



**Spine Section EC Meeting
Dolphin Hotel, Australia 3 Room, Lobby Level
Orlando, Florida**

**Wednesday, March 5, 2014
8:00am-12:00pm**

AGENDA

- 1. Secretary's Report** (P. Mummaneni)
 - a. See attached committee reports.
- 2. Treasurer's Report** (C. Kuntz) – See attached pages 1-3
 - a. Review budget and accounts
- 3. New Business**
 - a. Discuss strategic options for partnerships with other spine societies and groups for annual meetings in the future. Dr. Groff suggested forming a strategic planning committee with the past chairs, current officers, and exhibits chair to make a long range plan. Dr. Groff will form an ad hoc committee to explore this option with the past chair, future chair, and current chair and report back to the EC at the Section annual meeting.
 - b. Dr. Tippet asked each EC member to give \$1000 per year to NREF. Only 4% of neurosurgeons are Cushing level supporters. Dr. Groff and Dr. Mummaneni – encouraged all to contribute and noted that at SRS – all EC members are donors and top level supporters.
 - c. Update on MOC Textbook (J. Cheng, P. Mummaneni, M. Groff)
 - I. Requirements for authors and criteria for remaining on
 - II. Chapter Assignments – See attached MOC Section tracking sheet pages 4-5 (highlighted in yellow are missing chapters)
 - d. Spine Section Report
 - I. Action plan for members with unpaid dues – to AANS. Dr. Eicholz has emailed and called late dues payers and often gets a positive response to his emails and calls.
 - II. 2014 Dues changes? What are we planning to charge going forward? we have increased from \$50 to \$100 in the last few years and we will not increase it for 2014, but what about 2015?
 - e. Journal of Neurosurgery: Spine (James Rutka)
 - f. Collaboration with CNS (Daniel Resnick)
 - g. Aetna coverage for cervical implants (Joseph Chang)
 - h. Preview of 2015 Meeting (Z. Ghogawala)
 - i. Hypothermia and Human Spinal Cord Injury (M. Wang/J. O'Toole) - See attached pages 116-123
 - I. Amended statement needed for EC vote
 - II. Send to trauma section for approval - (original statement was a joint effort between Spine and Trauma).

4. Old Business

- a. Hypothermia and Human Spinal Cord Injury (M. Wang/J. O'Toole)
 - I. New statement from J. O'Toole needed for EC vote - No vote was taken at EC. There are amendments needed to this statement. Marjorie will edit it and send it to the EC for a vote.
 - II. Send to trauma section for approval - (original statement was a joint effort between Spine and Trauma). We do want to coordinate with trauma section for this statement per Dr Cheng and Dr Groff.
- b. Joint Position Statement on Vertebroplasty coordinated by SIR (M. Groff) - A subcommittee will be created to make a position statement per Dr. Groff and Dr. Steinmetz. Dr. Steinmetz will form a subcommittee to do this.
- c. NREF (T. Tippet) – Dr. Tippet is the new president NREF, and NREF is a new 501c3.
 - NREF will work with Spine Section EC to award grants to spine fellowship programs.
 - NREF since 1980 has given over \$11.7 million in grants and scholarships; NREF supports training programs.
 - Dr. Tippet asked each EC member to give \$1000 per year to NREF.
 - Only 4% of neurosurgeons are Cushing level supporters.
 - Dr. Groff and Dr. Mummaneni – encouraged all to contribute and noted that at SRS – all EC members are donors and top level supporters.
- d. Choosing Wisely Campaign (M. Groff) – AANS Request
 - Dr. Knightly pointed out two issues of interest in spine: 1. No steroids for acute cord injury 2. No imaging for acute low back pain in the short term.
 - Dr. Groff moved to approve the above two items and Dr. Mummaneni seconded the motion and the motion carried.
 - Dr. Knightly will take this information back to QIW.
- e. Aetna IOM Policy (R. Haid) – Dr. Cheng pointed out that a neurology organization created a guideline statement that every spine case should have neuromonitoring. Aetna may not cover this modality. Per Dr. Cheng, we have not yet found a case where neuromonitoring has been denied for payment from Aetna. If a case is found, then Dr. Cheng would like to know of that case. The Rapid Response Committee has a response prepared for this contingency.
- f. Update on MOC Textbook (J. Cheng, P. Mummaneni, M. Groff)
 - I. Requirements for authors and criteria for remaining on
 - II. Chapter Assignments
- g. Need for consistent Section committee report form (P. Mummaneni/A. Pacia)
- h. Signature needed for contract for administrative support (P. Mummaneni/A. Pacia) - A. Pacia has contract Dr. Groff moved to approve the contract sent to Spine Section by AANS and CNS to engage Amanda Pacia for admin support. Dr. Mummaneni seconded the motion. The Motion carried.
- i. Spine Section Fall Report
 - I. Current rules and regulations - to AANS. Our bylaws say we can remove them from membership after 1 year of nonpaid dues. In practice, we have allowed two years before we remove them from membership per Dr. Eicholz
 - II. Action plan for members with unpaid dues – to AANS. Dr. Eicholz has emailed and called late dues payers and often gets a positive response to his emails and calls.
 - III. 2014 Dues changes, if any – to AANS – we have increased from \$50 to \$100 in the last few years and we will not increase it for 2014.
 - IV. Name of individual to work with AANS on cover letter to be sent with 2014 section dues – to AANS – Dr. Kurt Eicholz will be the Section liaison for this process.
- j. Wrong Level Spinal Survey Checklist (J. Cheng)
- k. NASS effort to advocate on your behalf for fair coverage policies (M. Groff) – Dr. Groff says we are not letting

our membership know what advocacy we are doing. Katie Orrico has suggested that she would be willing to send out info from the Washington Committee on the Section's behalf using Section mast head. Katie Orrico can help with survey responses as well.

- l. Dr. Benzil updated the group on a "back at work" program to help neurosurgeons stay at the forefront of spine care. She is working on this with Dr. Joe Cheng. She asked for an official rep from Spine Section
- m. Dr. Groff suggested forming a strategic planning committee with the past chairs, current officers, and exhibits chair to make a long range plan. Dr. Groff will form an ad hoc committee to explore this option with the past chair, future chair, and current chair and report back to the EC at the Section annual meeting.

5. Committee Reports (Oversight by Chair) (M. Groff)

- a. **Annual Meeting** (J. Knightly) – See attached pages 124-131
- b. **Exhibits** (Dan Hoh) – The "Costs" should be close to actual final costs. The "Funds" are all up-to-date except "Registrant Fees*" is calculated for a minimum 30 paying participants (\$500 fee/ each)

2014 Annual Meeting Cadaver Lab

Costs		Funds	
Cadaver (incl cremation, radiation badges, lead vests, general instruments, protective gear, biohazard removal, staffing)	\$ 54,872.80	DepuySynthes	\$ 15,000.00
C-arms x 10	\$ 10,320.00	Globus	\$ 15,000.00
		K2M	\$ 15,000.00
Coffee (2 breaks)	\$ 428.04	SpineWave	\$ 15,000.00
Water and Sodas (2 breaks)	\$ 522.00	Biomet	\$ 7,500.00
Cookies	\$ 227.07	Joimax	\$ 7,500.00
Granola Bars/ Candy Bars	\$ 293.63	Integra	\$ 10,000.00
Podium Mic	\$ 105.00	Registrant Fees*	\$ 15,000.00
	\$ 66,768.54		\$ 100,000.00

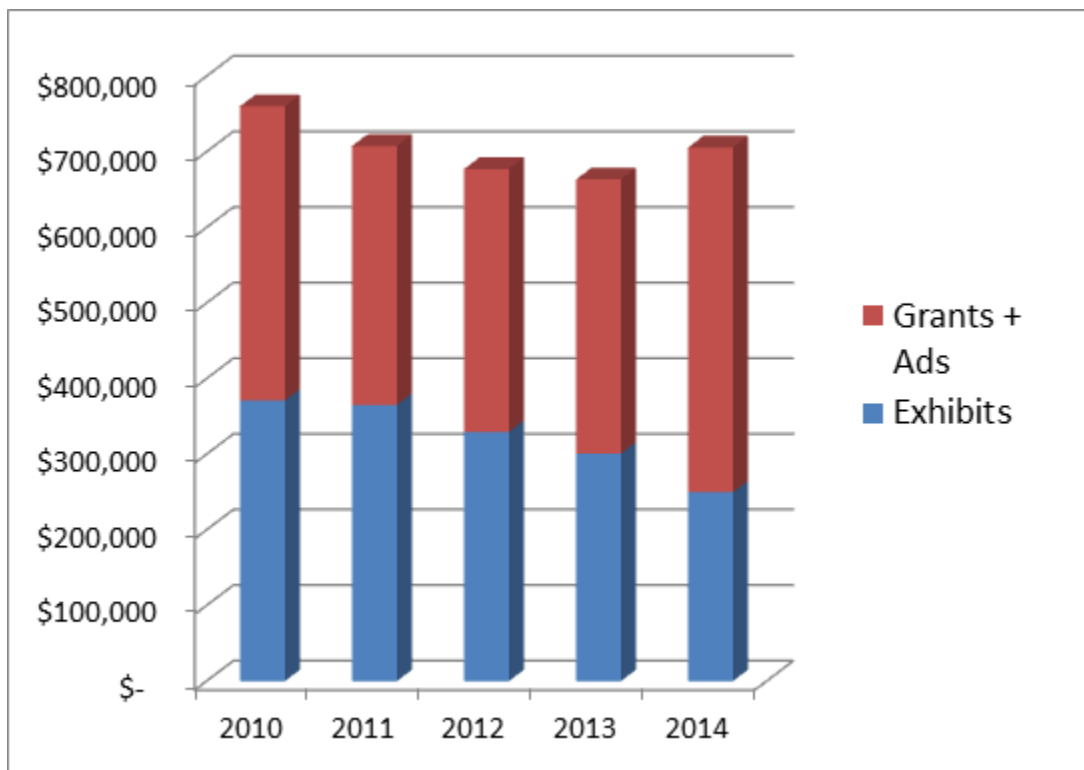
Net	\$ 33,231.46
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For the section leadership:

In brief:

- we had a positive increase this year in Total Corporate support
- largely due to significant increase in industry grants and advertising (nearly \$100k)
- there continues to be a decline in exhibits revenue despite aggressive efforts
- hopefully this data can help project next year's targets and may help inform meeting budgets.

	Exhibits	Grants + Ads	Total
2010	\$ 371,100	\$ 389,159	\$ 760,259
2011	\$ 365,200	\$ 342,500	\$ 707,700
2012	\$ 329,700	\$ 347,500	\$ 677,200
2013	\$ 301,000	\$ 362,500	\$ 663,500
2014	\$ 249,700	\$ 456,000	\$ 705,700



- c. **Future Sites** (I. Kalfas/C. Wolfla) – Dr. Kalfas proposes Dr. Wolfla to take his place as cmte chair. 2015 is in Phoenix, and 2016 plan is Orlando at the Peabody vs the Gaylord Palms. Chris and the CNS staff are scheduled to tour some Orlando properties next week. RFPs are submitted for both non-Disney and Disney properties. Regina Shupak will comment on future site considerations.
- d. **Nominating Committee** (J. Cheng) – No new Information
- 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

- e. **Scientific Program** (Mike Wang) “**Putting patients first**” is the theme for 2014. Dr. Fessler is honored guest, and Story Musgrave is the invited speaker per Dr. Groff and Dr. Mike Wang. The Chinese Orthopedic Association is the invited guest association. Dr. Wang has reached out to NASS and AOA and DO neurosurgeons to join the meeting.

-Annual Meeting Scientific Program Summary [See attached brochure - pages 6-25](#)

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

- a. **CPT** (P. Angevine) – 63047 and 63048 values remain unchanged based on survey data presented to RUC in January 2013. The recommendation to leave values alone was accepted.

-Asked by RUC to reassess 63045 and 63046

-A NCCI proposal to bundle lumbar interbody codes 22630 and 22633 with reoperation lumbar discectomy code 63042 has not progressed

-CPT 22612 [See attached graph page 26](#)

- b. **Membership** (K. Eichholz)

SPINE SECTION MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Class	2014 Dues	Subclass	2014	2013	2012	2011
ACTIVE MEMBER	\$ 100.00	01S	921	955	978	952
ASSOCIATE	\$ 100.00	15D	8	8	8	9
ADJUNCT	\$ 100.00	60D	14	123	14	17
LIFETIME	\$0.00	25S	300	310	284	N/A
INTERNATIONAL	\$ 100.00	40S	44	47	45	40
HONORARY	\$0.00	45S	1	1	1	N/A
RESIDENT/FELLOW	\$0.00	50R	1,525	752	570	135

Over the last two years, (2012 and 2013) we have had:

- 23 members resign,
- 16 members terminated for failure to pay dues
- 3 retired
- 3 died

This year:

- 18 members were terminated for failure to pay dues for two years, 14 active, 4 international
- Pending Applications for January/February (not in chart above)
 - 29 active
 - 7 residents
 - 3 international
 - 1 adjunct

Numbers are approximately stable since last year. Letters will be going out in April/May to senior residents about to graduate to encourage them to apply to the Spine Section once they are members in one of the parent organizations.

Current dues are \$100 per year, and this was raised from \$50 per year starting in 2013. No planned dues increase in the near future.

- c. **Newsletter** (J. Ratliff) - One edition was published in 2013, another issue is with the graphic artist and should be out soon. It is running late with graphics at present; hopefully it will be out before the annual meeting. We are tracking via Bitly number of clicks for the content, the individual pages for the last newsletter averaged between 50 and 75 clicks each.
 - If there is any content members would like included, please forward it to Sansur or I. We would be very happy to publish member generated content.
- d. **Payor Response** (J. Cheng) – Rapid Response Committee - Recommended Coverage Criteria for Minimally Invasive Sacroiliac Joint Fusion – MIS SI Joint Fusion and the RUC [See attached pages 27-31](#)
- e. **Rules and Regulations** (J. Smith) - No new information

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

- a. **ASTM** (J. Coumans) – Coumans attending the May ASTM committee (F04.25 - spinal devices) meeting in Toronto on 5/7/14. He plans to continue to voice support for the development of a testing standard for bone / implant interface. This has received the endorsement of the AAOS.
- b. **FDA Drugs and Devices** (C. Sansur) - No new information
- c. **NPA** (E. Woodard) – No New Information
- d. **S2QOD/N2QOD** (N. Brooks) – No New information
- e. **Outcomes** (M. Steinmetz)
 - I. Clinical Trials Proposal Awards
 - a. Currently taking applications for 2014 award – no submissions as the time of this writing.
 - II. Clinical Trials Award - \$50,000
 - b. The Outcomes Committee will reviewed all three revised clinical trial proposals for 2013 award

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

- a. **Education** (F. LaMarca) – Proposal for CNS meeting talks. [See attached Education Report pages 32-33](#)
- b. **Fellowships** (A. Kanter) – Spine Fellowship guidelines and competencies will be identical for both infolded and post-residency fellowships:
 - I. They will be regarded by the SNS as equivalent and similarly capable of earning CAST accredited certificates and NREF funding.

*A resident, regardless of post-graduate (PGY) year, must meet specific milestones in order to be considered a spine fellow candidate:

- Milestones may be reached in some programs at an earlier year than others, but will occur after the PGY-4 year
- Milestones will be case quality and quantity (#) dependent

-Fellowship directors will be responsible for insuring milestones have been reached prior to consideration

II. Committee task: *determine milestones...*

c. **Guidelines** (J. O'Toole)

- I. Hypothermia and Spinal Cord Injury Position Statement Update (J. O'Toole, M. Wang, Kaiser)
- Trauma section involvement
- II. Survey of DSPN membership on knowledge/use/compliance of recently published guidelines
- III. Guidelines efforts updates
 - a. Lumbar Fusion update—awaiting publication by JNS: Spine
 - b. Metastatic Spinal Tumors—chapters in revision (Tim Ryken is workgroup chair)
 - c. Thoracolumbar Trauma—workgroup to complete questions and lit review to begin
 - d. Cervical spondylosis guideline update—plan 2015 workgroup formation
- IV. SRS/AUC Degenerative Deformity with RAND corporation—May 23rd, 2014
- V. SRS/AUC Degenerative Deformity with RAND corporation—waiting to hear on workgroup assignments
- VI. Update on the Scoliosis AUC project – see attached Bioparagraphs of Panelists pages 34-38

d. **Research and Awards** (J. Chi) – see attached pages 39-43

1. summary of 2014 awards
2. update on current funding levels and sources
3. present data on peer organization funding levels

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

- a. **AANS PDP** (R. Fessler) - No new information
- b. **AANS Board Liaison** (D. Benzel) - No new information
- c. **AANS/CNS Joint Tumor Liaison** (L. Rhines) - No new information
- d. **Publications** (L. Holly) – No New information
- e. **Web Site** (E. Potts) – Meeting app discussion with Luis Tumialàn

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

- a. **CME** (G. Trost) - No new information
- b. **NREF** (Z. Gokoslan) – No new information
 - I. How many proposals from Spine?
 - II. NREF Review and Grading Committee (Ziya - Liaison) – Dr. Gokaslan is not able to see all the grants being submitted for spine/peripheral nerve. Dr. Gokaslan suggests we ask NREF for a report for spine and peripheral nerve total grants and how many were finalists and how many were funded.
 1. M. Groff (Committee Chair)
 2. Committee: P. Mummaneni, Z. Ghogawala, D. Sciubba, S. Dhall, C. Kuntz, F. Lamarca
- c. **Spinal Deformity training** (M. Schmidt) – No new information |
 - I. MOC textbook is now in process – see new business
- d. **Washington Committee** (R. Heary/ K. Orrico) – See attached Washington Report pages 44-115

11. **Committee Reports (Oversight by Ex-Officio) (D. Fourney)**

- a. **COSSS** (J. Cheng, I. Kalfas) – No new information
 - I. COSSS Representatives: J. Cheng, I. Kalfas. Alternate: M. Groff - Operating agreement is being created with assistance of Dr. Heary.
- b. **Inter-Society Liaison** (M. Rosner) – No new information
- c. **Peripheral Nerve Task Force** (L. Yang/Belzberg) – No new information
- d. **Public Relations** (S. Dhall) – No new information

- I. Cervical trauma and SCI Guidelines published in Neurosurgery
 - 1. Mobile and web application (Dhall, Potts)
 - II. Publicize what the Section does
- e. **Young Neurosurgeons Committee** (C. Upadhyaya) – Reminder: there is a medical student fellowship for funding to attend