

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
CNS/AANS Joint Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves
Sheraton Centre, Toronto, Ont, Canada
Monday, April 23, 2001

Dr. McCormick called the meeting to order.

Members present: Dr. McCormick, Dr. Dickman, Dr. Traynelis, Dr. Baldwin, Dr. Alexander, Dr. Branch, Dr. Ondra, Dr. Midha, Dr. Haid, Dr. Heary, Dr. Gokaslan, Dr. Harkey, Dr. Gerszten, Dr. Benzel, Dr. Przybylski, Dr. Rodts, Dr. Papadopoulos (conference caller), Dr. Nockels, Dr. Resnik, Dr. Fehlings, Dr. DiRisio, Dr. Rosenberg, Dr. Sonntag, Dr. Samudrala, Dr. Pait

Guests present: Dr. Winn, Dr. Maniker, Mr. Ron Engelbreit (AANS accountant) Ms. Susan Nowicki (AANS), Dr. Shaffrey

The minutes of the previous executive committee meeting (2/14/01) were approved.

Dr. Rodts and Mr. Engelbreit presented the financial report. Copies were provided to the executive committee members.

Dr. Dickman discussed the research endowment. He has consulted with Greg Willard, Esq. regarding the formation of the endowment fund. The joint section apparently can create a research endowment committee to oversee the fund. The tax-exempt status of the organization will remain intact. We are able to solicit funds from contributors. A motion for the officers of the joint section to work with the endowment committee to establish accounts and a distribution mechanism was made, seconded and passed.

Dr. Maniker discussed his proposed survey on peripheral nerves surgery. He discussed market trends with regard to neurosurgery and the need for information to formulate actions and initiatives. A cover letter and sample survey were reviewed by the committee and minor changes were suggested. By consensus, the committee favored Dr. Maniker's proposal.

Dr. Midha gave the peripheral nerve report. On April 22nd, ten specialists in peripheral nerve surgery met to discuss formation of a separate joint section. The consensus was that a peripheral nerve joint section should be formed in the future. To move toward that goal, a committee for the gathering of information, advocacy, education in peripheral nerve topics, and research has been formed. The committee will formulate their goals and initiatives and provide these to the executive committee.

Dr. Benzel reported that the World Spine 2 meeting would be announced at the plenary session on April 24th. The meeting brochure preparation is underway.

Dr. Sonntag delivered the AANS liaison report. The AANS executive committee voted their strong support for formation of a research endowment by the joint section. The AANS is also requesting that the joint section choose one of its members to serve as in

ex-officio member of the AANS executive committee. Dr. Sonntag also requested that the committee members supply written questions for the primary portion of the neurosurgery Board examination.

Dr. Heary presented the education committee report. He encouraged all members to write exam questions and stated that the education committee members have selected specific areas and will also prepare exam questions.

Dr. Heary presented the annual meeting report. The most recent annual meeting stands \$114,000 in the black by current accounting. This will be fairly close to the final tally. He also reported that the abstracts for the next annual meeting of the joint section will be provided to registrants on CD.

Dr. Alexander presented a brief outline of the program for the 2002 annual meeting.

Dr. Traynelis presented the publication's committee report. He reviewed the materials shown in the agenda booklet.

Washington committee: no report due to the absence of Dr. Fessler

Dr. Papadopoulos reported that the 2003 annual meeting will be held at the Saddlebrook resort near Tampa. The 2004 meeting will probably be at the San Diego Marriott hotel. The 2005 site is undecided.

Membership committee: no report due to the absence of Dr. Lauryssen.

Nominating committee: no nominations needed at this time.

Dr. Winn then presented the issues regarding fellowship credentialing. He reviewed the differences between accreditation and certification. The organizations supporting these two processes were also described. A fellowship specifically requires the learning of a new body of knowledge and duration of at least 12 months. Those specific fellowship requirements are from the ACGME. The position of the various political organizations affecting medical practice, from state societies to specialty societies was reviewed. Dr. Winn stated that the current goal is to have a fellowship accreditation program in place within one year. There was extensive discussion regarding privately maintained fellowships, combined orthopedics/neurosurgical fellowships, and integration with the NASS fellowship matching program.

Dr. Gerszten presented the report of the outcomes committee. A set of minutes from the most recent meeting of the committee was submitted. A number of initiatives and goals are being formulated by the committee.

Dr. Przybylski reported no new business.

Dr. Gokaslan reported no new business

The meeting was then adjourned.