurosurgeons globally. Following the establishment of the pictorial language in conjunction with the University of Toronto’s Biomedical Communication Program, a pilot study will be done to assess the effectiveness of these visual tools in conveying complex surgical procedures.

Journal Club
Coordinator: Rachel Vaughan

The Education Subcommittee is sponsoring a series of journal clubs every other month featuring a different part of the world. The first Journal club in November 2023 focused on Africa and endoscopy and was well attended with more than 30 participants. The next journal club will feature the Americas and be led by Bruno Braga. Watch social media for the date and time.

Clinical Collaboration Subcommittee
International Clinical Collaborations Subcommittee Chair: Eisha Christian

The International Clinical Collaborations Subcommittee (ICCS) has the following goals for 2024:

1) Survey AANS/CNS membership on international clinical, educational and research activities

2) Create a database of current and future international outreach activities by active members of the pediatric section to promote collaboration within pediatric neurosurgery

Please complete the electronic survey when it arrives in your inbox. Information will be published to the AANS/CNS website in a user-friendly fashion.

Sanjiv Bhatia Fellowship
Coordinator: Tola Roberts

The Sanjiv Bhatia Fellowship is managed by the fellowship committee with a liaison from the IR committee. The fellowship committee will be soliciting applicants this year for an award to be made at the section meeting in NYC in December 2024.

International Liaisons
Our regional liaisons serve as a connection between the AANS/CNS Pediatric Section and international societies. Each liaison is helping to facilitate a regional focus with each international journal club hosted by the International Committee. There are currently vacancies with a liaison to the European Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery (ESPN) and the liaison to the Middle East. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Heather Spader () or Becca Reynolds (Rebecca-reynolds@uiowa.edu).
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
By Annie Drapeau and Carolina Sandoval

Interested in Quality Improvement? The AANS/CNS Quality Improvement Committee has a new initiative! We hope to match individuals with quality improvement (QI) expertise with members interested in leading a pediatric neurosurgery QI project in their own practice but that could benefit from guidance and support.

The Pediatric Section QI Committee will oversee the matching of mentor to mentee based on expertise, subject interest, geographic location and other relevant criteria. We will also guide the paired mentor and mentee by providing a framework and suggested timeline for the project’s advancement. The QI Committee will meet with the participating teams to foster discussion and exchange of ideas (virtual meetings and in-person at AANS, CNS or Peds Section meetings).

Ultimately, our hope is to see these QI initiatives succeed and foster collaborations that span across institutions leading to presentations at the Peds Section meeting and future publications.

Mentor: Do you have experience with QI Methodology and wish to share your knowledge? Fill out this form to submit your application as a mentor.

Mentee (Project Leader): Do you have a potential idea for a QI project but lack the experience to carry it out or wish to have a bit more guidance? Fill out this form to submit your application as a project leader.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE
By Amanda Saratsis and David Hersh

Each of the four Subcommittees that comprise the Research Committee have been hard at work developing programming, material and resources related to both clinical and basic science research in pediatric neurosurgery. In addition, updates have been made to the research portion of the section website to include more information from each of these subcommittees.

For example, a link to grant opportunities is live and provides detailed information from the Grants Subcommittee, chaired by Heather McCrea and Taylor Abel, including two new grants initiated this year, the Meghan Rose Bradley Foundation Pediatric Brain Cancer Pilot Grant and the KLS Martin Innovations Challenge Award (in conjunction with the Industry Relations Committee).

In addition, the Basic Science and Genetics Networks Subcommittee, chaired by Jennifer Strahle and Brandon Miller, hosted a very successful Basic Science small group meeting during the recent section meeting in Oklahoma City.

Attended by residents and faculty alike, this session provided the opportunity for an informative and lively discussion about how to achieve success as a surgeon scientist. A similar session is being planned for next year’s section meeting.

The Faculty Development and Mentoring Subcommittee, led by Manish Shah and Laura Prolo, has continued to work on refining resources for section members related to faculty mentors and career development, links to which will be found on the section website.

Lastly, the Clinical Networks Subcommittee, led by Heather Spader and Jonathan Pindrik, is exploring an initiative to establish a pediatric neurosurgery registry for diagnoses that are not currently included in one of the existing clinical networks. In addition, they are working to develop content related to successfully establishing and conducting multi-institutional clinical studies, which they aim to provide to section members in the form of a podcast.
# AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery

## Officers and Committees

**Officer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Matthew Smyth</td>
<td>2023–2025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immediate Past Chair</td>
<td>Bermans Iskandar</td>
<td>2023–2025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair-Elect</td>
<td>Rich Anderson</td>
<td>2023–2025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Ruth Bristol</td>
<td>2023–2025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>David Limbrick</td>
<td>2023–2025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members at Large</td>
<td>Todd Hankinson, Carrie Muh, Krystal Tomei, Ben Kennedy</td>
<td>2022–2024, 2023–2025, 2023–2025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resident Member of Executive Committee</td>
<td>George Koutsouras</td>
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**Standing Committees**

- **Nominating Committee** *(6-year term after Section Chair)*
  - Bermans Iskandar—Chair *(2023–2029, Chair 2023–2025)*
  - Mark Krieger *(2021–2027)*
  - Mark Proctor *(2019–2025)*

- **Rules & Regulations Committee** *(2-year term; 2023–2025)*
  - Christian Kaufman—Advisor
  - Charles Stevenson—Chair
  - Ron Grondin

- **Membership Committee** *(2-year term; 2023–2025)*
  - Jennifer Ronecker—Chair
  - Irene Kim—Advisor

**Education Committee** *(2-year term; 2023–2025)*

- Rob Naftel—Co-Chair
- Ed Ahn—Co-Chair
- Jeff Leonard—Advisor
- Rob Bollo—Advisor
- Dave Limbrick—Advisor
- Al Amin Salek
- Albert Tu
- Reem Elwy (R)
- Joanna Gernsback
- Jesse Winer
- Elias Rizk
- Peter Morgenstern
- Stephanie Greene
- Virendra Desai
- Jeffrey Greenfield
- Suresh Magge
- Tsulee Chen
- Jason Scott Hauptman
- Andrew Kobets
- Brent O’Neil
- Hasan Syed
- Katie Fehnel
- Scott Wait
- Amanda Kwasnicki

**Education Committee Subcommittees** *(ad hoc)*

**Pediatric Section Annual Meeting Subcommittee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>2023 – Oklahoma City</th>
<th>2024 – NYC</th>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Jea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Anderson</td>
<td>2024</td>
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<td>Mark Souweidane</td>
<td>2024</td>
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<td>Neil Feldstein</td>
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<td>Saadi Ghatan</td>
<td>2024</td>
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<td>Peter Morgenstern</td>
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<td>David Harter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haley Vance</td>
<td>Co-Chair APP</td>
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<td>Elisha Peregino</td>
<td>Co-Chair APP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Smyth</td>
<td>Section Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bermans Iskandar</td>
<td>Section Past Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Anderson</td>
<td>Section Chair-elect</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Bristol</td>
<td>Section Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Limbrick</td>
<td>Section Treasurer</td>
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AANS and CNS Meetings Subcommittee
(2-year term; 2023–2025)
Jeffrey Campbell—Co-Chair
Hal Meltzer—Co-Chair
Jay Hauptman
Jesse Winer

Traveling Fellowship Subcommittee (2-year term; 2023–2025)
Jason Blatt—Co-Chair
Eric Thompson—Co-Chair
Derek Samples
Patricia Clerkin
Kristin Weaver

Examination Questions Subcommittee
(2-year term; 2023–2025)
Lance Governale—Co Chair
Pat Mcdonald—Co Chair
Jason Blatt
Joel Katz
Neena Marupudi
Rabia Qaiser
Ammar Shaikhouni
Jesse Winer
Hannah Goldstein
Laura Prolo
David Hersh

Lectures and Webinars Subcommittee
(2-year term; 2023–2025)
Jeff Greenfield—Co-Chair
Toba Niazi—Co-Chair

Hands-on Workshops Subcommittee (2-year term; 2023–2025)
(Joint Subcommittee with International Education Subcommittee)
Joanna Gernsback—Co-Chair
Peter Morgenstern—Co-Chair

Podcasts Subcommittee (2-year term; 2023–2025)
Jim Johnston—Co-Chair
Vijay Ravindra—Co-Chair
Arianna Barkley
Heather Spader—Advisor

AD HOC COMMITTEES
Communications Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)
Benjamin Kennedy—Co-Chair
Carrie Muh—Co-Chair
Lance Governale
Farrahk Javeed
Taylor Abel

Communications Committee Subcommittees
(2-year term; 2023–2025)
Website Subcommittee
Benjamin Kennedy—Chair
George W. Koutsouras (R)
Social Media Subcommittee
Randaline Barnett—Co-Chair
Nathan Shlobin (MS)—Co-Chair
Taylor Abel
Devon Mitchell
Mustafa Motiwala
Olivia Kozel (MS)
Victor Lu (R)
Amber Gaulden (R)

Survey Subcommittee
Patrick McDonald—Co-Chair
Shelly Wang—Co-Chair
Eric Sribnick
Krystal Tomei
Albert Tu
Farrukh Javeed
Todd Hankinson (Research Liaison)

Listserve Subcommittee
Nir Shimony—Co-Chair
Weston Northam—Co-Chair
Andrew Kobets
Mark Proctor
Katie Klas
Tony Macalindong
John Schroeder

Logo Design Subcommittee
Andrew Kobets—Co-Chair
Jessica Lessing—Co-Chair
Neil Feldstein—Advisor
Elizabeth E. Wicks
Hassan Akbari
Carrie Muh
Samantha Spelliccy
Lauren Schwartz
Louis Carius Estrada
Juan Miguel Aleman Iniguez
Shawn Vuong
Mian Awais

International Relations Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)
Rebecca Reynolds—Co-Chair
Heather Spader—Co-Chair
Christopher Bonfield—Advisor
Eylem Ocal—Advisor
Jim Johnston—Advisor
Caitlin Hoffman
Belinda Shao
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES
(2-year term; 2023–2025)

International Education Subcommittee
Ariana Barkley—Co Chair
Aaron Robinson—Co Chair
Michael Dewan
Syed Hassan Akbari
Albert Tu
Patrick Obrien
Carolyn Quinsey

International Clinical Collaborations Subcommittee
Eisha Christian—Chair
Megan Still
Patricia Clerkin
Raheel Ahmend
Chris Bonfield

International Liaisons Subcommittee
(report directly to the committee chairs)
Tola Roberts—Chair
ISPN Zulma Tovar-Spinoza
ESPN TBD
WFNS Albert Tu
AAP SOICH/ GICS Eylem Ocal
South America Zulma Tovar Spinoza
Central America and Caribbean Louis Valery Carius
Brazil Bruno Braga
Australia and New Zealand TBD
Middle East Kaveh Asadi
Africa Tola Roberts
India Aaron Mohanty
Pakistan Hasan Raza Syed
China Phil Aldana
Japan Kaveh Asadi
Southeast Asia Phil Aldana

The Timothy George Committee on Diversity and Inclusion in Pediatric Neurosurgery (2-year term; 2023–2025)
Smruti Patel—Co-Chair
Kurtis Auguste—Co-Chair
Cathy Mazzola—Advisor
Clarence Greene Jr—Advisor
Tola Roberts Oritsejolomi
Brandon Rocque
Patricia Clerkin
Armaan Malhotra ( R)
H. Westley Philips
Elizabeth Tyler-Kabara
James Botros
Krystal Tomei
Nisha Gadgil
Anthony Wang
Tristan Mackey (R)
Amber Gaulden (R)

Research Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)
Amanda Saratsis—Co-Chair
David Hersh—Co-Chair
Todd Hankinson—Advisor
David Daniels—Advisor
Steve Schiff—Advisor

RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEES (2-year term; 2023–2025)
Grants Subcommittee
Heather McCrea—Subcommittee chair
Taylor Abel—Subcommittee chair
Allyson Alexander

Faculty Development and Mentoring
Laura Prolo—Subcommittee chair
Manish Shah—Subcommittee chair
Allyson Alexander
Winson Ho
Brandon Miller
Christina Sarris
Eric Sribnick
Shih-Shan Chen
Christina Sarris

Clinical Networks Subcommittee
Jonathan Pindrik—Subcommittee chair
Heather Spader—Subcommittee chair
Marian Michael Bercu
Samuel (Trey) McClugage
Monique Gomes
Jason Hauptman
Ioannis Mavridis
Daxa Patel
Jared Pisapia
Leonard Verhey

Basic Science and Genetics Networks Subcommittee
Jenn Strahle—Subcommittee chair
Brandon Miller—Subcommittee chair
Moise Danilpour
Michael DeCuypere
Brian Djouhry
Winson Ho
Alfred See
Sudhakar Vadivelu
Anthony Wang
Kristopher Kahle
Quality Improvement Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)
Annie Drapeau—Co-Chair
Carolina Sandoval Garcia—Co-Chair
Joe Piatt—Senior Advisor
Bruce Kaufman—Senior Advisor
Karl Balsara
Virenda Desai
Katrina Ducis
Tracy Flanders
Andrew Foy
Alexandra Giantini Larsen
Amanda Kwasnicki
Greg Olavarria
Jonathan Pindrik
Andy Stadler
Rachana Tyagi
Marike Zwienenberg

Young Pediatric Neurosurgeons Committee
(2-year term; 2023-2025)
Ariana Barkley—Chair
Michael McDowell—Advisor
Brennan O’Neill (R)
Adam Ammar (F)
Maryam Shahin (R)
Jennifer Quon
Tracy Flanders
Shabal Sapkota
Samantha Bouchal (MS)
Rachel Moor (R)
Nolan Brown (MS)
Nisha gadgil
Nathan Shlobin (MS)
Adam Conley
Neevya Balasubamaniam (MS)
Saad Javed
Hanish Polavarapu

Committee on Public Engagement, Education, and Advocacy
(SONS Chair and past Chair; 4 year term, switches after Section Mtg)
Greg Albert—Chair
(2021–2025)
Sandi Lam—Vice-Chair
(2023–2027)
Andrew Jea—Advisor
(2021–2025)
Jonathan Martin
Michael Feldman (R)
Natasha Hongsermeier-Graves (MS)

Industry Relations Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)
Michael McDowell -Co-Chair
Brian Hanak - Co-Chair

Coding and Reimbursement Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)
Virendra Desai—Co-Chair
Meena Vessel—Co-Chair
Eric Jackson—Advisor
Kaveh Asadi
Randaline Barnett (F)
Adam Ammar
David Donahue
David Garcia
Arman Jahangiri
Tsulee “Julie” Chen
George Koutsouras
Daxa Patel
Ed Vates
David Bauer
Chesney Oravec
Eric Jackson
Jason Blatt
Lance Governale
Timothy Gooldy
Marty Piazza
David Wrubel
Laurie Ackerman

Transition to Adulthood Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)
Benny Iskandar—Co-Chair
Brandon Rocque—Co-Chair
Bradley Weprin—Advisor
Sara Hartnett-Wright
Andrew Kobets
Haley Vance
Lisa McLennan
Smruti Patel
Diana Gray
Dorothy Poppe
Kaitlyn Esposito
Laila Mohamma
Mary Poppe
Eric Sribnik
Jeffrey Blount
Christine Gumma
Jeevan Dhruve
Joseph Piatt
Joyce Koueik
Laurie Ackerman
Mandy Breedt
Mark Kraemer
Michael Cools
Piazza Martin
Samantha Cater (Himsworth)
Trisha Leonard
Sheila Buchana
**APP Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)**
Haley Vance—Co-Chair
Mandy Breedt—Co-Chair
Patti Batchelder—Senior Advisor
Lisa McLennan

**Membership/Engagement Subcommittee**
Mandy Breedt
Stephanie Chen
Carrie Young

**Education Subcommittee**
Lisa McLennan
Jennifer Amon
Michelle Buontempo
Lucia Ruggieri
Stephen Smith

**APP Annual Conference Planning Subcommittee (2023–2024)**
Haley Vance
Laura Propester
Jamie Valenzuela
Mandy Breedt

**Pediatric Section Guidelines Committee (3-year term, change at CNS meeting)**
David Bauer—Chair (2017–2019, Chair 2020–2022)
Dan Donoho—Vice-Chair (2023–2025)
Thomas Larrew (F)
Armaan Malhotra (R)

**Lifetime Achievement Award: Immediate Past Chair**
Bermans Iskandar

**History Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)**
Andrew Kobets—Chair
John Duncan—Co-Chair
Laila Mohammad

**Senior Advisory Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)**
Mark Proctor—Chair
Tina Duhaime—Advisor
Al Cohen—Advisor

**Awards/Lectures Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)**
Esther DuPepe—Co-Chair
Smruti Patel

**Innovation and Technology (2-year term; 2023–2025)**
Sam Browd—Co-Chair
Daniel Donoho—Co-Chair
Scellig Stone

**Non-Profit Advisory Council**
David Limbrick
Dorothy Poppe
Diana Gray

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**REPRESENTATIVES AND LIAISONS**

Liaison to the AANS Executive Committee
Matt Smyth—Current Chair (2023–2025)

Liaison to the CNS Executive Committee
Rich Anderson—Chair Elect (2023–2025)

Liaison to the ABPNS
Benny Iskandar—Current Chair of ABPNS (2023–2025)

Liaison with ACPNF
Doug Brockmeyer—Current Chair of ACPNF (2023–2025)

Liaison with ASPN
Gerry Grant—Current President of ASPN (2023–2024)

Liaison with AAP Section of Neurological Surgery
Sandi Lam—Current Chair of SONS (2023–2025)

Liaison to the Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies
TBD, appointed by CSNS

Liaisons to the Drugs and Devices Committee, AANS
Brian Hanak (2023–2025)
Elizabeth Tyler Kabara (2023–2025)

Liaison to the American College of Osteopathic Surgery
Sudhakar Vadivelu, DO (2023–2025)

Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on Tumors
Eric Thompson (2023–2025)

Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care
Vijay Ravindra (2023–2025)

Liaisons to Neurosurgery Quality Council (NQC)
Annie Drapeau—Co-Chair QI Committee (2023–2025)
Carolina Sandoval Garcia—Co-Chair QI Committee (2023–2025)

Liaisons to AANS/CNS Section on History of Neurological Surgery
Andrew Kobets (2023–2025)
John Duncan (2023–2025)

Liaisons to AANS/CNS Cerebrovascular Section
Alfred See (2023–2025)
Leopold Arko (2023–2025)

Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on Pain
TBD

Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of Spine and Peripheral Nerves
Louis Valery Carius Estrada (2023–2025)

Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on Stereotactic and Functional Surgery
Marian Michael Bercu (2023–2025)

Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on Women in Neurosurgery
Jennifer Quan (2023–2025)
Elsie Yoon (2023–2025)

Liaison to the AANS/CNS Washington Committee
Greg Albert (2023–2025)

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(F) = Fellow (R) = Resident (MS) = Medical Student