

Minutes  
Joint Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Monday, October 16, 1995  
San Francisco, Hilton and Towers  
Union Square Room 12  
6:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Charlie Branch, David Cahill, Curtis Dickman, Richard Fessler, Kevin Foley, Mark Hadley, Arnold Menezes, John McGillicuddy, Steve Papadopoulos, Gary Rea, Vince Traynelis, Russell Travis.

Guests Present: Robert Florin

The meeting was called to order by Arnold Menezes.

Approval of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from April 24, 1995 without modification

Treasurer's report was reviewed. The Section has a positive financial balance of approximately \$500,000. This is due in a large part to the success of the 1995 Annual Meeting which posted a positive balance of \$92,000. Discussion was initiated regarding the application of moneys for research, guidelines formation, and communications.

Bob Florin discussed the formation of a spine guidelines.

The potential application of Neurosurgery On Call was discussed. The Spine Section has a page on the Neurosurgery On Call program and this will be edited and maintained by Gary Rea. Dr. Florin also discussed the changes in CPT coding. He made the committee aware of the decreased reimbursement, particularly for instrumentation. The new coding was reviewed and will be instituted in January 1996.

The nomination committee presented nominations for Chairperson Elect and Member-at-Large for the 1996-97 term. The nominations are: Richard Fessler, Chairperson Elect; and Mark Hadley, Member-at-Large. This will be placed for vote at the Annual Business Meeting in Orlando in February, 1996. The current membership of the Nominating Committee is Gary Rea and Richard Saunders. Dr. Menezes will arrange a third appointee.

Rules and Regulations Committee was formulated by Dr. Menezes. Mark Hadley will chair this committee. David Cahill and Gary Rea will additionally be members of this committee. Dr. Hadley was charged with review of all current rules and regulations and make a presentation at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Future sites was reported by Steve Papadopoulos. The 1996 meeting will be at the Disney Yacht Club February 28-March 3, 1996. The 1997 meeting will be at the Newport Beach Marriot, February 19-22, 1997. The 1998 meeting will be at the Westin Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage, California, February 11-15, 1998. The 1999 meeting continues to be under consideration. Dr. Papadopoulos expressed difficulty maintaining the meeting in a "Resort." The size of the meeting has expanded significantly and we will have to consider convention center affiliated hotels in larger cities. The executive committee expressed the desire to maintain the "flavor of the meeting" in a resort atmosphere in February. The possibilities of a winter ski meeting was considered without significant enthusiasm. Under consideration for the 1999 meeting is the Registry in Naples, Florida and the Boca Raton Resort and Club in Boca Raton, Florida. The meeting in the year 2000 will be in either Arizona or California.

The 1996 Annual Meeting report was given by Dr. Dickman. Site preparation for the meeting in Orlando is complete and the Scientific Program has been confirmed. A proposal was made for a special supplement to Spine from the Joint Section Annual Meeting. This proposal would include selection and publication of 30-40 submitted papers at the meeting.

AANS/CNS Meeting report was given by Dr. Cahill. The Spine Section Session at the current CNS meeting is entitled Rules and Regulations of Spine Surgery. The AANS meeting in 1996 will have a symposium on Endoscopic Spinal Surgery. A proposal for the 1996 Congress meeting will be brought to the Executive Committee in February 1996.

Research Committee Report was given by Dr. Fessler. One application was received for the study of cervical spondylitic myelopathy from Richard Saunders. This application was distributed for evaluation by the Research Committee. Recommendation was made to submit the grant to C.O.S.I.N. for critique. Kevin Foley was appointed to the Research Committee to succeed Richard Toselli.

Newsletter report was given by Dr. Rea. Two newsletters are anticipated for the following year. The Spine Section Newsletter will be published on the Neurosurgery On Call. Dr. Rea will be the Editor of the Spine Section portion of Neurosurgery On Call.

COSS Meeting Report was given by Dr. Menezes and Dr. Benzel. Four representative of the Joint Section went to the COSS meeting. Dr. Menezes, Dr. Benzel, Dr. Sonntag and Dr. Papadopoulos attended the recent COSS meeting. Vince Traynelis will attend the COSS Outcomes meeting. David Cahill and Kevin Foley will attend the COSS meeting at NASS this week. The Joint Section is monitoring the role in COSS and will report to the AANS and the CNS. A "observer status" will be maintained in COSS. Currently the section Chairperson, Past Chairperson, Secretary, and Chairperson Elect will attend all COSS meetings. Expenses will be paid by the Spine Section.

The letter from Dr. Tolchin regarding instrumentation privileges was reviewed. A document had previously been prepared by Dr. Foley and Dr. Klara. Dr. Foley and Dr. McGillicuddy will review this document with proposed changes to be presented at the next Executive Committee meeting.

A letter from Dr. Rosomoff regarding deletion of membership dues for senior members was discussed. Dr. Hadley will report on the possibility of incorporating this in the rules and regulations.

A letter from Dr. Camarata was discussed which requested a liaison from the Young Neurosurgeons AANS committee to be present on the Joint Spine Section Executive Committee. It was felt that this was not necessary due to the considerable involvement of Young Neurosurgeons on the current Executive Committee.

Pat Hitchon was appointed to represent the Joint Section on the Devices and Drugs Committee.

Lumbar Outcome/Neurosurgery On Call report was given by Dr. Toselli. The Outcomes data will be placed in a Central Database accessible by the Neurosurgery On Call Server. It is anticipated that an outcome function will be in place within the year of 1996. Outcome with regards to lumbar herniated disc and lumbar stenosis will be the initial effort. It is anticipated that there will be a uniform spine outcomes measurement instrument developed by NASS, AAOS, etc.

An update as to the litigation status regarding pedicle screws was given by Dr. Dickman. Dr. Fessler proposed to communicate with the Academy of Advancement of Science, the AMA and the Neuroscience Society in order to promote official stances on confidentiality of scientific data which is being threatened by the judicial motion to release the master file from the historical cohort study.

The meeting was Adjourned by Dr. Menezes.

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