

The Newsletter of the Joint Section on Spinal Disorders American Association of Neurological Surgeons Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Volume 2, Number 2

Thomas S. Berger, M.D., Editor

August, 1985

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The Joint Section on Spinal Disorders of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and Congress of Neurological Surgeons has continued to expand its activities in response to the needs of all neurological surgeons interested in spinal disorders. Under the leadership of our Immediate Past-Chairman, Dr. Russell Hardy, the Section has shown continued growth and development of which we all can be proud. Prior to a consideration of our recent and future activities, it may be worthwhile reviewing the Objectives and Functions of the Section as indicated in the proposed Bylaws.

The objectives of the Section are: 1) To foster the use of spinal neurosurgical methods for the treatment of diseases of the spinal neural elements and spine; and 2) To advance spinal neurosurgery and related sciences, to improve patient care, to support meaningful basic and clinical research, to provide leadership in undergraduate and graduate and continuing education, and to promote administrative facilities necessary to achieve these goals.

The primary function of the Section is: 1) To provide a forum for education and research on basic form and function of the spinal neural elements and spine toward the improvement of spinal neurosurgical procedures that alleviate human disease and suffering through treatment of the spinal disorders. Within such consideration will be the surgical procedures used in treatment of congenital-developmental, traumatic, neoplastic, degenerative, vascular, infectious-inflammatory, and toxic metabolic diseases of the spinal neural elements and spine.

I think that we have gone a long way in the Section toward achieving these objectives and functions under the past leadership of such outstanding neurosurgeons as Drs. Russell Hardy, Sanford Larsen, Stewart Dunsker, and Edward Connelly. I look forward to having the opportunity to serve you in the vigorous and exciting activities of the Section as your Chairman these next two years.

Over the past year, the members of the Section have been involved in a variety of activities related to spinal neurosurgery. First, the Joint Section held its first annual meeting in Florida at the Grenelefe Golf and Tennis Resort in February, 1985. The meeting was organized by Drs. Barth Green and George Sypert. It was attended by about 200 participants. The meeting was very educational and enjoyed by all participants. Over 110 papers were submitted for presentation from which 50 were selected for presentation. Along with the invited speakers, these papers made possible for the Section to have an excellent scientific program at its first annual meeting. Review of the comments and evaluation forms submitted by the participants and members attending the meeting indicate the meeting was an outstanding success.

Given the success of our first annual meeting, the Section is planning The Second Annual Meeting of the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Spinal Disorders which will be held at the Hotel Del Coronado, San Diego, California on February 20-23, 1986. The meeting is being organized by Drs. Randy Smith, Annual Meeting Chairman, and Phil Weinstein, Scientific Program Chairman. Our hope is to further improve our annual meeting and make the second annual meeting an even greater success. Our goals of our annual meeting are high quality continuing medical education in spinal neurosurgery and for the meeting to serve as a forum for the presentation and discussion of original contributions from neurosurgeons interested in spinal disorders. I think we are well on our way to achieving these goals. I would urge you to mark the meeting on your calendar and hope for a large attendance and participation at this and future meetings of the Joint Section.

The Section continues to be involved in the planning and execution of the Scientific Programs of Annual Meetings of the parent organizations, AANS and CNS. A major example is the Course on Thoracolumbar Spinal Stabilization which has been given at the 1983 and 1984 annual meetings of the CNS and the 1984 annual meeting of the Southern Neurosurgical Society. This course has been so well received that it will be repeated at the 1985 Annual Meeting of the CNS in Honolulu. Moreover, the CNS and AANS Annual Meeting Program Committees have requested our help in formulating specific educational activities on spinal disorders as part of the parent organization's annual meeting program. An afternoon scientific session devoted to "Problems of the Craniovertebral Junction" has been planned by the Section for Wednesday, October 2 at the CNS annual meeting. We are working closely with the AANS Annual Meeting Scientific Program Committee to help to develop an outstanding 1986 AANS Annual Meeting.

At the request of the AANS Board of Directors and the CNS Executive Committee, a Steering Committee of members of the Joint Section met with members of the American Academy of Orthopaedics to design and implement a jointly sponsored course on the "Management of Acute Spinal Injuries." The Joint Section Steering Committee that met with the spinal orthopaedic surgeons included Russell Hardy, Stewart Dunsker, Fred Simeone, and Edward Connelly. After substantial pre-planning and detailed discussion at the two day meeting in the O'Hare Hilton, an excellent scientific program was formulated. The faculty is comprised of recognized experts in spinal surgery, one-half neurosurgeons and one-half spinal orthopaedic surgeons. Two four day courses are planned. The first course is to be held December 2-5, 1985, at the Marriott Mountain Shadows, Scottsdale, Arizona. The second is planned for June 12-15, 1986 at the Innisbrook Resort, Tarpon Springs, Florida. We believe that we have designed a unique course which should permit a rea-

(continued on pg.4)

BYLAWS REVISION

In July, 1985, active members of the Joint Section received a copy of the new proposed Bylaws of the Joint Section on Spinal Disorders of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and Congress of Neurological Surgeons and a ballot for mail vote as required by the present bylaws. The extensive proposed revisions was underlined in the text of the bylaws. These revisions are the work of an ad hoc Bylaws Committee consisting of Drs. Carole Miller, Volker Sonntag, and George Sybert, Chrm., each appointed by the Joint Section's Executive Committee. The proposed changes have been reviewed in detail by the Executive Committee in their present form. These changes will permit greater involvement of the membership in the activities of the Section which is essential to the further growth and development of the Section (see Chairman's Message, this issue of the Newsletter). These proposed changes will expand the Executive Committee to seven members and will formalize our standing committees and the terms of membership on these committees. It will streamline the execution of the activities of this exciting and highly vigorous Section. The Joint Section on Spinal Disorders has received phenomenal support from its membership and the AANS Board of Directors and CNS Executive Committee to present. If we are to continue to expand the neurosurgeon's role in the treatment of spinal disorders, it is essential to continue to increase the activities of the Joint Section and involve greater numbers of our membership in its various functions. Therefore, after your review of the proposed Bylaws revisions, the Joint Section's Executive Committee urges your affirmative vote to the proposed Bylaws revisions.

George W. Sybert, M.D.
Chairman, Joint Section on Spinal Disorders
of the AANS and CNS

1986 ANNUAL MEETING TO BE AT HOTEL DEL CORONADO

The Joint Section on Spinal Disorders of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and Congress of Neurological Surgeons 1986 Second Annual Meeting will be held at the Hotel Del Coronado, San Diego, California, from February 19-22, 1986. Topics will include Degenerative Spinal Disorders, Spinal Stenosis, Pediatric Spinal Surgery and Failed Low Back Surgery. Dr. Randy Smith is Annual Meeting Chairman, and Dr. Phil Weinstein is the Scientific Program Chairman. Please take note of the CALL FOR ABSTRACTS form accompanying this newsletter. Registration information may be obtained from Peggy Podboy, AANS Executive Office, 22 S. Washington, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068.

BACK PAIN STUDY GETS UNDERWAY

A research project "Back Pain in Industry: A Prospective Epidemiological Study" has been approved and funded by the National Institutes of Health. This project was originally proposed and developed by the Joint Section on Spinal Disorders and was approved by the AANS and CNS, the parent organizations. This project will be a cooperative venture involving the Allen Bradley Corporation in Milwaukee, the AANS as Administrator of the grant, and the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Patrick Walsh is the Principal Investigator and the advisory committee consists of Drs. Clark, Robertson, Wrenn, and Larson. The program is getting underway now and will be funded for three years.

Sanford J. Larson, M.D.

"CRANIAL-CERVICAL JUNCTION DISORDERS" TO BE PRESENTED IN HAWAII

The Joint Section on Spinal Disorders will present a hour and one-half mini-symposium on spinal disorders during the Hawaii Meeting on Thursday, October 3rd, in the afternoon from 2:00-3:30p.m. The title will be "Cranial-Cervical Junction Disorders" and the participants will be Drs. Arnold H. Menezes from Iowa, Edward Seljeskog from Minneapolis and Volker Sonntag from Barrow Neurological Institute.

Volker K. H. Sonntag, M.D.

SPINE TRAUMA COURSE WITH ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

A course entitled "The Management of Acute Spinal Injuries" will be given December 2-5, 1985, at the Mountain Shadows Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. This course will be repeated in June, 1986, at the Innisbrook Resort in Florida. The course is co-sponsored by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. A distinguished faculty of neurologic and orthopaedic surgeons will present the course dealing with all aspects of spinal injury. This promises to be a very informative course; brochures and registration information will be forthcoming in the near future.

Russell W. Hardy, M.D.

***Plan to Make Your Airline Reservations Early for This Course - This is a Holiday Weekend!!!!

SECTION SPONSORS LUMBAR DISC COMPLICATIONS STUDY

The Joint Section on Spinal Disorders will be sponsoring a major prospective study on the surgical treatment of lumbar disc disease. The study is being carried out by Dr. David Kasdon and Dr. Joel Abramovitz of the Tufts University School of Medicine Neurosurgery Department. Every section member will be sent descriptive materials and invited to join the study.

The objective of the study is to acquire information currently not available on the correlations between clinical and radiologic indications for surgery, surgical technique and outcome, as well as complications of lumbar disc surgery. It is anticipated that by studying an extremely large group of patients and employing a computer-codable data collection form, we can produce statistically significant answers for such narrowly defined questions as treatment outcomes of specific symptoms and physical findings.

The cooperation of the majority of the Spine Section members is anticipated to enter all consecutive patients with a preoperative diagnosis of lumbar disc disease for a one-year period. A study population of approximately 10,000 patients would be generated. The study would consist of filling out a questionnaire on each patient on the day of discharge, taking approximately two and a half minutes. An abbreviated outcome and complication questionnaire would be filled out at three months and six months after surgery. This would require at least two postoperative visits. Each questionnaire takes approximately a minute to a minute and a half to fill out. We intend to send every section member a sample packet of the postoperative questionnaire and the two follow-up questionnaires early this Fall along with a letter of intent.

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Each section member returning the letter of intent would then receive appropriate numbers of questionnaires, follow-up questionnaires with self-addressed envelopes at the beginning of the study.

It is the hope of the study organizers and the Spine Section that this project will provide a high reliable data base concerning outcome of disc surgery and complications in the hands of the group of neurosurgeons particularly interested in providing excellent surgical care to patients with lumbar disc disease. It is our hope that the membership of the Spine Section will agree with the importance of this endeavor and will be willing to commit the effort and time required to make this project a success.

David L. Kasdon, M.D.
Joel N. Abramovitz, M.D.

MAYFIELD AWARD

The Mayfield Award is given yearly to the resident applicant who presents the best manuscript relating to clinical or laboratory research regarding an issue pertinent to the diseases and injuries of the spinal column and/or spinal cord and its nerve roots. The Joint Section on Spine for the Congress and Cushing will be responsible for this award which includes a \$500 honorarium and \$1000 for expenses to attend the CNS Annual Meeting in addition to the award plaque. The award will be presented at the Congress of Neurological Surgeons meeting September 29th to October 5th in Hawaii.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Present were Russell Hardy, M.D., George Syptert, M.D., Edward Connolly, M.D., Stewart Dunsker, M.D., Carole Miller, M.D.

The Executive Committee Meeting was called to order by Dr. Russell Hardy at 3:00p.m. at the Georgia World Congress Center.

The first order of business was the discussion of the Bylaws. The status of certain memberships such as corresponding members, honorary members, etc. was discussed and whether or not they should pay dues. It was felt that membership categories needed more clarification. Dr. George Syptert will get the Bylaws in final form and send this to Dr. Henry Schmidek, the Secretary so that they may be circulated to the membership. The Bylaws ballots must be sent to the membership by July 1, 1985.

The second order of business concerning the Executive Committee was the charge given the Committee to review the complications of laminectomy. Dr. David Kasdon spoke to the Executive Committee concerning this. Dr. Kasdon has put together a questionnaire for a prospective study. It would require that a form be filled out at the time of discharge of the patient following laminectomy, and at the three months and six months mark. This was generally discussed by the Executive Committee and reviewed and is to be brought up at the General Business Meeting following the Scientific Meeting.

Minutes taken by Dr. Carole A. Miller at the request of Dr. Hardy in the absence of Secretary, Dr. Schmidek.

The Business Meeting of the Joint Spine Section at the American Association of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting was called to order by Dr. Russell Hardy at approximately 4:30p.m. on April 21, 1985.

(continued on next column)

1. The first report was the Treasurer's Report, given by Dr. Edward Connolly. The current balance is \$16,015.45.

BALANCE SHEET

Joint Section on Spinal Disorders (AANS/CNS)
March 31, 1985

Credits

Balance forward	\$13,147.95
Interest on savings	226.27
Dues received (9/28/84 - 3/31/85)	3,025.00
Revenues from Grenelefe Meeting *	3,711.34
Reimbursement from Barrows Institute *	529.47
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	\$20,640.03

Debits

Mayfield Award	\$ 500.00
Award Winner's Expenses *	1,821.39
Permanent Exhibit	661.67
Transportation of Exhibit-	
N.Y.C. to Florida	98.51
Exhibit Meeting Expense-	
N.Y.C.	460.66
Plaques for Larson and Dunsker	98.51
Mailing Labels for Ballots	50.00
Postage for Ballots	55.80
Honorarium Dr. Modic	500.00
Honorarium Dr. Cooper	500.00
Bank charges	5.70
	<hr/>
	\$ 4,624.58

Savings account....\$ 5,898.08

Checking account... 10,117.37

CURRENT BALANCE \$16,015.45

2. Old Business: The Orlando Meeting was a tremendous success. Over 120 abstracts were received and 60 were presented. In general the program analysis was very good and it was considered a financial and scientific success.

3. Election of new officers: Dr. George Syptert will be the new Chairman, beginning July 1, 1985; Dr. Henry Schmidek continues as Secretary. There is to be another member-at-large elected.

4. Dr. Stewart Dunsker and Dr. Ed Connolly were given plaques for their past service to the Section.

5. Long Range Planning Committee: Formulation of the Bylaws was discussed with those members present. The Spine Section now has approximately 300 members and the plan is to bring in as many members as possible. The Bylaws will be circulated and voted upon before July 1, 1985.

6. 1986 Meeting in the Hotel Del Coronado, San Diego, will be held the 20th through 22nd of February, 1986. Dr. Phil Weinstein and Dr. Randall Smith are in charge of the Scientific Committee and local arrangements.

7. Dr. David Kasdon was called upon to discuss the conduct for a survey of complications of laminectomy. Dr. Kasdon has suggested a prospective study which would mean evaluation of patients immediately after discharge at three months and six months. There has been a question as to whether this should be a Section function or done by the CNS or the AANS. There was considerable discussion by the members present, including the possibility that perhaps the questionnaire should extend beyond six months to two years. The questionnaire will eventually be sent to the Section for critiquing. It is not in its final form yet, nor has the length of the study been determined, but it appears that the Spine Section will take on the job of reviewing the complications.

(continued on pg. 4)

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
(continued from page 3)

8. Joint Spinal Course of the AANS/CNS/AAOS will be held December 2-5, 1985, and June, 1986 in Florida. This will be a joint course on spinal surgery including neurosurgeons and orthopaedic surgeons.

9. There being no new business, the Spine Section Meeting was called to a close.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole A. Miller, M.D.
in the absence of Dr. Henry Schmidek

Chairman's Message

(continued from pg. 1)

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Another major project of the Section includes a series of monographs on spinal surgery being developed under the editorship of Drs. Stewart Dunsker and Henry Schmidek. The first volume of this series is expected to appear this year. In addition, members of the Section have been active in the origination of major important clinical research programs on spinal disorders. Under the leadership of Drs. Sanford Larson and James Robertson, a NIH federally funded study of low back pain in industry has been instituted. This study should yield important new insights into the natural history and management of this major health problem. The Section is also formulating a "Prospective Lumbar Discectomy Study" under the leadership of Dr. David Kasdon. It is hoped that members

of the Section will actively and rigorously participate in this important prospective study as it should provide important data on the current efficacy and risks of lumbar discectomy as practiced by neurological surgeons interested in spinal diseases.

I believe that the Joint Section has made substantial progress in reaching our goals and look forward to its further growth and development. We now have approximately 300 members with a sound financial base which should permit the emergence of a number of other Section activities. We would like to make the Joint Section on Spinal Disorders an exciting and dynamic organization for all neurosurgeons within the confines of our parent organizations. This will only be possible with the active participation of our members. We hope that as many of the membership as possible will involve themselves in the Section's activities. In order to further involve our membership and improve our executive and committee functions, a major revision of the Section's Bylaws has been accomplished and was voted on by mail in July. We think that these revisions are essential to our future efforts to expand the active participation of our membership and to develop future leaders in spinal neurosurgery. We would encourage your affirmation of these Bylaws changes. Moreover, we would welcome any and all suggestions for future activities of the Section.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in February, 1986 at the Hotel Del Coronado, San Diego for the Second Annual Meeting of the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Spinal Disorders.

George W. Sypert, M.D.
Chairman, Joint Section on Spinal Disorders

THOMAS S. BERGER, M.D., EDITOR
SPINE SECTION NEWSLETTER
22 S. WASHINGTON STREET
PARK RIDGE, ILLINOIS 60068

Address Correction Requested

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