

Meeting Minutes of the Executive Committee
AANS/CNS Joint Section on Disorders of the Spine and the Peripheral Nerves

Philadelphia Marriott
Monday, September 23, 2002 12:15 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Nevan Baldwin.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph T. Alexander, M.D., F.A.C.S.; Ronald I. Apfelbaum, M.D.; Nevan G. Baldwin, M.D.; Edward C. Benzel, M.D.; Charles L. Branch, M.D.; Tanvir F. Choudhri, M.D.; Curtis A. Dickman, M.D.; Darryl J. DiRisio, M.D.; Richard G. Fessler, M.D.; Peter Gerszten, M.D.; Ziya L. Gokaslan, M.D.; James D. Guest, M.D.; Regis W. Hajd, Jr., M.D.; H. Louis Harkey, M.D.; Robert F. Heary, M.D.; R. John Hurlbert, M.D., PhD; Allan D. Levi, M.D., PhD; Paul C. McCormick, M.D.; Mark McLaughlin, M.D.; Rajiv Midha, M.D.; Stephen L. Ondra, M.D.; Christopher G. Paramore, M.D.; Daniel Resnick, M.D.; Gerald E. Rodts, M.D.; and Christopher I. Shaffrey, M.D.;

GUESTS: James R. Bean, M.D.; Stewart B. Dunsker, M.D.; Mitchell R. Gropper, M.D.; Mark N. Hadley, M.D.; Allen H. Maniker, M.D.; Ms. K. Orico; and Gregory R. Trost, M.D.

We reviewed the minutes from the Monday, April 8, 2002 meeting. Corrections were noted and the minutes approved.

A. OLD BUSINESS

1. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's report was presented by Mr. Engelbreit and Dr. Rodts. We reviewed the budget and the finances of the Section. The cost savings associated with fellowship advertising were detailed. Projected revenues for fiscal year 2003 were presented at \$116,000.00. The Section grants appear to be budget neutral. The budget for the Section meeting in February 2003, as approved by the Executive Committee in April, was also reviewed.
2. SPORT Study. The SPORT Trial Outcome Study was reviewed by Dr. McCormick. There continues to be an interest on the part of Neurosurgery to present to the public an alternative trial that would more accurately represent spine care. Dr. McCormick proposed that the Section, could in fact, acquire data through a more cost-effective way than the SPORT trial. He also reviewed the concerns with the SPORT Outcome data that were affected by the study design. Dr. Dunsker also commented on the impact of the flawed SPORT study. Dr. Fessler reported that the position of the NASS with regard to the SPORT trial was also under consideration.

Dr. Mark Hadley presented a proposal for a Spinal Stenosis Outcome Study and the basic protocol was distributed to the members. This study involves a rigorously selected group of patients study designed to validate the benefit of surgery in the most profound spinal stenosis patients. The consensus was that this was a very reasonable proposal and the Executive Committee approved conceptual funding of this trial with \$40,000.00 from the Joint Section and then a proposed \$20,000.00 both from the CNSS and AANS. Dr. Resnick made a motion to support this study and its funding. Discussion ensued with some concerns about the validity of the trial being weakened by self-funding. Drs. Hadley and others indicated that a clean study would overcome this potential flaw.

Actions. The motion was approved to fund the study as proposed. Drs. Hadley and McCormick will pursue further development and report at the next meeting.

3. World Spine II. World Spine II activity was discussed by Dr. Benzel. There is a concern with the early abstract submission date that could not be rectified. Another issue continues to be the contract with NASS; it has not been finalized.

Actions. Dr. Baldwin will continue to work with NASS to finalize the financial details and accountability. The algorithm for determining how to split or share the risk and reward of this venture was mandated as well. Dr. Branch moved and Dr. McLaughlin seconded the motion that we finalize the contract with NASS with an equal sharing of net revenue or loss. There will be a consideration for an endowment of World Spine III based on the fiscal health of World Spine II.

4. Cervical Spine Research Society (CSRS). The Cervical Spine Research Society proposal was reviewed by Dr. Apfelbaum. He requested that the Section consider joint educational ventures with the CSRS. He will have the Education Committee consider and propose opportunities.

5. The Awards Committee Report was presented by Dr. Paramore. At this time not many requests for awards. He will send letters to program directors and fellowship directors soliciting entries for the award positions. The Executive Committee discussed the actual awards and there is some confusion with regard to naming. The Cloward Award is primarily funded by Medtronic/Sofamor, Danek. The Sonntag Award is primarily funded by Synthes and Asculap. The Larson Award is funded by DePuy Acromed and Codman.

Actions. Discussion continued about advertising fellowship awards. Drs. Paramore and Gokaslan will make appropriate advertisements for the

fellowship awards. The motion was made and passed to continue to solicit funding for additional awards.

6. Peripheral Nerve Task Force. The Peripheral Nerve Task Force questionnaire was reviewed by Drs. Midha and Maniker. This study validated the situation that the majority of the Spine Section members are not heavily involved in peripheral nerve surgical treatment.
7. Joint Section Member Services Dr. Baldwin presented a discussion regarding Members Services documentation.
8. American Board of Spine Surgery (ABSS). The American Board of Spine Surgery was discussed by Dr. Baldwin. The Joint Section will consider inviting an ABSS representative to the Joint Section to present their position and case. At this point, it appears that this group continues to function outside the parameters of Specialty Board structure.

Committee Reports

1. Washington Committee. The Washington Committee report was presented by Dr. Fessler. The current malpractice crisis is growing. Call for tort reform that is being responded to in Washington. The resident work hours issue is not likely to be modified. HIPPA continues to evolve. Dr. Fessler made the petition to support the Neurosurgical PAC.
2. Publications Committee. The publications affecting spine Section members were discussed by Dr. Baldwin. The Neurosurgical Focus will have topics including spinal tumors and revision spine surgery in the next several months.
3. Research Committee. The Research awards were reviewed by Dr. Guest. He proposes creating a standardized format for research awards submissions. He will present this at the Joint Section Meeting in February 2003. There are no guidelines currently enforced around the world, but he indicates the continued need to distinguish between the clinical and the preclinical research awards.

Annual Meeting. Dr. Baldwin reported on the upcoming Annual Meeting. At this time, the program and budget are in place and the proposal appears positive.

4. Exhibits Committee. The Exhibits Committee report was presented by Dr. McLaughlin. Discussion ensued regarding solicitation for exhibit space from pharmaceutical and ancillary companies. Dr. Haid reported that he was

working with companies to create real educational value for the contributors to the meeting.

Dr. Branch reported on a concern voiced by the AANS regarding the proximity of the Section meetings with the AANS Annual meeting and the consumption of the resources. The discussion followed validating the need to maintain the distinctiveness of the Spine Section meeting.

5. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee report was delivered. Recommendations to the Nominating Committee include: for President-elect, Dr. Rusty Rodts; for Treasurer, Dr. Tim Ryken; and for Member at Large, Dr. Joe Alexander. Dr. Heary moved and Dr. McLaughlin seconded the motion to accept this slate from the Nominating Committee.
6. Newsletter. The newsletter was discussed by Dr. Hurlbert. There were some distribution problems associated with the Neurosurgical News that affected the newsletter. Dr. Hurlbert will electronically distribute the newsletter via e-mail. Dr. Larry Koo will transition to the Newsletter Chair.
7. Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee report was presented by Dr. Gokaslan. They will continue to determine which awards will be funded by which company and then consider soliciting funds from companies for the half-page advertisements for these awards.
8. Outcomes/Guidelines Committee. Guidelines were presented by Dr. Resnick. There continues to be a discussion of the medical/legal implications of misinterpretation of guidelines as standards. The Section will develop the position statement that helps to clarify this.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Think First. Think First has expressed a need for funding from the Spine Section. Dr. Rodts will investigate this opportunity and report it at the meeting in February 2003.

Utah Rating Project

Discussion of the Utah Rating Book. There was a request from the Industrial Rating Board from Utah for assistance in improving or modifying their rating book.

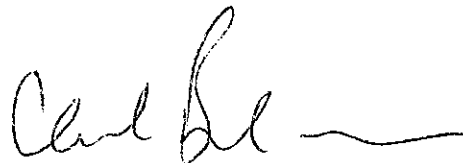
Actions. Dr. Baldwin will investigate this potential opportunity.

6.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the proposal for adjournment was made by Dr. Rodts and was seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles L. Branch", followed by a horizontal line.

Charles L. Branch, M.D.
Secretary

CLB:sal