

Minutes of Spine Section Executive Committee Meeting
September 17, 2007
Washington DC

Members Present: Joe Alexander, Daniel Resnick, Charles Branch, Mike Groff, Charles Kuntz, John Hurlbert, Chris Wolfla, Mike Rosner, Marjorie Wang, Eric Potts, Mike Kaiser, Joe Cheng, Eric Zager, Allan Maniker, Peter Gerszten, Tanvir Choudhri, Zo Ghogowala, Robert Heary, Paul Matz, Steve Ondra, Mike Steinmetz, Paul McCormick, Pat Johnson, Ehud Mendel, Praveen Mummaneni, Chris Shaffrey, Mike Wang, Kevin Foley

Guests: Ron Englebreit, Katie Orrico

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Alexander at 12:30 pm.

1. Secretary's report D. Resnick
 - a) Minutes reviewed and approved
 - b) Updated Executive Grid and welcome new members
 - c) Updated email addresses
 - d) Informational items
 - Letterhead
 - Report to Parent Organizations
 - Washington Committee activities

2. Treasurer's Report C. Wolfla

- a) Reviewed and Approved Budget- overall the section has lost some money over the past year due to the NREF contribution. However, annual meeting performance was outstanding (thanks to the annual meeting team and exhibits and marketing) which offset most of this expense.
 - b) The section reimbursement form is included.

3. Committee Reports (see reports in agenda book)

- a) Annual Meeting J. Hurlbert/C. Kuntz

Annual meeting planning is well on its way to completion. Membership survey was very successful and over 150 members responded leading to new ideas for courses. Joe Cheng was thanked for his assistance with the survey process.

- b) CPT J. Cheng

Report is in agenda book. "MUE's" (medically unusual exceptions) are a new issue for the CPT committee to address. DRG issues related to acuteness of care and implant classification are areas of active investigation. CHAMPS was also described. A question

regarding the section's position of coding of cervical disc arthroplasty was raised- no one on the executive committee was aware that the AANS/CNS CPT committee (though the Washington Committee) was supporting a category one code for the procedure. Katie Orrico offered to investigate this and provided a CPT report prepared by Pat Jacobs regarding this topic. Closer communication between the CPT committee and the section was requested and should be forthcoming as Joe Cheng is moving to the Washington Committee this year while maintaining a seat on the spine executive committee.

c) Exhibits

J. Knightly/P. Mumanneni

no report

d) Future sites

I. Kalfas

The "Shingle Creek" resort has been chosen for 2010. Report in agenda book. Discussion of succession and institutional memory regarding future sites occurred- those interested are to let leadership know.

e) World Spine

E. Benzel

No report

f) Research and Awards

P. Gerszten

g) Education

M. Groff

See attached report. Liaison with AANS PDP and the Pain section have occurred and we are cooperating to develop content for various symposium (neither the section nor the CNS are sponsoring these CME activities).

h) Guidelines

P. Matz/M. Kaiser

Cervical myelopathy guidelines are reaching completion. The plan is to submit to the JGC for approval and then JNSG in the spring for peer review. The NASS lumbar radiculopathy effort was established with several executives participating. The AANS/CNS joint guidelines committee (JGC) has requested that thoracolumbar trauma be a topic for future investigation. The JGC will also review any guidelines that are sponsored by the AANS/CNS/Section. Questions related to who will pay for guidelines produced in conjunction with other sections at the behest of the JGC were raised. Dr. Resnick will contact JGC leadership to clarify policy.

i) Outcomes

M. Kaiser/Z. Ghogawala

Reports are in agenda book.

j) Peripheral nerve TF

A. Maniker

Allan Maniker was introduced and will assume duties as of today. Kline lecture will be Rothberg from the United Kingdom.

k) Publications

M. Wang

Sixty two manuscripts were submitted to JNSG from the section meeting. Issues related to getting a “section related” meeting journal together have been problematic. Dr. Shaffrey reported from the JNSG perspective. The main issue was the timing of submission and the needs of JNSG for an adequate number of submissions in a timely fashion. Several options were discussed. Details regarding which presentations were going to be invited and the overall process were discussed.

A motion was made to attempt to create a dedicated peer reviewed meeting issue of JNSG through cooperation between the publication and scientific meeting committees to guarantee a certain number of papers submitted by June 1st. This year extended abstracts will be requested at the time of acceptance for podium presentations. Next year extended abstracts will be required if expedited review for publication is desired.

This motion was approved. Dr. Shaffrey was asked to work with Dr. Wang to produce a reference document describing the submission process and codifying the arrangement for future reference.

l) Public Relations

M. Steinmetz

Mike Steinmetz reported that statements regarding SPORT and the Lumbar Fusion Outcomes project went out via eblast. Mechanisms to improve communication with our membership and with the public were described. The section’s desire to work with the Washington Committee and the AANS public relations committee was communicated to Katie Orrico.

m) Membership

M. Wang

284 members were delinquent in dues. A letter was sent and now we are down to 136 members. A second letter will be sent and termination notices sent 90 days thereafter. Free membership offer to neurosurgical spine or peripheral nerve fellows was discussed. Moved, and approved.

Greg Trost, Chris Shaffrey, and Steve Ondra will work with Marjorie Wang to develop a proposal for potential membership of orthopedic spine surgeons in the section including a description of what bylaws changes (if any) would be necessary, how JNSG worked an arrangement with the AANS to allow Alex Vaccaro (an orthopedic surgeon) to become a member, and what our parent organizations think about such an arrangement.

n) Washington Committee

K. Orrico

Katie Orrico summarized some of the Washington Committee efforts regarding coding and reimbursement, interactions with the CMS, and projects related to P4P. She briefly described the CHAMP legislation and then answered questions from the executives.

o) Fellowships
No report

P. Mummaneni

p) PAC
No report.

S. Ondra

q) Web Site

J. Cheng

Logo contest- submission 3 won- the winning logo will be spruced up and presented to the general membership for vote on whether or not to use the logo. Dr. Cheng requested an allocation of \$8000 to record section meeting. This motion passed.

r) CME

E. Mendel

No report- Dr. Mendel will be tasked with interacting with the CNS education committee to clarify CME process.

s) Nominating Committee

C. Branch

Dr. Chris Shaffrey has been nominated for president-elect, Dr. Michael Groff for secretary, and Dr. Eric Zager as member at large. Mark McLaughlin was nominated to fill Dr. Shaffrey's MAL spot. Members of the nominating committee included Drs. Branch, Rodts, Trost, and Midha. The slate was approved by the executive committee. Dr. Resnick will ask Dr. Cheng to communicate this slate to our membership via the website and via eblast in a timely fashion prior to the annual meeting. .

t) Rules and Regs

T. Choudhri

Updated bylaws were not received in time for review. The only changes are related to committee membership restrictions and reflect the desire of the EC to grant committee chairmen flexibility in designing their committees. These will be distributed by Dr. Choudhri to the spine exec for approval within next month.

u) Newsletter

M. Groff

Newsletter going out via CNS Q.

v) ASTIM

G. Trost

no report

w) NREF	J. Guest
no report	
x) AANS PDP	M. Groff
see education report	
y) Young neurosurgeons committee	E. Potts
no report	

4. Old Business

<u>Updates Only:</u> CME Issues	D. Resnick
Nothing new to report	
Industry Relationships	C. Branch
Done and approved in April	
Past President's Council	J. Alexander
Tabled until spring	

<u>Issues to Discuss</u> Liaisons	M. Rosner
--------------------------------------	-----------

Steve Ondra reported progress in establishing communication channels with the SRS, issues related to joint membership.

Lumbar Fusion Task Force	D. Resnick
--------------------------	------------

Dr. Resnick presented a request for section support of the lumbar fusion task force (see documentation in agenda book) via letter of intent and commitment to fund \$10,000 if required for support of administrative or consultative support.

The role of this task force and the role of the senior advisory committee in participating in this process was discussed.

This motion was seconded and approved.

New Business:

Bone and Joint Representative

M. Wang

Mike Wang reported on his participation in the Bone and Joint Initiative as a representative of the AANS.

ABNS Request for Comment

J. Alexander

See documentation in agenda book.

Drs. Branch and McCormick presented the ABNS request for input from the section regarding resident training. A discussion ensued. Overall, a favorable opinion regarding option 3, the “Recognition of Focused Practice” certificate earned by MOC participation, spine section membership, and case submission to the ABNS to document such focused practice was expressed. Concerns related to residency training were expressed by many committee members and there was reticence to abandoning generalized neurosurgical training as a pre-requisite for neurosurgical certification. Also, concerns regarding potential reverse liability if a “spine recognized” neurosurgeon does intra-cranial work were discussed. Finally, the concept that “neurosurgery is spinal surgery” was discussed and the purpose of such certification was questioned.

It was moved that the spine section advise the ABNS that it does not support options one and two. This motion was approved.

It was moved that the spine section executive committee appoint a task force to examine option 3, develop recommendations, and communicate to the overall executive committee for approval or disapproval by electronic vote prior to January 1st. Robert Heary will chair this task force.

This motion was approved.

Members: Heary, Alexander, Groff, Matz, Kaiser, Wolfla, Johnson

3) FDA approval for off label uses of alternatively approved devices (eg lateral mass screws)

Dr. Heary proposed that the section pursue solicitation of the FDA regarding adding lateral mass screw indications. Drs. Alexander, Heary, Ghogowala, and Wang will participate.

4) Executive committee meeting times

A plan to move the fall spine exec meeting to Sunday 8-12 am was made and was favorably received. While this will require all executives to arrive a day earlier, the activities of the section have grown substantially and more time is required to adequately

discuss important initiatives. Dr. Kaiser will communicate with the CNS PC committee to minimize spine content on Sunday morning. Dr. Resnick will request appropriate space at the time of the next CNS meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Daniel K. Resnick, Secretary.