

AANS/CNS SECTION ON DISORDERS OF THE SPINE AND PERIPHERAL NERVES



A Section of
The American Association of Neurological Surgeons
and
Congress of Neurological Surgeons



Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the CNS/AANS Joint Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves

Renaissance Esmeralda Resort
February 20, 2000

Members present: Traynelis, Belzberg, Zucker, Perin, Heary, Dickman, McCormick, Rodts, Samudrala, Hurlbert, Haid, Ryken, Baldwin, Papadopoulos, Fehlings, Foley, Branch, Pait, Fessler, Przybylski, Cuddy, Hollowell

Guests Present: Dr. S. Dunsker, Mr. D. Fellers (AANS)

Dr. Traynelis called the meeting to order.

Dr. Dunsker spoke regarding the neurosurgical initiative to publish a supplement in *USA Today* to raise public awareness regarding the specialty of Neurosurgery. A membership dues assessment of one hundred dollars per member will be added for all AANS members. Dr. Dunsker requested that the Joint Section contribute twenty thousand dollars as an investment to further the objectives of Neurosurgery. A total project cost of \$325,000 is expected and the target date is April 7th 2000. The supplement will consist of eight pages which will include six pages of text and two pages of advertising. Funds to be recovered through the sale of advertising on will help defray the cost of the project. The cost of advertising space is not yet determined. Dr. Dunsker pointed out that the supplement will stress the areas of cerebrovascular surgery and spinal Neurosurgery. Bob Heary will serve as this Joint Section's representative to the project.

Mr. Fellers agreed to distribute reprints of the *USA Today* supplement and send them to every health writer in United States.

A motion to approve the twenty thousand-dollar contribution to the *USA Today* supplement project was initially approved by consensus vote. Dr. Papadopoulos then requested a vote of the voting members of the executive committee and the motion was defeated. Dr. Traynelis will inform Dr. Dunsker.

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MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Charles L. Branch, Jr., MD
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Lloyd Zucker, MD

CHAIRPERSON ELECT

Curtis A. Dickman, MD

The minutes of the last executive committee meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report: Dr. Dickman reported that there are now 1,025 active members of the joint section. He also noted that there are less than one hundred resident members. Detailed information regarding the investments of the section was presented. The investments are generally not matching the performance of the S&P 500 index. A review of revenue and expenses was presented and in conclusion Dr. Dickman stated that this is the best year of growth to date for the section.

The annual meeting reports for 1999 and 2000 were covered. The theater-in-the-round presentations as well as a half-day of recreation appear to be successful features for the meeting. Dr. Ryken stressed that the challenges of the next meeting include increasing resident participation and increasing overall attendance. A post meeting course for residents is planned as well as a case presentations session. A new experiment this year will involve 10 minute advertising slots billed as "Infomercials".

Dr. Traynelis has selected Dr. Arnold Menezes as this year's Meritorious Service Award winner.

Dr. Pait is preparing a written history of the Joint section. Efforts will also be made to publish this in the Journal of Neurosurgery.

Discussion regarding PDP courses at Joint section annual meetings lead to a clear consensus that the Joint section meetings are off limits to the PDP.

Dr. Fessler presented an update on the Washington committee and on FDA regulatory issues. A motion was entertained to donate 50 thousand dollars to the Washington Committee. The motion was approved.

Research committee report: Dr. Fehlings selected Dr. Raj Midha and Dr. Bob Heary to join the research committee. He will choose an additional member at the annual meeting in February.

Guidelines committee: The spinal cord injury project is well underway and efforts continue to finish this project within a few months. Dr. Ryken reported that other focus areas include fusion of the lumbar spine, lumbar stenosis, and cervical myelopathy.

Futures sites: Dr. Papadopoulos reported that the Annual Meeting will be in Phoenix in 2001, and Orlando in 2002. The 2002 meeting will probably be at Disney but the contract is not yet signed.

A proposal to consider a "Super meeting" sponsored by multiple spine surgery organizations was entertained. This idea is apparently being considered by NASS, SNS, etc. Little enthusiasm was expressed for this idea but the committee will await further

feedback from the other organizations.

Nominating committee: Nominations including Paul McCormick for chairperson-elect, Rusty Rodts for treasurer, and H Louis Harkey for member-at-large were accepted by the committee. The membership will be notified of this slate in the newsletter and a vote will be held in February at the annual meeting.

Education committee: Dr. Foley presented the plan for the Joint section afternoon session during the AANS meeting in April.

As chairperson elect, Dr. Dickman has selected Robert Heary to become the new Education Committee Chairman starting in February 2000.

Dr. Traynelis reported that Medtronic will fund a fellowship for \$30,000.

Outcomes committee: Dr McCormick reported that data collection on the lumbar disc project is underway.

CPT committee: Dr. Hollowell reported that several codes are under consideration for revision. He presented an update on the situation regarding approach codes.

The "Senior Society" is considering drafting guidelines for a fellowship in peripheral nerve surgery. Dr. Traynelis will contact Dr. Winn for further information.

Several legislative issues were discussed. Regarding vertebroplasty, it was felt that the Joint section should prepare some credentialing guidelines to counter those presented by radiologists. Dr. Fessler will circulate the radiology document to Drs. Zucker, Foley, and Baldwin. These four individuals will then prepare a document to come from the Joint section. It was also decided that Louis Harkey will be asked to join the FDA advisory panel in addition to Dr. Fessler, who is already a member. Members were urged to send letters to the FDA regarding bone dowel regulation. A sample letter from Dr. Traynelis was included in the meeting booklet.

Dr. Branch asked for further discussion regarding the "Advertorial" in *USA Today*. It was agreed that further information should be sought and that the Joint section should be highly involved in this project. The issue will be reconsidered in February.

Respectfully submitted:



Nevan G. Baldwin M.D.
Secretary for the Section