

**Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting
AANS/CNS Joint Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves**

**JW Marriott Resort at Desert Ridge, Phoenix, AZ
March 8, 2005**

Attendees: C. Shaffrey, E. Zager, C. Branch, G. Rodts, M. Groff, J. Hurlbert, R. Apfelbaum, R. Midha, P. McCormick, K. Foley, D. Resnick, J. Alexander, T. Choudhri, C. Kuntz, P. Gersten, M. McLaughlin, J. Knightley, M. Kaiser, R. Haid, C. Wolfla, R. Heary, T. Ryken, S. Ondra, Z. Gokaslan.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Rodts at 8:15 am. He acknowledged the outstanding work by Drs. Shaffrey and Groff in preparation for this annual meeting.

The motion was made and passed to accept the minutes of the 10/04 meeting with the corrections acknowledging the attendance of; C. Wolfla, R. Heary, C. Shaffrey, M. McLaughlin, and J. Knightley.

Dr. Rodts recognized Dr. Mitch Gropper and expressed his and the section's sympathy at his untimely death on Dec. 18, 2004. Details of his obituary are included in the agenda book. Special recognition will be made to the section membership on Friday, March 11. A memorial fund has been established for the Section at his family's request.

Committee Reports

Annual Meeting – Dr. Shaffrey expressed his concerns over the lack of institutional memory at the AANS office that was burdensome to him and the Annual Meeting team. Dr. Rodts reported that there appears to be satisfactory registration and outstanding corporate support at this meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the solicitation of corporate sponsorship of three significant annual meeting functions. Three major corporate participants have been solicited to be identified as sponsors for the Executive Committee Dinner, Chairman's Dinner and the Young Surgeons Dinner. Drs. Groff, Shaffrey and Haid discussed concerns over the process of cementing a three year commitment from 3 sponsors for these events. The following proposal was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee; The section has decided to establish 3 year agreements with major sponsors in lieu of the current practice of reestablishing support yearly. This will pertain to the Exec Comm. Dinner, Chairman's Dinner and Young Surgeons Dinner and will require sponsorship at the 35, 40, and 45,000 level in each subsequent year.

Dr. Rodts then appointed an ad hoc committee to develop a formal prospectus and algorithm for this and other sponsorship opportunities. The Annual Meeting Sponsorship Committee will be chaired by Dr. Ron Apfelbaum and consist of R. Haid, R. Rodts, P. Gertzten, J. Knightly, M. Groff, M. McLaughlin, and will present their proposal to the Exec. Com. at the April AANS meeting.

Coding/CPT Committee – Bill Mitchell participated by conference call. He is currently the Section liaison to the Coding and Reimbursement Committee of the AANS. He reported on Arthroplasty Codes and the history of Tracking codes and the process for moving from Category 3 to Category 1 codes. Dr. Heary expressed his concern about not having approach codes. Dr. Mitchell gave the rationale for avoidance of approach codes.

Kyphoplasty codes will have Fluoro or CT separately reportable and the expected value for the Kyphoplasty code will be similar to Vertebroplasty. Spinal I and D codes for subfascial exploration will have a Cervical/Thoracic and a Lumbar/Sacral code. Brachial Plexus exploration codes may be brought forward as a new family of codes. The peripheral nerve task force should work with Drs. Cozzens and Jacobs on this effort.

The last item was notice that the 5 year review of many of the most frequently used codes will be undertaken by the CPT committee this summer. The section should identify the undervalued codes, be accurate when completing the surveys, and should consider looking at other codes to bring forward for review. After discussion Dr. Rodts created an Ad Hoc Committee to develop the strategy for this code review. Dr. Heary will chair the group which will include T. Ryken, J. Alexander, D. Resnick, P. McCormick, J. Piper, W. Mitchell, and E. Zager. This group will present a report at the next Executive Com. meeting in April.

Treasurer's Report – Dr. Ryken presented the financial statements of the section from the AANS treasurer. The continued growth in section finances is evident both from Annual Meeting revenue and investment income. Graphs are included in the agenda book.

Exhibits Committee – Dr. McLaughlin will turn over this responsibility to Dr. Knightley. All of the Exhibit space was sold for this meeting and there were several new categories of vendors. He encouraged the Exec Com members to thank exhibitors for their participation.

Future Sites Committee – Dr. Alexander indicated that the 2006 meeting will be at the Wyndham Resort adjacent to the Disney properties in Orlando, March 8-12. The site for the 2007 meeting has not been finalized.

Education Committee – Dr. Hurlbert reported on the topics for the Section sessions at the AANS meeting in 2005 which will focus on lumbar disc arthroplasty. Suggestions for a topic for CNS 2005 were solicited and the proposed topic will be Spinal Alignment and Outcomes. Dr. Rodts discussed a proposal from the AANS to include a satellite spine meeting with the AANS Annual Meeting in 2006. The motion was made and passed unanimously that the Section opposes this proposal.

A reminder was given that the next Section Executive Committee meeting will be on April 18 from 1-2:45 in Rm. 272 in the New Orleans Convention Center.

Newsletter – There was no report from L. Khoo. Some concern was raised due to the lack of a newsletter since December 2003. Dr. Rodts wished to thank Dr. Khoo for his

contributions and solicited recommendations for a newsletter committee chair. Dr. Julie York was nominated and will be appointed pending her acceptance. Dr. Hurlbert will forward newsletter templates and protocol to her for future use.

Rules and Regulations – Dr. DiRisio was not present but Dr. Branch reported that the changes approved by the membership in 2004 have been incorporated into the document. Current discrepancies center around two published algorithms for election of officers in the rules and regulations. Dr. DiRisio will be notified of these discrepancies in Articles 4 and 5 and commissioned to rectify.

Nominating Committee – Dr. Haid reports that the committee proposes Dr. Charles Branch as Chair Elect. Nominations were solicited for member at large positions; names included M. Kaiser, C. Kuntz, A. Levy, I. Kalfas, G. Trost, P. Johnson, P. Arnold, D. Forney. Dr. Rodts recognizing that the committee had one vacancy appointed Dr. Apfelbaum to assist the committee in delivering a nomination slate to the Annual Business meeting on Friday. In addition to the Chair Elect, and Member at Large, the Secretary position will require a nomination to fill the vacancy left with Dr. Branch's nomination to Chair Elect.

Dr. Rodts with the approval of the Exec Com appointed Dr. R. Midha, and Dr. R. Apfelbaum to begin terms on the Nominating committee in 2005. Midha for a 3 yr term and Apfelbaum for a two year term.

Research and Awards Committee – Again the Exec Com recognized the untimely passing of Mitch Gropper. Dr Rodts appointed Chris Wolfla to the chair of this committee. At this time the education committee is included in the roster of the research and awards committee. Dr. Wolfla will review and report on the committee membership so that it complies with the rules and regulations of the Section. The Award recipients for 2005 were noted and are published in the Annual Meeting Program.

Guidelines Committee – Dr. Resnick reported that the fusion guidelines have been completed and funded by the section. Sponsorship for publication is still being solicited. Dr. Rodts thanked Dr. Resnick for his effort upon the completion of his term as Chair. Dr. Paul Matz was appointed to Chair this committee. Current committee members include M. Groff, L. Khoo, A. Dailey, T. Choudri, M. Hadley, and B. Walters.

Publications Committee – Dr. Shaffrey reported that the Journal of Neurosurgery Spine wishes to continue its solicitation and publication of manuscripts from the Section Annual Meeting in a special edition later in the calendar year. This proposal was unanimously endorsed by the Exec Com with an ongoing approval.

Fellowship Committee – Dr. Alexander reports that a meeting of Fellowship directors will take place immediately following the Exec Com meeting and that a report will be forthcoming at the Exec Com meeting in April. It was noted that there is currently not a standing or ad hoc fellowship committee and Dr. Rodts appointed J. Alexander to chair this committee. The following were appointed to membership on the committee; S.

Ondra, C. Shaffrey, Z. Gokaslan, and C. Kuntz.

Outcomes Committee – Dr. Gersten asked to be relieved of the chair duty. Dr. Rodts appointed M. Kaiser and T. Choudhri as co-chairs of this committee.

Washington Committee – Dr. Rodts will be the Section liaison to the Washington Committee for 05-06.

Public Relations Committee – Dr. Choudhri reported on a desire to create a logo and queried if this was permissible by the parent organizations. He also indicated that this committee would handle newsletter responsibility if necessary.

The Section Executive Committee then entered into a period of discussion regarding the performance of the Annual Meeting service provided by the AANS. Major concerns were expressed by the Annual Meeting leaderships concerning not only quality of the service provided but regarding some perceived competitive or obstructive issues because of the proximity of the Section Annual Meeting to the AANS Annual Meeting. Dr. Rodts will communicate the Sections displeasure over these issues and request a meeting with Tom Marshall, Exec Director of the AANS to resolve or rectify these issues prior to the Section Exec Com meeting in April. The Section Exec Com proposes the creation of a separate administrative position outside of the AANS office to provide institutional memory to the Section and to direct annual meeting planning and perform other liaison services.

New Business

Dr Rodts presented a request from AANS membership regarding hyperhidrosis endoscopic procedure. No action was taken.

Integra Kline fellowship will be offered again and the corporate sponsorship solicited for a 5 year term.

Establishment of Section Archives in a private area of the website was proposed. We will accumulate prior minutes for digitalization and deposit into the website.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by:

Charles L. Branch Jr., MD
Secretary, Section Executive
Committee

Attachments include updated Exec Com leadership and committee membership grid.

Executive Committee
Officers and Committee Chairs
JOINT SECTION ON DISORDERS OF THE SPINE & PERIPHERAL NERVES
March 10, 2005

Position	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Chair	N.Baldwin	R.Haid	G. Rodts	R. Heary
Chair Elect	R.Haid	G.Rodts	R. Heary	C. Branch (nom)
Immediate Past Chair	P.McCormick	N.Baldwin	R. Haid	G. Rodts
Secretary	C.Branch	C.Branch	C. Branch	D.Resnick(nom)
Treasurer	R.Rodts	T.Ryken	T. Ryken	T. Ryken
Members at Large	H.L.Harkey R. Heary R. Apfelbaum	R.Heary R. Apfelbaum J. Alexander	D. Kim R. Apfelbaum J. Alexander	J. Alexander D. Kim K. Foley (nom)
Ex-Officio Members	D.Kim S. Zeidman	R. Heary Z. Gokaslan	Z. Gokaslan	Z. Gokaslan
Annual Meeting Chair	J.Alexander	D.Resnick	C. Shaffrey	M. Groff
Scientific Program Chair	D. Resnick	C. Shaffrey	M. Groff	M. McLaughlin
Exhibit Chair	M.McLaughlin	M.McLaughlin/Knightly	M.McLaughlin	J. Knightley
Future Sites	S.Papadopoulos	J. Alexander	J. Alexander	J. Alexander
Education Committee Chair	R.Heary	J.Hurlbert	J. Hurlbert	J. Hurlbert
CME Representative	T.Ryken	T.Ryken	T. Ryken	T. Ryken
Newsletter	J.Hurlbert	Hurlbert/Khoo	L. Khoo	J. York
Rules and Regulations Chair	D.DiRisio	D.DiRisio	D. DiRisio	D. DiRisio
Nominating Committee Chair	P.McCormick	N.Baldwin	R. Haid	R. Rodts
Research and Awards Committee Chair	C.Paramore		J.Guest	C. Wolfla
Publications Committee Chair	V.Traynelis	V.Traynelis	C. Dickman	C. Dickman
Web Site Committee Chair	A.Levi	Levi/Wolfla	C. Wolfla	C. Wolfla
Guidelines Committee Chair	D.Resnick	D.Resnick	D. Resnick	P. Matz
Membership Committee	C.Lauryssen	G.Trost	G. Trost	G. Trost
Outcomes Committee Chair	P.Gerszten	P.Gerszten	P. Gerszten	M. Kaiser T. Choudhri
CPT Committee	J.Piper G. Przybylski	W.Mitchell G. Przybylski	W. Mitchell	W. Mitchell R. Johnson
Peripheral Nerve Task Force Chair	R.Midha	R.Midha	R. Midha	E. Zager
Washington/FDA	R.Fessler	Fessler/McCormick	P. McCormick	R. Rodts
Section Rep.,P.A.C.	S.Ondra	S.Ondra	S. Ondra	S. Ondra
Public Relations	G. Pait	G. Pait	C. Kuntz T.Choudhri	C. Kuntz T. Choudhri

Fellowships				J. Alexander
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JOINT SECTION ON DISORDERS OF THE SPINE & PERIPHERAL NERVES

Committee Membership

March 10, 2005

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Nominating Committee Member	N.Epstein	R.Fessler	J. Campbell	V. Traynelis
	R.Fessler	J.Campbell	V. Traynelis	R. Apfelbaum
	J.Campbell	V.Traynelis	R. Apfelbaum	R. Midha
Strategic Planning Committee	N.Baldwin	R.Haid	R. Rodts	R. Heary
	P.McCormick	C.Branch	R. Heary	C. Branch
	R.Rodts	R.Rodts	C. Branch	T. Ryken
	C.Branch	T.Ryken	T. Ryken	G. Rodts
	R.Haid	N. Baldwin	R. Haid	
Outcomes Committee	P.McCormick			
	W.Rosenberg			
	J.King,Jr.			
	G.Przybylski			
	D.Resnick			
	E.Berger			
	M.Groff			
	J.Alexander			
Research and Awards Committee	C.Wolfla	C.Wolfla	J. Guest	C. Wolfla
	P.Sawin	P.Sawin	C. Wolfla	J. Guest
		G.Trost	G. Trost	G. Trost
			C. Shaffrey	C. Shaffrey
Education Committee			J. Hurlbert	J. Hurlbert
			R. Midha	R. Midha
			R. Foley	R. Foley
Spine Fusion Task Force			P. McCormick	P. McCormick
			C. Dickman	C. Dickman
			R. Fessler	R. Fessler
			D. Resnick	D. Resnick
			C. Shaffrey	C. Shaffrey
			V. Traynelis	V. Traynelis
Fellowships				J. Alexander S. Ondra C. Shaffrey Z. Gokaslan C. Kuntz

Guidelines				P. Matz M. Groff L. Khoo A. Dailey T. Choudhri M. Hadley B. Walters
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Tuesday, March 8, 2005

The section has decided to establish 3 year agreements with its major sponsors rather than the current practice of reestablishing support yearly. This was designed to give all sponsors equal access to desirable funding opportunities and give the section a longer horizon for financial planning.

To date Depuy Spine and Synthes have agreed to the three year plan while MSD has only signed up for one year and deferred their decision.

The expected sponsorship grid for the next several years:

	2005	2006	2007
Executive Committee Dinner	Synthes	Depuy	Medtronic
Chairman's Dinner	Medtronic	Synthes	Depuy
Young Surgeon's Dinner	Depuy	Medtronic	Synthes