

## **Main EC Meeting (8:00am, called to order by Joe Cheng)**

1. Secretary's Report (P. Mummaneni)
  - a. Make sure to invite ED's and Presidents of both parent organizations to the Section EC
2. Treasurer's Report (C. Kuntz)
3. New Business
  - a. CSRF (Collaborative Spine Research Foundation) initiative for OREF/NREF collaboration (Charlie Branch)
    - i. Free booth at annual meeting for 2013 and 2014 was proposed for CSRF
    - ii. Chris Wolfla proposed and Praveen seconded a motion to confirm the free booth for CSRF for 2013 and 2014 and to include CSRF in the NREF Spine Section Cmte.
    - iii. This is a 501c3 organization that is a joint initiative between OREF and NREF set up for independent peer reviewed processes and grants for clinical research issues for large multicenter studies
      1. NREF reps are Branch, Shaffrey, McCormick, and Ghogawala
      2. surveys were sent out to identify the top clinical research questions that need to be answered
      3. Currently, the confirmed grant commitment from Medtronic at this time is \$7 million over 3 years that is contingent upon matching funding from other industry sources (50% first year, 33% subsequent years).
        - a. Without other funding sources the grant will not proceed
  - b. SRS/Section AUC Project for Adult Deformity (Glassman)
    - i. Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) is a strategy developed by RAND/UCLA which takes expert opinion and reviews it by a panel. This will generate highly valued evidence based guidelines
      1. Cardiologists have effectively used this tool
      2. Lumbar degen scoliosis is the planned topic
      3. RAND will do this and will cost \$600,000.
        - a. Funded by societies and industry through CSRF
        - b. Will take 18 months
        - c. AANS is fully supporting this process
    - ii. Update on N2QOD (McGirt)
      1. NPA (501c3) is the national neurosurgery registry and the current project is the N2QOD surgical case registry.
        - a. NPA is run by AANS
      2. The registry data will be used to support payments for spinal procedures
      3. \$1 million has been invested in the process and 65 people have volunteered time for it
        - a. 500 lumbar spine patients are being enrolled per month at several dozen participating centers

- b. Cervical module will be starting soon
  - c. The prospect is for 10,000 degen spine patients with prospective registry data collection per year will be collected, and this is now underway
  - d. A deformity module is proposed in collaboration with SRS (Glassman is SRS president elect)
- c. N2QOD deformity module update (Praveen)
  - i. The proposal is to do this module in collaboration with the SRS.
    - 1. need to plan inclusion/exclusion criteria
    - 2. need to determine what data parameters to collect and what radiographs will be needed
  - ii. SRS: Jeff Coe, Sig Berven, Lloyd Hey, (Shaffrey)
  - iii. Section: Praveen, Matt McGirt, Mike Groff, (Shaffrey)
  - iv. Conference calls are scheduled to work this out
- d. Request for DSPN participation in steroid survey for SCI (Cheng)
  - i. Schroeder in Ortho at Northwestern working with Patel, Eck, Hodges
  - ii. Use of high-dose steroids in acute spinal cord injuries for update on paper by Eck in 2006
  - iii. Joe Cheng asked the EC cmte for input on this survey. Eric Potts will be the cmte member who will take charge of this issue. The EC cmte did not want to proceed with the survey due to survey fatigue amongst the membership.
- e. CAST Accreditation (Volker Sonntag) (Request time at 11:30am).
  - i. Changing name to NCAST (Neurosurgery CAST)
    - 1. they plan to hire a FTE if approved by the SNS
    - 2. Sonntag is representing Spine and Charles Branch is also involved
    - 3. ABNS has approved a 12 month rotation outside the parent institution but will count as a core neurosurgery rotation and not as an elective
      - a. Infolded fellowship is not CAST accredited now, but this may change in the future with NCAST
    - 4. 26 postgraduate Spine fellowships are CAST accredited now
    - 5. NREF will only fund NCAST accredited programs
    - 6. the proposal is the designation of fellowship will be the same with infolded vs post-residency fellowships and post-graduate fellowships will be phased out over time
    - 7. NCAST is asking for help planning this from the Spine Section
    - 8. The Spine Section representatives who will help plan this include: Mummaneni, Trost, Cheng
- f. Developing position statement on physician-owned distributorships (PODs) (Cheng)
  - i. AANS has a COI position statement against PODS. Does the Spine Section want to make a similar statement?
  - ii. Chris Wolfla and Dan Resnick and Katie Orrico pointed out that the regulations regarding PODS from the OIG has yet to be completely clarified.

- iii. The EC cmte voted to table this issue and not make any statements at this time.
- g. Multidisciplinary Spine Forum hosted by NASS on 3/13 (Sansur)
  - i. Heary updated the EC re COSSS efforts that are similar to this.
  - ii. Sansur will go to the meeting and report back
  - iii. This meeting will focus on FDA device issues
- h. Need for consistent Section committee report form
  - i. Many cmte chairs have submitted no reports for the past several years
  - ii. Contracts have expired without notification from cmte chairs for fellowships and grants
  - iii. The section officers will discuss consolidation of cmte's and leadership change issues

#### 4. Old Business

- a. OneAsk (Reg Haid)
  - i. Changing industry sponsorship rules
    - 1. Some no longer want company named grants/fellowships (Medtronic)
    - 2. this year Nuvasive has assumed the spine fellowship funding given up by Medtronic
    - 3. No funding for teaching "off label" issues (Depuy/Synthes)
  - ii. Reg pointed out that silos in neurosurgery are inhibiting fund raising efforts
  - iii. Joe Cheng wants cmte chairs to send to Charlie Kuntz their funding needs for the next three years
    - 1. we need to set aside money for officers to travel and speak with the companies regarding future fund raising activities.
    - 2. the EC cmte chairs should send this info to Kuntz to report to us at the Spine Section EC meeting at the AANS
- b. Update on Neuropoint SD manuscript (Z. Ghogawala)
  - i. The single level fusion and lumbar discectomy platform talk and manuscript has been completed and sent to JNS: Spine.
  - ii. Longer term follow up data is now being obtained
- c. Update on MOC Textbook (Cheng, Mummaneni, Groff) to be published by Thieme
  - i. Requirements for authors and criteria for remaining on
  - ii. No "crap" by residents, fellows
  - iii. This issue will be discussed further on Saturday at 0600

#### 5. Committee Reports (Oversight by Chair) (J. Cheng)

- a. Annual Meeting (Marjorie Wang)
  - i. Company sponsored dinners that are not funded through a grant to the Spine Section are problematic as many surgeons can not attend these dinners if they are directly paid for by the company.
  - ii. Dan Resnick says that a package that includes funding for education and unrestricted grants that may be used for opening reception and dinners is acceptable and companies who have funded a package can have signage and tickets to the dinners.

- b. Exhibits (Mike Wang/Dan Hoh)
  - i. Exhibitor status reports
    - 1. the updated numbers for the exhibitors and revenue is in the appended report. 2013 revenue did increase from 2012 through the efforts of the exhibits cmte and the officers.
  - ii. Update on Friday's exhibit summit meeting
    - 1. vendors are invited to discuss their thoughts on this meeting's structure

**c. Future Sites (I. Kalfas)\*Moved due to pending Section needs**

- i. Review CNS slides of meeting (Shupak) which are attached in the appendix
  - 1. discussion was held by the EC regarding decreasing the room block in 2014 and 2015.
  - 2. future sites discussion included consideration of Las Vegas instead of Phoenix going forward beyond 2015 due to excessive hotel costs in phoenix at the JW Marriott.
  - 3. The officers will discuss this issue further at the EC officers meeting

**d. Nominating Committee (C. Wolfla)**

- i. Section
  - 1. Chair-Elect: John Hurlbert
  - 2. Member-at-Large: Zo Ghogawala
  - 3. Ex-Officio: Marjorie Wang
  - 4. Slate of officers for 2013-2014:
    - a. Chair: Mike Groff
    - b. Past-Chair: Joe Cheng
    - c. Secretary: Praveen Mummaneni
    - d. Treasurer: Charlie Kuntz
    - e. SPC: Mike Wang
    - f. AMC: Jack Knightly
    - g. Member-at-Large: Pat Jacob, Matt McGirt
    - h. Ex-Officio: Daryl Fourney
- ii. Discuss and vote on AANS Nominations
  - 1. (1) President-Elect:
  - 2. (1) Vice President: **Ziya Gokaslan**
  - 3. (2) Directors at Large: **Reg Haid, Charlie Branch**
  - 4. (2) Nominating Committee Members: **Greg Trost, Vince Traynelis**

**The EC Cmte voted and approved this slate.**

**e. Scientific Program (J. Knightly)**

- i. See appended SPC program

**6. Committee Reports (Oversight by Chair-Elect) (M. Groff)**

- a. CPT (P. Angevine)
  - i. Category 1 code is now in place for the Trans1 procedure with a work RVU of 28.
  - ii. MILD procedure was proposed by the society of pain management for a category 3 code

- iii. MIS SI joint fusion is being proposed by NASS for a category 3 code
    - 1. ISAS is proposing to convert that from category 3 to category 1
  - iv. 22851 and 63056 have been flagged for review
    - 1. aans and cns and nass are working to educate membership to appropriately use these codes
    - 2. RUC will put this review on temporary hold as a result
  - v. Review of cervical arthroplasty codes and stereotactic radiosurgery have low volumes and will not be reviewed
  - vi. 63047 and 63048 are in the process of being reviewed
  - vii. 22612 was flagged for re-review. A two year reprieve was requested by the spine societies.
- b. Membership (K. Eichholz)
  - i. Expand member categories
    - 1. membership includes 953 active members which is down from 2009 when we had 1000 approx members
      - a. 15 members were terminated for nonpayment of dues
      - b. 4 residents became active members
      - c. 17 went from active to senior status members
      - d. Membership is stable from 2012 to 2013
      - e. Resident members have increased from 250 to over 1000
        - i. We will outreach to graduating residents to become members of the spine section
      - f. Only 250 of the members come to the annual meeting
      - g. Membership rates went up last year to \$100 and that did not alter the membership roster numbers
      - h. Shall we consider DO's and orthopedists to become members of the Spine Section?
        - i. A bylaws change may be needed to allow DO or orthopedist to be officer level members of the EC, Justin Smith will investigate if this is possible.
        - ii. This topic will be further discussed at the long range planning meeting
  - ii. Membership drive
    - a. Jack Knightly suggests finding out which members do not come to the annual meeting and to contact them to have them consider attending the meeting
- c. Newsletter (J. Ratliff)
  - i. Request budget for Newsletter (\$1000 per issue for Graphic Design)
    - 1. total request is \$2000 per year by Ratliff
    - 2. this will be submitted to Charles Kuntz as part of cmte budget requests
- d. Payor Response (J. Cheng)
  - i. The cmte will be trimmed to active responders

- ii. More volunteers are needed
- iii. Washington state work comp has endorsed “Spine Scope” as the community standard
- iv. Local Coverage Determinations by Noridian is being discussed by Daryl Fourney
- v. Guidelines are being sent by spine section and are being quoted by payors now
  - 1. cervical fusions are now being considered in addition to lumbar fusions
- vi. Matt McGirt suggests formalizing this process more in the EC as a cmte with a budget and considering 3<sup>rd</sup> parties to help us
  - 1. Dan Resnick stated that this is why CNS is budgeting guidelines groups
  - 2. this issue will be discussed in the long range planning meeting
- e. Rules and Regs (J. Smith)
  - i. Justin will explore options re orthopedic membership through bylaws changes

## **7. Committee Reports (Oversight by MOL) (M. McGirt)**

- a. ASTM (J. Coumans)
  - i. Report of voting activity for October 2012-present.
    - 1. Standardized packaging of spine devices was discussed
    - 2. Discarding opened but not used devices was discussed
    - 3. In vivo testing of devices in animal models was discussed
  - ii. ASTM November 2012 meeting (F4.25 and F4.33 committees)
  - iii. Medical and Surgical Materials and Devices Meeting (May 2013)
  - iv. Medical and Surgical Materials and Devices Meeting (Nov 2013)
- b. FDA Drugs and Devices (C. Sansur)
  - i. FDA subcommittee panel mission and leadership opportunities
    - 1. topics to be discussed include: narcotics for spine patients, epidural steroid injection efficacy
- c. NPA (E. Woodard)
  - i. Eric did not make the meeting, so McGirt updated the EC
    - 1. NPA is reorganizing
      - a. Cervical module is being added
      - b. Board is meeting tomorrow and an update will be given at next EC meeting
  - ii. Mike Groff will become NPA Secretary (Section Chair becomes Secretary)
- d. S2QOD/N2QOD (N. Brooks)
- e. Outcomes (M. Steinmetz)
  - i. Clinical Trial Award Winners: 2012 was Bradley Jacob
    - 1. update will be presented at this meeting
  - ii. 2013 award prelim winners: Drs. Ray, Murphy, Doniel
    - 1. these proposals will be resubmitted and one winner selected in the summer
    - 2. Marjorie Wang updated her award data and will receive the remaining funds for her award

- iii. Lumbar discectomy has adequate data, but lumbar fusion needs further follow up from the Neuropoint study

## 8. Committee Reports (Oversight by MOL) (P. Jacob)

- a. Education (F. LaMarca)
  - i. AANS Meeting – presentations will be on wed of the aans annual meeting
  - ii. CNS Meeting – now accepting proposals for presentations at the upcoming meeting in SF
  - iii. ABNS Questions
- b. Fellowships (G. Trost)
  - i. Promote CAST accreditation
  - ii. NREF wants a fellow's name for their grant funding application
  - iii. Maintain fellowship programs
- c. Guidelines (J. O'Toole)
  - i. CNS Guideline development support
    - 1. Future format for guideline development
  - ii. Updates for cervical degen and SCI, lumbar fusion, mets, T/L trauma
    - 1. spine injury guidelines were published in NEUROSURGERY
  - iii. Propose access to spine/PN guidelines drafts by our Section committees PRIOR to approval by the JGC.
  - iv. **Action:** Propose formal letter to JGC and AANS/CNS Guidelines that ALL Section work be accessible by the Section. – this was approved by Joe Cheng
  - v. Update on lumbar surgery guidelines due in 2011, but is still in process in 2013.
    - 1. lumbar fusion guidelines updates are in review by the JGC
- d. Research and Awards (A. Kanter)
  - i. Discuss funding issues
  - ii. Plan for grants and programs
    - 1. the number of applications and the quality of the applications has dramatically increased from 2012.
  - iii. Update on research and awards budget, supporters, current & future contracts
    - 1. this year's Haid award will fund two projects at \$15k each
    - 2. Medtronic has dropped funding for clinical fellowships, and Nuvasive has replaced them in funding the clinical fellowships
    - 3. A long term strategy is needed to organize "the ask" for these fellowships and awards, and this will be discussed at the Long Range Planning meeting
  - iv. Research support toward industry meeting status

## 9. Committee Reports (Oversight by Ex-Officio) (J. Hurlbert)

- a. AANS PDP (R. Fessler)
  - i. AANS EPM Section representative – no new info
- b. AANS Board Liaison (D. Benzel)\*Unable to attend

- i. New JNS editor will be selected soon
- c. AANS/CNS Joint Tumor Liaison (L. Rhines) – no new info/not present
- d. Publications (L. Holly)
  - i. JNS/Spine Section manuscript solicitation letter to oral platform speakers with a June 1 deadline
  - ii. Meeting abstracts will be published today in NS Focus
- e. Web Site (E. Potts)
  - i. Increase budget for Oral Platform recording
    - 1. there is an increased cost from \$10k to \$13k for the oral platform sessions as there are concurrent sessions this year
  - ii. Repository for all our contracts and letters of intent
    - 1. Per Chris Wolfla we need to ensure that recording and putting the talks on our website is not prohibited by AV contracts
  - iii. Wrong level surgery survey – announcement and resend to members.

#### **10. Committee Reports (Oversight by Ex-Officio) (Z. Ghogawala)**

- a. CME (T. Stewart) – not present
  - i. Single Accreditation System for Graduate Medical Education (MD, DO)
- b. NREF (Z. Gokoslan)(\*Will miss meeting)
  - i. Format changed this year
    - 1. 6 NREF grant proposals assigned to review
    - 2. Do not know how many spine proposals were received
      - a. Suggestion by Zo to send the unfunded spine proposals to NREF for consideration
    - 3. More up to date report at AANS.
      - a. Results following teleconference prior to our EC meeting.
  - ii. NREF Review and Grading Committee (Ziya - Liaison)
    - 1. Mike Groff (Committee Chair)
    - 2. Committee: Praveen, Zo, Dan Sciubba, Sanjay Dhall, C. Kuntz, F. Lamarca
- c. Spinal Deformity training (M. Schmidt)
  - i. 6am Saturday for MOC textbook deformity section
    - 1. deformity chapter topics are already preplanned by Praveen including the Deformity cmte members and members of the EC
- d. Washington Committee (R. Heary)
  - i. Sunshine rule is coming into effect
    - 1. industry will collect data on payments on Aug. 1, 2013 onwards to report to CMS
    - 2. in 2014 this will be reported to CMS, and they will publish it online

#### **11. Committee Reports (Oversight by Ex-Officio) (D. Fourney, not present)**

- a. COSS (J. Cheng, I. Kalfas)
  - i. COSSS Representatives: Joe Cheng, Ian Kalfas. Alternate: Mike Groff.
    - 1. this will be organized further at LSRS
- b. Inter-Society Liaison (M. Rosner)



- i. Add Inter-Section Liaison to job and attend other Section EC's
  - ii. Section Partnerships: CSNS, Tumor, Trauma
  - iii. Society Partnerships: AO, SRS, CSRS
- c. Peripheral Nerve Task Force (A. Belzberg)
  - i. Tuesday afternoon at AANS will be the peripheral nerve session and the speaker will be the chief scientific officer from Integra who will discuss industry-surgeon relationships
  - ii. Peripheral nerve residents course was tacked onto the AANS deformity course in the spring and was effective
  - iii. ASPN 2012 and 2013 presidents both neurosurgeons
  - iv. \$3M in plastic surgery funding available for research proposals involving PN surgery
- d. Public Relations (S. Dhall)
  - i. Cervical trauma and SCI Guidelines published in Neurosurgery
    - 1. Mobile and web application (Dhall, Potts)
  - ii. Publicize what the Section does
  - iii. Alerts: Safety alerts, new devices, etc.
    - 1. BMP issues
    - 2. Spinal injections & meningitis
- e. Young Neurosurgeons Committee (C. Upadhyaya)
  - i. Charlie Branch – Honored Speaker for Dinner

Meeting adjourned at 12:35pm by Dr. Cheng