

Minutes for Spine Section Executive Committee Meeting
March 9, 2011
Phoenix, AZ

Members Present: Members Present: Michael Groff, Adam Kanter, Praveen Mummaneni, Daniel Lu, Michael Rosner, Justin Smith, Christopher Shaffrey, David Okonkwo, Joe Cheng, John Hurlbert, Charles Kuntz, Eric Potts, Dan Sciubba, Jim Rutka, Christopher Getch, Paul McCormick, Tanvir Choudhri, Zo Ghogowala, Bob Heary, Marjorie Wang, Daryl Fourney, Paul Anderson, Michael Steinmetz, Peter Angevine, Ziya Gokaslan, Reg Haid, Mike Kaiser, Joe Alexander, Iain Kalfas, Kevin Foley, Frank LaMarca, Katie Orrico, Charley Sansur, D. Kojo Hamilton, John Knightly, Eric Woodard, Michael Wang, Langston Holly, Dan Resnick, Chris Wolfla

Guests: Katie Orrico, Chris Getch, Paul McCormick, James Rutka, John Jane Sr., Nelson Oyesiku

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Gokaslan at 0800

1. Secretary's report M. Groff /P. Mummaeni
 - a. Update of email list and contact info
 - b. Review and approval of minutes – Dr. Gokaslan called meeting to order at 0800. Dr. Kuntz motioned for approval. All approved.
 - c. Review EC grid
 - New positions were approved
 - d. Informational items
 - 8:00 AANS and CNS update Jim Rutka and Chris Getch
 - Neuropoint Alliance NPA is up and running to gather outcomes data.
 - NREF – started a spine directed donation route to support spine research
 - JNS Spine – now has its own impact factor.
 - OREF and NREF have a preliminary agreement for study group management
 - Dr. Haid says a joint study group will be created. Paul McCormick, Chris Shaffrey, Ziya Gokaslan, Reg Haid, Charles Branch, Dan Resnick, James Rutka will all work on this.
 - The goal is to have multiple donors to have a multimillion dollar outcomes program run by NREF and OREF
 - 1/3 of the joint funds will be set aside for clinical comparative effectiveness research
 - OREF has a grants process for meeting planning and support for meetings and study groups. Zo Ghogawala, Paul Anderson, Marjorie Wang, Dan

Resnick, Praveen Mummaneni, Tanvir Choudhary will create an application.

- Insurance issues – Work Comp, Blue Cross and Blue Shield – AANS with Katie Orrico working with Joe Cheng to manage and communicate
- AANS-CNS relations – Next presidents will be McCormick and Wolfla
- Annual meeting AANS in Denver next month
- 11:00 Nelson Oyesiku discussed with the EC on NEUROSURGERY – spine section collaboration
 - Impact factor for NEUROSURGERY is 2.8, just below Spine Journal from NASS which is 2.9.
 - 30% of 2010 submissions to NEUROSURGERY were spine related.
 - NEUROSURGERY is networking with social media (Twitter)
 - Review process has been overhauled
 - More reviewers added to the pool
 - Decreased time to review
 - The reviewers and papers are now blinded
 - All articles published ahead of print
 - Reduction of delay to print times
 - Anti-plagiarism mechanisms have been put in place
 - CrossCheck screening as been implemented to identify plagiarism
 - CONSORT guidelines were adapted for clinical articles
 - PRISMA guidelines adopted for meta-analysis papers
 - Videos are downloadable to handheld phones
 - Videos on YouTube are free
 - Several EC members are on the spine review board for NEUROSURGERY – Dr's Wolfla, Matz, Resnick, Mike Wang
 - More reviewers are needed for Spine related issues.
 - Spine Supplements were difficult to access by members of the EC.
- 11:30 PM Mark Hadley – Cervical Spine Guidelines update
 - 90% of this work is finished and should be completed by the April AANS meeting
 - The project is on budget for \$15,000
 - There will be 23 topics addressed with current medical evidence
 - Dr. Hadley suggests that Jay Dhall become more intimately involved with the EC with guidelines activities.

- Where this work will be published – NEUROSURGERY vs JNS SPINE needs to be decided.
- Dr. Hadley will update us at the Denver meeting and ask for final approval from the EC.
- 12:00 PM John Jane – JNS – spine section collaboration
 - There is an increase of 50 spine submission sent to the JNS last year.
 - Online publications are now published 70 days after acceptance. This will be moved forward to 30 days from acceptance.
 - All the Spine Section abstracts have been published online in NS Focus – Dr. Holly is the liason
 - Dr. Jane has a health problem, and if he has a temporary disability then Dr. Oldfield will temporarily help with the JNS issues.
- SRS etext book (Praveen) – etext will be ready this spring, there is a charge for non SRS members to access it.

2. Treasurer's Report

J. Hurlbert

a. Review and approve budget

- The Outcomes Award budget will be up for renewal in 2012 for \$75,000 from Spine Section and \$75,000 from the Wallace Foundation –
 - Larson, Kline, Apfelbaum Awards did submit progress reports per Dr. Marjorie Wang
 - In the past, the Wallace foundation matched the Spine Section contribution for \$75,000.
 - In the future, 50% of the award will be provided up front and 50% will be provided after a satisfactory progress report and oral presentation at the Spine Section Annual Meeting.
 - Submission of the Outcomes manuscript will be encouraged to the JNS.
 - At next meeting, the EC will discuss whether or not to continue these awards pending the data that is presented at this meeting.
 - Option is to divert these funds to NPA in 2012.
- NeuroPoint Alliance is up for renewal for Spine Section contribution in 2012 - \$100,000 may need to contributed in 2012
- The history project has \$24,000 left that is unused.

b. Review Annual meeting reconciliation

3. New Business

- a. Spine Promotion and Advocacy Task Force – Reg Haid
- b. Appoint 3 members to N2QOD (Gokaslan / Wolfla) – Dan Resnick, Paul Matz, Zo Ghogawala are already on the N2QOD, the additional members will be Praveen Mummaneni, Dan Sciubba, Pete Angevine, and one alternate John Chi

- c. Web survey of exhibitors (cf NASS survey) – Exhibits cmte chaired by Mike Wang will organize this communication with the exhibitors for the Spine Section.
 - d. COI of the EC will be disclosed and documented. When conflicts arise then the members will recuse themselves. The SPC Cmte will manage the conflicts for the scientific program. Justin Smith as new rules and regs chair will help formalize this.
4. Old Business
- a. OREF/NREF Study groups -
 - b. CSRS collaboration – John Heller and Jeff Wang and Rick Sasso and Lee Riley will be speaking in a joint scientific practical course at this year's annual meeting.
 - c. AAOS – Per Dr. Paul Anderson, the next meeting is in San Francisco. New President is Dan Berry from Mayo Clinic. Chris Wolfla will communicate with the AAOS to see if collaboration is possible.
5. Committee Reports
- a. Annual Meeting D. Fournay, P. Mummanneni
 - 1. Significant shortfall due to decreased industry support.
 - a. Stryker has completely pulled its education grant
 - b. Revenues are down \$40,000 from last year (\$342,500) this year
 - c. Mike Wang will be new exhibits chair and will work to increase funding for next year
 - 2. SPC issues
 - 242 abstracts were reviewed per Dr. Fournay
 - All planners this year were vetted for conflicts
 - Practice gaps and knowledge gaps were developed for each session
 - Early submissions of 310 presentations were vetted by the Cmte members to ensure there was no conflict.
 - Geriatrics, Cervical symposium, and Deformity course attendees were sent surveys to assess what they have learned and what knowledge was transferred
 - Discussants were able to preview the powerpoint talks
 - Langston Holly has worked with NS Focus to publish the abstracts and Daryl Fournay will ensure that is eblasted to the memberships
 - Registration is on track to match last year
 - b. CPT J. Cheng, J Knightly
 - Bundled coding for ACDF has now started, this year there is a 8-10% reduction for a single level ACDF payment
 - 14% reduction in payment for a three level ACDF
 - Reimbursement per RVU has been decreased
 - Katie Orrico has sent out a letter to Aetna
 - Massachussetts has a tiered structure with teaching hospitals considered to be higher costs and patients will be charged more to have their surgery there

- Centers of excellence from the insurance carriers are greatly influenced by cost rather than outcomes
 1. Dr. Resnick - NASS is working to create an independent rating, does Spine Section want to participate?
 - Percutaneous lumbar laminectomy – a category 3 proposal was submitted per Dr. Cheng
 - Guidelines and evidentiary tables need to be set up to formalize the benefits of treatment paradigms.
 1. Discussion was held to assess if Spine Section should hire a person to help manage this – Dr. Cheng and Dr. Kaiser and Dr. Ghogawala and Katie Orrico will come up with a job description for this person.
 2. Guidelines are needed for minimally invasive spine surgery
 3. Mike Kaiser, Mike Steinmetz, Kojo Hamilton, Charles Sansur, Pete Angevine, Dan Sciubba, Karin Swartz, and John Ratliff will volunteer to be available within 48 hours to help Joe Cheng. Entire Spine Section EC will also be available to assist.
 - Regional and state cmtes would be helpful to assist with localized insurance issues – assignments can be made from the Spine Section EC members. Ask CSNS to help with this process.
- c. Exhibits P. Mummaneni, B. Subach
 Formation of a committee chaired by Mike Wang. An advisory component with Drs. Haid, Shaffrey, and Heary.
- d. Future sites I. Kalfas, E. Woodard
- 2012 Orlando Swan Resort
 - 2013 Phoenix JW Marriott
 - 2015 AAOS meeting my overlap with the Spine Section meeting dates, it is an option to push the Spine Section meeting off by a week to accommodate those dates. Dr Kalfas will take charge to set the meeting dates as needed to avoid conflicts with other groups
- e. Research and Awards Marg. Wang, A Kanter, D Scubbia
 Award recipients have been determined. (attached)
 Eblast to everyone that the new deadline will be Nov. 1 as the deadline for applications.
- f. Education Mike Wang/Frank LaMarca
- CNS meeting's spine scientific session was set up to focus on Complications was set up by Frank LaMarca.
- g. Guidelines M. Kaiser
- h. Outcomes Z. Ghogawala
- Site budget of NeuroPoint SD was reviewed. Enrollment for NeuroPoint SD has started. The outcomes award winners will be
- i. Peripheral nerve TF R. Spinner
- j. Publications L. Holly
- Expedited review invitations will be sent from JNS:Spine

- Outcomes awards winners will also be set up for expedited review.

Sanjay Dhall to liaise with the Red Journal (Neurosurgery)

Meeting abstracts published in Neurosurgical Focus

k. Public Relations

M. Steinmetz

- 2010 – comorbidities for spine surgery and outcomes of lumbar incidental durotomies were publicized and were picked up by public media.
- In 2011 – the AANS will publicize three spine papers to the press

l. Membership

P. Angevine

- Active membership is just under 1000 and is stable

m. Washington Committee

R. Heary (K. Orrico)

- \$75,000 was given by Spine Section to the Washington Cmte.
- Dr. Heary moved that the Spine Section should make continued donations to the Washington Committee.
- IPAB (independent payment advisory board) is part of the healthcare law – it will advise the administration on how to cut physician payments – Washington Cmte will make a push to repeal this

n. Fellowships

G. Trost/M. Wang

- Dr. Wolfla brought up the NS fellowship matching program. The Spine Section will work to formalize the process.
- CAST approved fellowships will participate in a neurosurgery matching process. This issue was discussed by Dr. Wolfla with the SNS, AANS, and CNS.
- The workgroup led by Dr. Wolfla and Dr. Wang will include the CAST officers and the CAST approved fellowship directors.
- An update will be provided at the AANS in April during the Spine Section EC meeting

o. Web Site

E. Potts

- Videos from NEUROSURGERY on YOUTUBE will be linked to the Spine Section's website
- Dr. Resnick motioned CNS will edit the videos from the Spine Section's annual meeting. And a new increased sum of \$10,000 total per year was approved for this to come from the Annual Operating Budget. This will be renewable each year.

p. CME

Marjorie Wang

- New SPC meeting will be held this Friday.

q. Nominating Committee

C. Shaffrey

- Will be updated in April
- Mike Wang will be new Exhibits Chair

r. Rules and Regs

T. Choudhri/Justin Smith

- Justin to work with Tanvir to update

s. Newsletter

M. Steinmetz, K. Eichholz

- No new info
- t. ASTIM J Coumans
 - Paul Anderson is the AAOS liason.
 - Otherwise Dr. Coumans is ill and we have no new info
- u. NREF Z. Gokoslan, E. Woodard
 - 40+ grants were submitted to the NREF. 10 grants were awarded. 2 were awarded for Spine issues – Univ of Wisconsin and New York Medical College
 - Dr. Ghogawala reviewed the grants
 - E-blasts will be sent to the membership to promote the NREF grants applications – Eric Potts will head this process
 - NREF will be invited to present at the next Spine Section EC – Ziya Gokaslan will update this issue at the AANS in April to inform the EC as to what is needed for a successful grant application.
- v. AANS PDP K. Foley, P. Johnson
 - No new issues
- w. Young Neurosurgeons comm. E. Potts, D. Sciubba
 - Dan Sciubba will update the issues at AANS in April
- x. FDA drugs and devices J. Alexander
 - Paul Anderson discussed metal on metal complications related to cobalt chrome from spine implants and has liased with the FDA to assess the impact of this for patients
 - Do patients having dental procedures need prophylactic antibiotics? This issue is being discussed with the FDA by Paul Anderson. John French from AANS is also presenting on this issue.
 - Joe will update further issues at the AANS in April
- y. Inter-Society Liaison M. Rosner
- z. Spinal Deformity training D. Sciubba
 - Does this need to be looked into by the RRC? Mike Rosner will discuss this issue with the SNS and Nick Barbaro.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at

Respectfully submitted, Praveen Mummaneni, Secretary.