

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

**Westin Tabor Center, Denver, CO
Monday, October 20, 2003 at 8:00 a.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Regis Haid, Jr.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Joseph Alexander, Dr. Ronald Apfelbaum, Dr. Nevan Baldwin, Dr. Edward Benzel, Dr. Charles Branch, Jr., Dr. Tanvir Choudhri, Dr. Curtis Dickman, Dr. Darryl DiRisio, Dr. Regis Haid, Jr., Dr. Robert Heary, Dr. John Hurlbert, Dr. Mark McLaughlin, Dr. Rajiv Midha, Dr. Stephen Ondra, Dr. Stephen Papadopoulos, Dr. Daniel Resnick, Dr. Gerald Rodts, Jr., Dr. Timothy Ryken, Dr. Christopher Shaffrey, Dr. Gregory Trost, Dr. Christopher Wolfla.

Guests: Mr. Ron Engelbreit, Dr. Holly Gilmer-Hill, Dr. Praveen Mummaneni, Dr. Sam Hassenbusch.

Dr. Haid called the meeting to order at 8 a.m. Dr. Branch reviewed the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting from Monday, April 28th. A motion to approve was made and seconded.

CPT COMMITTEE

The first order of business was a presentation from the CPT Committee by Dr. Sam Hassenbusch. He reminded us that this was primarily a service committee and that we, as the Executive Committee, should continue to interact in a way that gave the committee the directives to pursue in the various coding and regulatory environments. He indicated that a Lateral Extracavity code should be published in January of 2004, a Minimally Invasive ALIF code may be published in January, 2005 as a test case. The Re-Do Laminectomy or Exploration codes 63043 and 63044 are currently under survey by the Section members and will be presented at the next RUC.

There is some concern about the peripheral nerve codes and whether they are value-appropriate. A survey is being carried out in multiple Societies. Dr. Raj Midha indicated that we'll start with a survey of a small group to pick the codes that need review, and Dr. Gilmer-Hill and Dr. Allen Maniker will be working with him in this effort. There was some concern about the ENT use of the Brachial Plexus Exploration code.

Discussion continued about a Kyphoplasty code and Dr. Hassenbusch indicated that it will be at least 2007 or possibly 2010 before this can be resolved.

Dr. Haid addressed the Committee and proposed the creation of two ad hoc committees to provide information and facilitate interaction between the CPT Committee and the Spine Section regarding coding. One ad hoc committee will be composed of Drs. Bob

Heary, Mark McLaughlin, Praveen Mummaneni, and Joe Alexander. This group will

address the Kyphoplasty code issue. A second ad hoc committee was created to focus on arthroplasty. This group will be composed of Dr. Steve Papadopoulos, Dr. Greg Trost, Dr. Rick Fessler and Dr. Fred Geisler.

Dr. Hassenbusch indicated that a code for laminoplasty has been submitted and it will possibly be published here within the next year. Dr. Haid thanked Dr. Hassenbusch for his efforts and the efforts of the CPT Committee on behalf of the Spine Section.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron Engelbreit validated the financial statement that was included in the agenda packet. Overall, this was a very positive financial year. There was both positive net revenue from the annual meeting and from the investment portfolio. A recommendation was made to move \$250,000 out of cash short-term investments to a long-term investment pool. The Executive Committee reviewed and questioned Mr. Engelbreit over the expense and income report, and the budgeting process for 2004 was explained.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. World Spine II Report: Dr. Benzel reported on the World Spine II effort. There were just over 1000 registrants. The preliminary indication is that there will be \$15,000 to \$25,000 of net profit for the Spine Section. The World Spine Society was established at this meeting and there were nine directors, of which Dr. Benzel is the Chair. This will continue to maintain neurosurgery as a very high profile role in the world spine leadership. A further report on the Spine Section's role in World Spine III and in the development of an agenda for the World Spine Society will be reviewed at the March Executive Committee meeting.

2. Annual Meeting Request for Proposal: Dr. Haid indicated that the AANS, CNS and MCJ had submitted responses to the Requests for Proposal on the annual meeting to Dr. Haid. He proposed that an ad hoc committee of himself, Dr. Branch, and Dr. Lou Harkey review these proposals and make their recommendation to the Executive Committee at the meeting in March.

3. Research and Awards Ad Hoc Committee: Dr. Branch reviewed the work product of the Research and Awards Committee. The outline included in the Agenda book was discussed and several modifications made that will be incorporated. Salient points include the mandate that there would be no indirect funding to institutions for any of the research grants, and that the eligibility for research funding should be limited to Section members. With regard to the fellowship funding, we will clarify the uniqueness of a post-graduate fellowship and a resident fellowship with the fellowship preference going to applicants who have completed the training. The one-year award will be made to the sponsoring program. We also indicated that the applicant should be either ABNS or RCPS-eligible. With regard to the international fellowships, these will be selected and the participant will engage in that fellowship experience in the time frame that is

contiguous with the annual Section meeting so that the benefit of the annual meeting may be accrued to the recipient as well. Payment of the fellowship will be made to the named recipient. With the Executive Committee's approval of these modifications, Dr. DiRisio of the Rules and Regulations Committee was directed to create the process for appropriate Section membership approval of these changes at the March annual meeting.

4. Speaker Registration Waiver: Dr. Shaffrey reinstituted the discussion based upon some communication that he had in anticipation of the annual meeting. The current policy, in summary, is that the Section will not waive a Section member's registration fee for the annual meeting even when that person is making a presentation at the meeting. A short discussion regarding this rule and some of the implications followed. It was determined that the annual meeting Chair does have some prerogative in the enforcement of this rule, but that the Executive Committee affirms current policy.

5. Spine and Fellowships: Dr. Alexander reviewed some of the challenges that are currently being addressed. There will be a meeting of spine fellowship directors at the North American Spine Society meeting, and based on this meeting and other communications in the ensuing months, he will make a report at the Executive Committee meeting in March.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Annual Meeting Committee: Drs. Resnick and Shaffrey report that the preparations for the meeting are on track. The abstracts are being analyzed to avoid double submission for both the Section meeting and the AANS meeting as well. It appears on current analysis that this is not an issue but this will continue to be monitored.

2. Exhibits: Dr. McLaughlin indicated that the sales of exhibit space was on track, although it is early. He has a proposal for BMW to contract for exhibit space in our trial efforts at non-medical exhibitors.

3. Future Sites: Dr. Alexander reports that the contract for the meeting in Phoenix has been signed. Investigation of sites in Orlando for the 2006 meeting is underway. It appears that this is a very favorable environment. The site for the 2007 meeting has not been determined. There is some concern about competition with other meetings. The Executive Committee was presented with the concern that a strategic plan should be developed that might include attendance requirements by Section members, and the distribution of a survey to the membership regarding what the expectations for the annual meeting are.

4. Education Committee: The Spine Section's symposia and open paper presentations were moved to Monday and Tuesday for the Congress meeting, and we anticipate remaining in this time slot in the future.

5. Newsletter: Dr. Hurlbert is transitioning to Dr. Khoo, and he reports that this appears to be satisfactory.

6. Rules and Regulations: Nothing to report.

7. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee presented Dr. Daniel Kim as a Member at Large, and Dr. Bob Heary as the Chair Elect. These will be voted on by the membership at the business meeting in March.

8. Publications Committee: Dr. Traynelis was not present and Dr. Haid has asked Dr. Curtis Dickman to serve as the new Chair of the Publications Committee. This committee will continue to function as a liaison with *Neurosurgery* and the *Journal of Neurosurgery*. There is a discussion with the *Journal of Neurosurgery* for a special issue showcasing papers. There was discussion about the impact of publication in the *Journal of Neurosurgery Spine* versus a more directed spine publication. Based on the potential involvement of BMW automotive group with the Section, we may pursue the potential creation of a BMW spine paper award, and Dr. Dickman will pursue this concept with Dr. McLaughlin.

9. Web Site: Dr. Wolfla has secured a domain name: www.spinesection.org. He is entertaining web site proposals. He will be collecting Spine Section demographic and other data to begin the foundation of the web site. He has recruited the assistance of Dr. Trost and Dr. Resnick in this effort. Dr. Wolfla also presented two proposals on web site development. The Executive Committee approved his working with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates and approved a budget of \$2500 for development of a web site, and approximately \$600 annual maintenance fees and a \$600 hosting fee. This would result in a \$4,000 investment for the first year and approximately \$1200 to \$1500 per year ongoing maintenance requirement.

10. Guidelines Committee: Dr. Resnick indicated that a fusion guideline process is proceeding. The challenge now of where this will be published and in what format is being addressed. Drs. Regis Haid, Nevan Baldwin, and Curtis Dickman formed an ad hoc committee to evaluate the options for publication of these guidelines.

11. Membership Committee: Dr. Trost reported on a somewhat excessive number of delinquent members. These will be given one further opportunity to participate or will be dropped from the Section membership. The resident membership issue will be pursued. The major benefits include free membership in the Section, and eligibility for Section awards.

12. Public Relations Committee: The Executive Committee accepted the resignation of Dr. Glenn Pait as the head of the Public Relations Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

At the conclusion of the Committee reports, the grid for the future Executive Committee Chair appointments was reviewed. New Committee Chair appointments include Dr. Curtis Dickman, Publications Committee Chair, and Dr. Charlie Kuntz as the

Public Relations Chair. The final composition of the Awards and Fellowships Committee and the Chair will be developed by Dr. Haid and presented at the Executive Committee meeting in March. In the interim, Drs. Gropper and Guest will function as Co-Chairs with the two committees functioning as one during this cycle.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20.

Minutes submitted by:

Charles L. Branch, Jr., M.D.
Secretary

CLB/ajb