

The Newsletter of the Joint Section on Spinal Disorders American Association of Neurological Surgeons Congress of Neurological Surgeons

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Thomas S. Berger, M.D., Editor

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The Joint Section on Spinal Disorders of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and Congress of Neurological Surgeons has continued to expand its activities in response to the needs of all neurological surgeons interested in spinal disorders. The Section has shown continued growth and development of which we all can be proud. Prior to a consideration of our recent and future activities, it may be worthwhile to review the Objectives and Functions of the Section as indicated in the new proposed Bylaws.

The objectives of the Section are: 1) To foster the use of spinal neurosurgical methods for the treatment of diseases of the spinal neural elements and spine; and 2) To advance spinal neurosurgery and related sciences to improve patient care, support meaningful basic and clinical research, provide leadership in undergraduate, graduate and continuing education, and promote administrative facilities necessary to achieve these goals.

The functions of the Section are: 1) To provide a forum for education and research on basic form and function of the spinal neural elements and spine toward the improvement of spinal neurosurgical procedures that alleviate human disease and suffering through treatment of the spinal disorders. With such consideration will be the surgical procedures used in the treatment of congenital-developmental, traumatic, neoplastic, degenerative, vascular, infectious-inflammatory, and toxic metabolic diseases of the spinal neural elements and spine.

I think that we have gone a long way in the Section toward achieving these objectives and functions under the past leadership of such outstanding neurosurgeons as Drs. Russell Hardy, Sanford Larsen, Stewart Dunsker and Edward Connolly. I have enjoyed having the opportunity to serve you in the vigorous and exciting activities of the Section as your Chairman this past year, and I look forward to serving you this next year.

Over the past year, the members of the Section have been involved in a variety of activities related to spinal neurosurgery. First, the Joint Section held its second Annual Meeting in San Diego at the Hotel del Coronado in February, 1986. The meeting was organized by Drs. Randall Smith, Annual Meeting Chairman, and Phil Weinstein, Scientific Program Chairman. It was attended by more than 320 participants. The meeting was very educational, and was enjoyed by all participants. Over 110 papers were submitted for presentation from which 50 were selected. Along with the invited speakers, these papers made possible an excellent scientific program at the Section's second Annual Meeting. Review of the comments and evaluation forms submitted by the participants indicate that the meeting was an outstanding success.

Given the success of our first and second Annual Meetings, the Section is planning the Third Annual Meeting of the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Spinal Disorders which will be held at the Boca Raton Club, Boca Raton, Florida in January, 1987.

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE JOINT SECTION ON SPINAL DISORDERS OF THE AANS/CNS, MAY 18, 1986

Present were: Drs. George W. Sypert, Chairman; Russell W. Hardy, Immediate Past Chairman; Stewart B. Dunsker, Chairman Elect; Edward S. Connolly, Treasurer; Carole A. Miller, Secretary; and Melville Roberts, Ex-Officio Member.

Absent were: Drs. Edward Tarlov, Treasurer-Elect; Volker K.H. Sonntag, Member-at-Large; and Phanor L. Perot, Member-at-Large Elect.

Also present at first phase of meeting: Mr. Carl Hauber and Ms. Peggy Podboy of the central office of the AANS.

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The Section welcomes all AANS and CNS members particularly interested in disorders of the spine.
For membership information, please contact: Carole A. Miller, M.D., Dept. of Neurosurgery, Ohio State University Hospital, 410 W. Tenth Avenue, Room N-947, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

Chairman's Message

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The meeting is being organized by Drs. Mel Roberts, Annual Meeting Chairman, and Volker Sonntag, Scientific Program Chairman. Our hope is to further improve our Annual Meeting, and make the third Annual Meeting an even greater success. The goals of our Annual Meeting are to provide high quality continuing medical education in spinal neurosurgery, and to have the meeting serve as a forum for the presentation and discussion of original contributions from neurosurgeons interested in spinal disorders. I think we are well on our way to achieving these goals. I would urge you to mark the meeting on your calendar, and hope for a large attendance and strong participation at this and future meetings of the Joint Section.

The Section continues to be involved in the planning and execution of the Scientific Programs of the Annual Meetings of the parent organizations, AANS and CNS. A major example is the Course on Thoracolumbar Spinal Stabilization which has been given at the 1983 and 1984 Annual Meetings of the CNS, and the 1984 Annual Meeting of the Southern Neurosurgical Society. This course has been so well received that it will be repeated at the 1986 Annual Meeting of the CNS in New Orleans. Also, the AANS Annual Meeting Program Committee requested our help in formulating specific educational activities on spinal disorders as part of the AANS Annual Meeting, held in April. An afternoon scientific session devoted to "Metastatic Spinal Disease" was held on Wednesday, April 16.

At the request of the AANS Board of Directors and the CNS Executive Committee, a Steering Committee of members of the Joint Section and members of the American Academy of Orthopaedics designed and implemented a jointly sponsored course on the "Management of Acute Spinal Injuries." The faculty was comprised of recognized experts in spinal surgery, one-half neurosurgeons and one-half orthopaedic surgeons. The four day course was held on December 2-5, 1985 at the Marriott Mountain Shadows, Scottsdale, Arizona. It was well attended with a very favorable response from the participants.

Another major project of the Section includes a series of monographs on spinal surgery being developed under the editorship of Drs. Stewart Dunsker and Henry Schmidek. The first volume of this series, "The Unstable Spine," has been published by Grune and Stratton, 1986. This excellent monograph is devoted to problems and lesions extending from the first thoracic to the last sacral vertebrae.

In addition, members of the Section have been active in the origination of major important clinical research programs on spinal disorders. Under the leadership of Drs. Sanford Larson and James Robertson, an NIH federally funded study of low back pain in industry has been instituted. This study should yield important new insights into the natural history and management of this major health problem. At the request of the Executive Committee

of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, the Section has implemented a "Prospective Lumbar Discectomy Study" under the leadership of Dr. David Kasdon. It is hoped that members of the Section will actively and rigorously participate in this important prospective study as it should provide important data on the current efficacy and risks of lumbar discectomy as practiced by neurological surgeons interested in spinal disease.

A new ad hoc committee on "Terminology and Criteria for Evaluation of the Results of the Treatment of Spinal Disorders" to be chaired by Dr. Donald Prolo has been formed. The task of this committee is to develop more uniform and scientifically rigorous terminology and criteria for the reporting of the evaluation and management of spinal disorders. If this committee is successful in achieving its missions and goals, substantial progress can then be made in further advancing our treatment of patients suffering various spinal disorders.

I believe that the Joint Section has made substantial progress in reaching our goals, and look forward to its further growth and development. We now have approximately 300 members with a sound financial base which should permit the emergence of a number of other Section activities. We would like to make the Joint Section on Spinal Disorders an exciting and dynamic organization for all neurosurgeons within the confines of our parent organizations. This will only be possible with the active participation of our members. We hope that as many of the membership as possible will involve themselves in the Section's activities. In order to further involve our membership and improve our executive and committee functions, a major revision of the Section's Bylaws has been accomplished and unanimously passed by the membership last year. We welcome any and all suggestions for future activities of the Section. We further would encourage you to volunteer your help with any of our present and future programs. If there are specific areas or activities in which you wish to participate in the Section, please feel free to let me or the other members of the Board of Directors know what they are, so that we can involve you in the activities of the Section.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in January, 1987 at the Boca Raton Club, Boca Raton, Florida for the Third Annual Meeting of the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Spinal Disorders.

**THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
JOINT SECTION ON SPINAL DISORDERS**

January 13-17, 1987

Boca Raton, Florida

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 1987

Obtain abstract forms from:

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