

# Pediatric Shortcuts



CNS

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

Spring 2018

Editor: Bermans J. Iskandar, MD, FAANS

## In this Issue ...

Treasurer's Report .....	2
Membership Committee Report .....	3
Education Committee Report .....	4
National Meetings Subcommittee Report .....	5
Training Subcommittee Report .....	6
AAP SONS Report .....	7
Annual Meeting Subcommittee Report .....	7
Research Committee Report .....	8
Guidelines Committee Report .....	8
ISPN Liaison Report .....	9
International Education Subcommittee Report .....	9
Luis Schut, MD, FAANS(L) .....	10
2017 Ingraham Award Recipient W. Jerry Oakes, MD, FAANS(L) ...	11
A. Leland Albright Honor Your Mentor Fund .....	11
ABPNS Report .....	12
Communications Subcommittee Report .....	12
Coding and Reimbursement Committee Report .....	13
CSNS Liaison Report .....	13
New Liaison: American College of Osteopathic Surgeons .....	13
Officers and Committee Members .....	14

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

For a small specialty, the field of neurosurgery has more than its fair share of organizations that represent the interests of its members. The service that the Pediatric Section provides its constituents and pediatric neurosurgery as a whole is clear. As defined by our bylaws, the Section has four primary objectives:

- Serving as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information.
- Connecting the AANS and CNS with pediatric neurosurgery.
- Conducting studies and proposing solutions to problems.
- Advancing education, research and patient care.

Suffice it to say, it takes a village to accomplish these tasks, which explains our robust committee structure. One of the major goals we have had as Section officers (which includes the chair, chair-elect, secretary and treasurer) is ensuring that all our committees and liaisons are staffed with hard-working individuals dedicated to the advancement of pediatric neurosurgery. We have also spent a good deal of time developing charters that define objectives and terms of service to provide clarity regarding committee goals and responsibilities, and involving young members. We are grateful for the effort and commitment that all the committee members are placing in the service of our specialty.



Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS

The penultimate goal of the Section is to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas, which is best accomplished at the Annual Meeting. This past year's meeting, themed Reaching New Heights, was hosted by the team of Howard Weiner and David Sandberg in Houston. The Houston team truly did reach new heights with a fantastic meeting, including cutting-edge science and first-class social events, along with a fund-raising venue for those affected by the hurricane. The 2018 meeting will take place in Nashville and is hosted by the team from Vanderbilt, with a theme of Setting the Stage for Collaboration. The Nashville team has already enlisted acclaimed speakers and the social events in the Music City promise to be exceptional. You will find more information about the meeting in this edition of Shortcuts, but I do want to highlight that, based on an overwhelmingly positive vote from the membership to reduce time away from work, the meeting format has modified so as it starts on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday morning.

As a joint section of the AANS and CNS, it is our responsibility to keep our parent organizations connected with pediatric neurosurgery updates and activities. Among others, we are actively involved in organizing the pediatric content of the major national meetings (AANS and CNS), both to update the adult and pediatric membership with pediatric neurosurgical developments and to avoid duplication of content across meetings. Our officers also serve in other capacities within organized neurosurgery. For example, the chair of the section sits on the Board of Directors of the AANS, a seat I presently hold; and the chair-elect, Mark Krieger, sits on the Board of Directors of the CNS. As chair, I also hold a position on the Board of Directors of the NREF, which is arguably Neurosurgery's major driver of research and education.

Continued on the next page

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Several of our distinguished members have been the recipients of NREF's Honor Your Mentor funds, one of whom is highlighted in this edition of Shortcuts. As well, our Section is well represented on the Joint Guidelines Committee, the Young Neurosurgeons Committee, the Scientific Planning Committees of both national organizations and the Washington Committee via our immediate past-chair, Sarah Gaskill, MD, FAANS.

Of course, our biggest obligation as a Section is to serve children with neurosurgical disorders by advancing the field. This is accomplished in part through research efforts and participation in the training of talented neurosurgeons around the world. We offer traveling fellowships annually for up to two international and four domestic trainees to visit top North American programs. We also co-sponsor a \$40,000 NREF research grant and promote \$10,000 Section research grants, while providing financial assistance to and initiating new collaborations with international pediatric neurosurgical societies.

Running the Section in a fiscally responsible manner and accomplishing all the goals outlined here could not have happened without the dedication of our officers and committee members and the support of our general membership, for which I am grateful. I look forward to continuing the mission of advancing the education of neurosurgeons, facilitating research and innovation opportunities and improving the neurosurgical care for children throughout the world.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Proctor, MD, FAANS

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Matthew D. Smyth, MD, FAANS

The Pediatric Section remains in good financial health. Total net assets as per the fiscal mid-year (12/31/2017) financial statement totaled \$996,616. This reflects a net gain of \$241,541 over the prior, in large part due to investment earnings as well as successful meetings in Orlando and Houston. This represents the total cumulative revenue of the Section since its inception and is in line with AANS recommended reserves for our Section.

### *Annual Meeting*

The 2017 Annual Meeting for the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery in Houston had a projected net excess of \$50,556. Final numbers are not in for the meeting at the time of this report, but we expect to exceed the budgeted gain. This is compared to a net excess of \$60,995 at the 2016 Annual Meeting in Orlando. The net revenue has now been positive for three years in a row as a result of continued efforts by Section officers to reduce costs in collaboration with local meeting hosts and AANS staff. The Section's long-term investment account remains favorable at \$769,438, as per the 12/31/2017 financial report. The Section's long-term investments are handled via a pooled investment portfolio with the other sections, which allows the sections to get into funds not otherwise available to smaller investors.

### *Specific Expenses and Financial Resolutions*

The Section continues its commitment toward its educational and research missions. A one-time contribution to the CNS Getch fellowship was made in 2017 for \$3,000. Again, in the 2018 budget, there is renewed financial commitment toward the Pediatric Neurosurgical Research & Education Foundation (NREF) Fellowship grant, Section research awards and domestic and international traveling fellowships.

Overall, there are no concerns.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Toba N. Niazi, MD, FAANS

Membership in the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery continues to grow. The current roster includes 352 active, 12 associate, 78 lifetime, 35 international, 35 resident/fellow and 3 medical student members, for a total of 515 members – up from 491 members this time last year. We have had two resignations during this time as well.

The newly approved Pediatric Section members are:

### ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Raheel Ahmed, MD  
 Allyson L. Alexander, MD, PhD  
 Bruno Perocco Braga, MD  
 David M. Garcia, MD  
 Daniel R. Hansen, MD  
 Brandon Andrew Miller, MD  
 Carolyn Sue Quinsey, MD  
 Jennifer G. Savage, MD  
 Amanda L. Yaun, MD, FAANS  
 Heather Jane McCrea, MD, PhD

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Patti L. Batchelder, RN, MS, CPNP  
 Chevis Shannon, MBA, MPH, DrPH  
 Elizabeth Haley Vance, DNP, CPNP  
 Emilie Miesner, MS, PA-C

### INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Ibrahima Berete, MD  
 Hellwag Flores Figueroa, MD

### RESIDENTS

Taylor John Abel, MD  
 Lacey Carter, MD  
 Catherine Christie, MD  
 Reem Elwy, MBBS  
 Darian Esfahani, MD  
 Dalila Forte, MD  
 Kelly Gassie, MD  
 Hannah Goldstein, MD  
 Albert Isaacs, MD  
 Tyler Timothy Lazaro, MD  
 Nicholas Sader, MD  
 Tasha-Kay Walker-Palmer, MBBS  
 Samuel Estronza-Ojeda, MD  
 Smruti K. Patel, MD  
 Allison Elizabeth Williams

### MEDICAL STUDENTS

Dan Blatt

### LIFETIME

Frederick Sklar, MD, FAANS(L)  
 Edward Zampella, MD, FAANS(L)  
 W. Jerry Oakes, MD, FAANS(L)  
 Arthur Marlin, MD, FAANS(L)  
 John G. Zovickian, MD, FAANS(L)

### RESIGNATION

Leon Moores, MD  
 Thomas Pittman, MD, FAANS



For additional membership information, please visit the Pediatric Section website at <http://pedsneurosurgery.org/aans-membership/>.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

David Limbrick, MD, PhD, FAANS

The Education Committee and related subcommittees have been busy this year, particularly with ongoing efforts to synergize our educational programs with the Society of Neurological Surgeons (SNS) Matrix and Portal initiatives and to enhance education in pediatric neurosurgery broadly with partners in organized neurosurgery, both in North America and abroad.

The National Meetings Subcommittee continues to play an important role in the development of educational programming for major neurosurgical meetings. Pediatric neurosurgical content at the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) meeting in Boston in October 2017 followed the format of case-based interactive sessions and

focused on incidental imaging findings and management of pediatric athletes. The 2017 annual meeting of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery, with the theme Reaching New Heights, was held in Houston from November 28-December 1, 2017, and was a tremendous success. The 2018 meeting of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) is set for April 28-May 2, 2018, in New Orleans and will have an extensive pediatric agenda – we hope to see you there.

One area of current focus for the Section Education Committee is working with the SNS on the SNS Matrix and Portal, a comprehensive platform providing educational content in all areas of neurosurgery and facilitating

resident education through standardized Milestones. The Section Education Committee is working with the SNS to develop pediatric neurosurgery curricula for the Portal and fine-tune the Matrix and Milestones.

The International Education Subcommittee has been working vigorously with partners in the international neurosurgery community to share ideas across organizations. In the near term, we expect to work with international colleagues to develop guidelines and to partner in developing international pediatric neurosurgery programs with established pediatric neurosurgeons.





## NATIONAL MEETINGS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Lissa Baird, MD, FAANS | Elias Rizk, MD, FAANS

The National Meetings Subcommittee is charged with helping plan the Pediatric Section activities at the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) national meetings. We follow recent changes in the field to try and improve the quality of lectures and abstracts. The overarching goal is to promote discussions that would address timely topics and updates as well as consensus management from experts in the field. The following is a short summary of the scientific programs for the 2018 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting and the 2018 CNS Annual Meeting.

### 2018 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting

The 2018 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in New Orleans on April 28-May 2. The Pediatric Section is holding scientific sessions on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

Saturday, April 28

Pediatric International Session

Moderators: Frederick A. Boop, MD, FAANS; Gerald A. Grant, MD, FAANS; Mark D. Krieger, MD, FAANS

Pediatric Neurosurgery Breakfast Seminars

Monday, April 30

- Pediatric Neurosurgery for General Neurosurgeons
- Management of Cranial Incidental Imaging Findings

Tuesday, May 1

SEEG Surgery in Pediatric Patients

Wednesday, May 2

Intracranial Endoscopy

Monday, April 30

Pediatric Scientific Session

- Selected Abstract Presentations
- Donald D. Matson Lecture: Pediatric Neurosurgery – A 50-year Perspective with R. Michael Scott, MD, FAANS
- Career Reflections: Derek A. Bruce, MD, FAANS
- Point/Counterpoint: Pediatric Skull Base Surgery: Expanded Endonasal vs Open Approaches with Elizabeth C. Tyler-Kabara, MD, PhD, FAANS, and Michael L. Levy, MD, PhD, FAANS

Wednesday, May 2

Pediatric Scientific Session

- Lipomyelomeningocele: How I Do It. Moderator: Sandi K. Lam, MD, FAANS
- Topic Review: Pediatric Blunt Cerebrovascular Injuries: Imaging and Management Update with Robert John Bollo, MD, FAANS
- Malpractice Litigation in Pediatric Neurosurgery: Perspectives and Avoidance with R. Michael Scott, MD, FAANS, and Jeffrey H. Wisoff, MD, FAANS
- Selected Abstract Presentations

### 2018 CNS Annual Meeting

The 2018 CNS Annual Meeting will be held in Houston on October 6-10. The Pediatric Scientific Sessions will be held on Monday, October 8, and Tuesday, October 9.

The program is being finalized, but will include pediatric-focused lunch seminars, scientific updates, discussions on quality measures within our specialty, point-counterpoint debates and topic updates. We will also be continuing the interactive case-based sessions following the scientific program.



*We hope to see you there!*

## TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

David I. Sandberg, MD, FAANS

### AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery Traveling Fellowships

The Joint Pediatric Neurosurgery Section of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) offers the following traveling fellowships:

1) **International Traveling Fellowship** is for neurosurgeons who at the time of their application are either training in a residency program outside the United States and Canada, or who have completed residency training outside the United States and Canada within the past five years. The fellowship will cover traveling and living expenses for a three-month period to be spent observing the activities of an established pediatric neurosurgical service of the applicant's choosing in the United States or Canada. Up to two fellowships will be awarded yearly on the basis of a competitive evaluation by a committee of the Pediatric Section. The fellowship stipend is \$7,500. [Click here for more information.](#)

2) **Domestic Traveling Fellowship** is for residents in accredited North American neurosurgical training programs. The fellowship is intended to cover the traveling and living expenses for one month for a

resident who wishes additional experience in pediatric neurosurgery during residency. The one-month fellowship can be spent at any pediatric neurosurgery program within North America to pursue an activity which broadens the resident's exposure to pediatric neurosurgery, including observation at a clinical or research center, participation in a research project, or any other relevant activity. Up to four fellowships per year are awarded on the basis of a competitive evaluation by a committee of the Pediatric Section. The fellowship stipend is \$2,500. [Click here for more information.](#)

### *Congratulations to the 2018 Fellowship Recipients*

#### **International Traveling Fellowship**

Gilberto Gonzalez Lopez, MD  
Resident at University of Cartagena,  
Colombia

The Fellowship is planned under P. David Adelson, MD, FAANS, at the Barrow Neurological Institute, Phoenix Children's Hospital.

#### **Domestic Traveling Fellowship**

1. Derek Yecies, MD  
Resident at Stanford University  
The Fellowship is planned at Weill Cornell Medical School under the direction of Mark Souweidane, MD, FAANS.

2. Laura Prolo, MD, PhD  
Resident at Stanford University  
The Fellowship was performed Jan/Feb 2018 at Texas Children's Hospital under the direction of William Whitehead, MD, MPH, FAANS, with additional exposure to fetal myelomeningocele surgery at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital under the direction of David Sandberg, MD, FAANS.

#### **Call for 2019 Applications**

Requirements for both fellowships include:

- 1) A statement defining the purpose of the proposed fellowship.
- 2) A letter of recommendation from the applicant's current neurosurgical program director.
- 3) A letter of acceptance from the institution where the applicant intends to take the fellowship confirming the description of the fellow's potential activities during the period of the award.
- 4) The applicant's current Curriculum Vitae.

**The deadline for application submission is November 1, 2018.**

The completed application should be emailed to:

David.I.Sandberg@uth.tmc.edu

## ANNUAL MEETING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT: NASHVILLE 2018

Jay Wellons, MD, MSPH, FAANS

The Annual Meeting Host Committee is excited to welcome our members and guests to Nashville, Tenn., for the 2018 AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery Annual Meeting, December 6-9. The theme is Setting the Stage for Collaboration and we are excited to build upon the terrific meeting in Houston this past year.

Due to popular demand (and a vote among the members!), this year's meeting will take place Thursday through Sunday morning with plenty of time to fly back home Sunday afternoon following the meeting's conclusion. Thursday brings the Advance Practice Provider Seminar with a focus on nursing advocacy and new clinical breakout sessions. In addition, the popular half-day pediatric neurosurgery coding course will be offered Thursday afternoon. Note that hotel conference rooms will be available that day for collaborative research or other

topical meetings. Please, let us know room needs as soon as possible. For Thursday night, plans are ongoing for a memorable opening reception near the centrally located meeting hotel, the Omni Nashville.

This year's Raimondi Lecturer is Pulitzer Prize winning presidential biographer and historian, Jon Meacham. We are equally excited to have Allen Sills, MD, FAANS, the Chief Medical Officer of the National Football League, as the 2018 AAP/SONS Lecturer. Three thought-provoking and, hopefully, action-provoking seminars on collaborative clinical research, global pediatric neurosurgery and neurosurgical advocacy occur each day throughout the meeting. Lastly, in addition to scientific abstracts, this year there will be opportunity to submit collaborative research study ideas for a quick two-slide presentation at the beginning of each Scientific Session, in order

to catalyze multicenter studies. More on this to come!

With future country music stars on the stages in the nearby honky-tonks of Lower Broadway, the mother church of country music around the corner, the Ryman Auditorium and the beautiful Schermerhorn Symphony Center (home of the Nashville Symphony) just a quick walk away, there is something to do for all.

See you in Nashville!

### *Host Committee*

Chevis Shannon, MBA, MPH, DrPH  
Haley Vance, DNP, APN, CPNP-AC  
Rob Naftel, MD, FAANS  
Chris Bonfield, MD, FAANS

## AAP SONS REPORT

Andrew Jea, MD, FAANS

At the conclusion of the 2017 AANS/CNS Section of Pediatric Neurological Surgery Annual Meeting in Houston, Jacob Greenberg, MD, a resident at the Washington University St. Louis School of Medicine, and the pediatric neurosurgery team at Washington University received the 4th annual AAP SONS award for Best Oral Presentation for broad and significant impact on health care for children with pediatric neurosurgical diseases. Dr. Greenberg's presentation was entitled Development of the CIDSS2 Score for Children with Mild Head Trauma without Intracranial Injury.

The AAP SONS lecturer for the 2017 Pediatric Section Meeting was Mark W. Kline, MD. Dr. Kline is physician-in-chief of Texas Children's Hospital and the Ralph D. Feigin chair, J.S. Abercrombie professor and chair of

the department of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. The AAP SONS lecturer was recently selected by the AAP SONS Executive Committee and the Scientific Committee for the 2018 Pediatric Section Meeting in Nashville, Tenn. We are proud to announce Allen Sills, MD, FAANS, in this honored role. Dr. Sills was on the neurosurgical faculty at Vanderbilt before recently being named the NFL's 1st CMO. He promises to give a talk on the care and health of young athletes in youth sports, fitting the theme of the lecture. Dr. Sills is now based in New York but still has a practice at Vanderbilt caring for athletes.

At our SONS working group meeting in December 2017, we looked further into identifying a few issues for the SONS to advocate. The consensus then was that the best way to determine this

was to get input from our members and from other practicing pediatric neurosurgeons through a survey.

The survey consisted of an introduction explaining its rationale, along with a description of the various ways that the AAP can employ to advocate for its members' issues. An iteration of this survey was administered at the most recent ASPN annual meeting. We are presently reviewing the survey results to help with SONS' annual strategic plan.

If you would like to get involved with advocacy and improving the care of children with neurosurgical disorders, contact Sandi Lam, MD, FAANS ([sklam@texaschildrens.org](mailto:sklam@texaschildrens.org)). For more information about how to join the Education Subcommittee of SONS, contact Greg Albert, MD, FAANS ([galbert2@uams.edu](mailto:galbert2@uams.edu)).

## RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Edward Robert Smith, MD, FAANS

The Research Committee is currently directing two major initiatives: (1) the third year of a successfully revamped Pediatric Section Grant and (2) ongoing participation in the Neurosurgical Research & Education Foundation (NREF) grant program.

In 2016, the Section approved a significant change in the format of the annual research award in response to several years of limited applications. The Fellow/Junior Faculty Research Grant was initiated, changing the target population of the grant to fellows/new faculty in order to recruit and retain pediatric neurosurgeons engaging in research focused on problems unique to pediatric neurosurgery. The funding level is \$10,000/year, with discretion to award as a single grant or divide it into two grants of \$5,000. The response to this new format increased each year, with a 10-fold increase the first year (10), followed by continued growth to 16 applications this past cycle, all of them of high quality. Two grants of \$5,000 each were awarded for 2017-18; one to an incoming fellow and one to new faculty:

- Erik Sribnick, MD, PhD, new faculty, Mentor at Ohio State/Nationwide Hospital Immunosuppression After Traumatic

Brain Injury and Polytrauma in a Juvenile Rat Model  
• Katie Fehnel, MD, fellow, (Mentor at Massachusetts General Hospital)

The Role of Viral Integration in Early Pediatric Brain Tumors

We are eager to continue this process and application information can be found on the website. The deadline will be extended this year to allow for additional input, given the timing of this newsletter.

The Section is also actively involved in the NREF grant program, with an interest in promoting applications with a pediatric focus and is now directly involved in grant review. There was only one dedicated pediatric grant submitted this year, suggesting an increased capacity for pediatric-focused research. We would strongly encourage applications, with information present on the website. Please encourage your colleagues and trainees to apply for NREF grants with a pediatric focus, as our section helps to support these grants.

## PEDIATRIC SECTION GUIDELINES COMMITTEE REPORT

Catherine Mazzola, MD, FAANS | David Bauer, MD, FAANS

The guidelines committee has continued to be productive over the past year. The Spina Bifida guidelines were completed and are in the review process. This process includes internal review by the AANS/CNS Guidelines Review Committee and external review by reviewers from the Spina Bifida Association, SONS and the Child Neurology Society. We expect publication of the guidelines in Neurosurgery in 2018, once this review is complete.

We have submitted a grant application to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for funding of our required five-year hydrocephalus guidelines update. This update would include

a new review of the literature with the possible addition of one to four new or emerging hydrocephalus topics that have sufficient new literature to complete the systematic review process. The AHRQ application has passed the initial review process and is currently in a more formalized review for potential funding. We expect to start the update of the hydrocephalus guidelines in 2018.

This year we are also partnering with the Stereotactic and Functional Section to help create new surgical guidelines for the treatment of medically refractory epilepsy. Jorge Gonzalez-Martinez, MD, FAANS, from SFN is heading

the overall effort and David Bauer, MD, FAANS, was asked to head the pediatric work group, where he will focus on the surgical treatment of pediatric epilepsy. At the upcoming AANS meeting in April we will finalize specific topics and start the initial literature review.

We are always looking for motivated section members interested in helping with the guidelines process. Members need to complete a training process or have a related degree such as an MPH. Contact Dr. Bauer if you are interested.



## ISPN LIAISON REPORT

Eylem Ocal, MD, FAANS

### Setting the Stage for Section/ISPN Collaborations

The AANS/CNS Section of Pediatric Neurological Surgery and the International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery (ISPN) share similar aims and perspectives to improve the care of children with pediatric neurological diseases through education, research, innovation as well as local and global community outreach. To reach shared goals, a collaborative effort remains essential. With this in mind, and in light of the theme of the 47th Annual Section Meeting in Nashville, Setting the Stage for

Collaboration, the Section liaisons, with approval from the Executive Council, have proposed topics for collaboration, which the ISPN leadership accepted wholeheartedly. The proposal comprises international research partnerships, joint educational meetings, promoting worldwide acceptance of basic guidelines and developing applicable policies for patient care. Both the Section and the ISPN leadership are excited about the prospects of this natural alliance, and invite anyone with ideas to participate.

---

## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

James Johnston, MD, FAANS

In collaboration with William Harkness, MBChB, FRCS, FRCS, past president of the ISPN, members of the Section have developed and begun beta testing of a stand-alone website application called InterSurgeon ([www.intersurgeon.org](http://www.intersurgeon.org)). InterSurgeon aims to provide a social media community platform optimized to facilitate “surgical partnerships for clinical treatment, education, training, exchange of personnel and donation of equipment. InterSurgeon will be a ‘not for profit’ organization and charitable status in the UK is

currently being applied for. We will pilot InterSurgeon in pediatric neurosurgery and if this proves successful, expand to other surgical specialties and possibly into medical specialties as well. We invite you to become members of InterSurgeon and establish long-lasting partnerships to improve delivery of surgical treatment on a Global scale.” Once the application has completed beta-testing this spring, more information about registration will be sent out to memberships of the Section, ISPN, ESPN and WFNS.

## LUIS SCHUT, MD, FAANS(L)

Thomas G. Luerssen, MD, FAANS(L) | Ann-Christine Duhaim, MD, FAANS

Luis Schut, MD, FAANS(L), died on January 31, 2018, after a brief illness. He was arguably one of the last remaining of a generation of neurosurgeons responsible for establishing the subspecialty of pediatric neurosurgery. Originally from Argentina, he and Lydia, his wife and fellow physician, emigrated to the U.S. in 1955. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Schut began a long and storied career by undertaking neurosurgical residency training at the University of Pennsylvania. After residency, he clerked at the National Hospital at Queen's Square, where he also developed a lifetime fondness for fine automobiles. He returned to join the faculty at Penn in 1962 and subsequently joined Eugene Spitz, MD, at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). He assisted in the placement of the first ventricular shunt to use the novel Spitz-Holter valve. This innovation was designed with a one-way valve mechanism made from silastic – discovered through a search for a suitable material by engineer John Holter, whose son suffered from hydrocephalus. Silastic was discovered in the aerospace industry and was successful in its new function for hydrocephalus devices that would permit continuous one-way flow without a high rate of clotting in the venous system. The availability of this new valve, which was manufactured one at a time in a local shop, thrust CHOP into international prominence as a center for the treatment of hydrocephalus. Kenneth Schulman, MD, succeeded Dr. Spitz, but resigned shortly thereafter. In 1969, Dr. Schut was appointed chief of service at CHOP and remained so for almost 30 years. During his tenure at CHOP, the neurosurgical service expanded and became an internationally recognized clinical and academic center of excellence and one of the most

highly sought-after fellowship training programs in North America. Many of Dr. Schut's trainees went on to establish pediatric neurosurgical programs of their own across the country.

His leadership style might best be described as a mix of practicality, humor, an enjoyment of life and substantial humility. One of his maxims was “always hire colleagues who are better than you are.” Accordingly, many of his colleagues and trainees were inspired to contribute to the field in areas such as tumor, fetal surgery and trauma – often in interdisciplinary teams encouraged and supported by Dr. Schut's vision. In her series on the history of CHOP, Shirley Bonnem covers the epoch of Dr. Schut's tenure there. She describes Dr. Schut as one of only a handful of faculty members responsible for establishing CHOP as a landmark children's hospital.

Dr. Schut served in every leadership position, including as president, in all of the pediatric neurosurgical societies, and was a founding member of the ASPN, the ISPN and the American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery. He was president of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery in 1977 and received the Section's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001.

Dr. Schut leaves behind a lasting legacy of helping thousands of children and families treated at CHOP and around the world. His former residents and fellows revere him. Dr. Schut's last public appearance was at the Annual Meeting of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery in Orlando in 2016. While there, he was surrounded by admirers – young and old – with lines forming to get photos taken with him. He thoroughly enjoyed that.



After retirement, Dr. Schut spent time cruising the eastern seaboard and Caribbean in both sailing and motor yachts, sharing time between his homes on the Chesapeake and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. His wife Lydia, a psychiatrist also on the faculty at Penn, is also a talented artist and many of Dr. Schut's friends, colleagues and trainees have her creations in their homes and offices.

He is survived by Lydia, sons Andrew, Edward and Henry as well as eight grandchildren. Dr. Schut was 86 years old.

## W. Jerry Oakes, MD, FAANS(L)

### Recipient of the 2017 Franc D. Ingraham Award for Distinguished Service and Achievement

At this year's Pediatric Section Annual Meeting in Houston, W. Jerry Oakes, MD, FAANS(L), was awarded the 2017 Franc D. Ingraham Award for Distinguished Service and Achievement. Dr. Oakes has arguably been the visionary world leader in the care of Chiari I malformation patients. He has published hundreds of articles on the subject, along with a classic textbook. Along the way, he defined the nuances of a Chiari I malformation diagnosis and published the paradigm-changing reports that discussed Chiari 0 and Chiari 1.5 malformations and set national standards on the treatment of these, among others. Additionally, Dr. Oakes contributed as much as anyone to our understanding of spina bifida occulta and the tethered spinal cord in both children and adults and was a pioneer in providing us with an understanding of

the diagnosis of "tethered spinal cord with conus in normal position."

Dr. Oakes contributed a significant portion of his time to organized neurosurgery. Among others, he served on the American Board of Pediatric Neurosurgery (ABPNS) for 12 years, first as a director and then as vice-chair. He also served as president of the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons (ASPN) and it was under his presidency and through his hard work and collaboration with John A. Jane Sr., MD, PhD, FAANS(L), that the Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics was formed, for which he served as inaugural chair of the Pediatric Editorial Board.

Most importantly, Dr. Oakes is responsible for the training of more than 25 pediatric neurosurgeons currently in practice. Many

of his trainees have risen through the ranks and taken on positions of leadership in the field, advanced research and mentor the next generation. Many of Dr. Oakes' trainees credit his mentoring for their success and emphatically state that he is absolutely unique in his honest guidance and devotion to his trainees and patients.

The combination of creative research and administrative contributions to our field, along with exceptional clinical skills, empathy to patients and impact on young neurosurgeons, makes Dr. Oakes uniquely qualified to join a few pediatric neurosurgery luminaries in receiving our Section's greatest honor.

## The A. Leland Albright Honor Your Mentor Fund

Catherine Mazzola, MD, FAANS | Bermans J. Iskandar, MD, FAANS

The A. Leland Albright Honor Your Mentor Fund was developed in 2016 to support neurosurgery resident and fellow education in Africa. A. Leland Albright, MD, FAANS(L), served as a pediatric neurosurgeon at UPMC and the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) from 1981 to 2006. He became chief of pediatric neurosurgery in 1992 and professor of neurosurgery in 1993. An endowed chair in pediatric neurosurgery was established in his honor in 2002. He moved to the University of Wisconsin Health Center in 2006, where he developed a spasticity and movement disorders clinic. Leaving academic practice in the U.S. in 2010, he moved to Kijabe, Kenya, as a medical missionary to do and to teach pediatric neurosurgery.

In Kenya, he taught two pediatric neurosurgery fellows and 15 neurosurgery residents from the University of Nairobi. Dr. Albright and his colleagues performed more than 5,000 operations before he returned to the U.S. in 2015. Dr. Albright was the senior editor of the first and subsequent editions of the textbook, Principles and Practice of Pediatric Neurosurgery, which has become the standard resource for the subspecialty worldwide. He has been a visiting professor at 30 academic centers in the U.S. and abroad. He was active in the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery and in the American Board of Pediatric Neurosurgery. In 2012, he received the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Humanitarian Award.

Donations to the A. Leland Albright Honor Your Mentor Fund will assist Dr. Albright and the fellows of pediatric neurosurgery in Kijabe, Kenya. Thousands of children will benefit as a result of your kind support. Please, go to the website below and donate generously. We thank you in advance for your support!

<https://www.nref.org/en/Honor-Your-Neurosurgical-Mentor/Leland-Albright>

## ABPNS REPORT

John Ragheb, MD, FAANS | ABPNS Secretary

Since our last report, the ABPNS has continued to work diligently on your behalf. As the ABNS and ABPNS continue to work together, a number of important changes have taken place:

1) First, for those neurosurgeons who have successfully graduated from an ACPNF approved fellowship, we are now asking you to take the written ABPNS exam within 12 months of completing your fellowship. The Board felt that it would be beneficial to the graduate to take the written exam soon after fellowship, rather than several years into practice. We are planning to have the written exam available online starting this spring. It will be given at the same time and same locations as the ABNS written exam, which the residents will take as Part I of their ABNS Boards. Since this is a transition year, we will also offer the written exam in Chicago on Saturday, June 2, 2018. The written exam will also be available in the fall in conjunction with the AANS/CNS Pediatric Neurological Surgery Section meeting.

2) Things are also changing for those who are already ABPNS certified. In the past, ABPNS Board members had to re-take the written exam and submit a new case log every 10 years, the ABPNS will still issue 10-year-time-limited certificates, but the case minimums have changed to 65 cases in children per twelve months, regardless of the percentage of adult cases one does. Secondly, Board members will no longer have to re-take the written exam every 10 years. In its place, we are asking members to enroll in the ABNS MOC process (you can do this online), in which you will now use an online “adaptive learning tool” in the comfort of your home or office. This will provide you with a number of adult and pediatric topics in which evidence-based studies have suggested “best practice” paradigms. The learning tool will provide you with links to current peer reviewed studies, give you questions to answer related to these topical reviews

and, hopefully, educate everyone in our changing practice environment. The adaptive learning tool is structured to give you the correct answers if you answer incorrectly, such that you cannot fail the examination, you can only learn from it. The other three components of the MOC process include an annual letter of good standing from your hospital, proof of 20 hours of CME credit obtained annually (does not have to be pediatric specific) and evidence that you participate in a morbidity and mortality conference.

3) For candidates who have successfully completed an ACPNF-approved fellowship and who have passed the written exam, you may now apply for a pediatric focused ABNS oral examination. During the exam, you will be tested in one general neurosurgery 45-minute session, a second pediatric neurosurgery focused 45-minute session and a third 45-minute session in which your own cases will be examined. Upon successfully passing the ABNS/ABPNS oral examination, you will then receive an ABNS certificate allowing you to practice general neurosurgery and an ABNS/ABPNS Pediatric Neurosurgery focused practice document, now recognized by the ABNS, which is good for ten years. In order to maintain that certification, ABPNS members will have to demonstrate participation in the annual MOC process and submit a 12-month case log every 10 years, demonstrating that you have maintained a focused practice in pediatric neurosurgery by performing at least 65 cases the preceding year in children aged 21 and under.

The ABPNS will continue to keep members abreast of changes in requirements or process as we move forward with our ABNS/ABPNS merger. I would refer you to the ABPNS website for further updates. Also, please feel free to email or call if you need clarification about your personal circumstances.

## COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Richard Anderson, MD, FAANS

The AANS/CNS Pediatric Section website ([www.pedsneurosurgery.org](http://www.pedsneurosurgery.org)) is functioning well. A few updates and reminders:

1. A new item added under the Grants and Fellowships tab lists all of the past recipients of the International and Resident Traveling Fellows.

2. Work is underway in conjunction with Sandi Lam, MD, FAANS, to construct a new item under the Education tab listing quality improvement projects that many Section members are conducting locally. The website would serve to host project descriptions and contact information, so additional members can participate in multicenter projects and develop and/or adopt applicable protocols.

3. Email is the most common form of communication among Section members. Via the website, eblasts are now sent out to all Section members who have registered on the website. These are free of charge, as opposed to those sent out via the AANS, which charge about \$250 per eblast. In order to maintain accuracy of the email list and insure that Section members receive all important communication, new members of the past five years have been contacted and encouraged to register for the website. Starting this year, new members will be provided with information to register on the site in the welcome letter or email. Any requests for eblasts from the website must be approved by the executive committee or the president of the section.

4. Job postings on the website are free and can be maintained until the position is filled. If you have a position available, send me the posting with contact information to place on the site.

5. Working with Ben Kennedy, MD, opportunities to enhance the website via social networking are being explored.

Please, reach out to me if the website can be modified to help Section members in any way.



## COUNCIL OF STATE NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Catherina Mazzola, MD, FAANS

Joshua Rosenow, MD, FAANS, was elected chair of the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (CSNS). He looks forward to building on the accomplishments of his predecessors who have built the CSNS into a vibrant, responsive organization that continues to strive to ensure that neurosurgeons practice in an environment that allows us to provide the best care possible for our patients.

The 2017 Spring CSNS meeting was a resounding success. There was vigorous debate on the 10 resolutions submitted. After much discussion, the Council passed resolutions to initiate a study of state prescription drug monitoring programs, investigate a “boot camp” course for advanced practice providers, help combat insurance denial of certain surveillance imaging studies, continue the CSNS studies of burnout among residents and examine the designation “disruptive physician.”

A high point of the meeting was the awarding of the Lyal Leibrock Lifetime Achievement Award to Mark Linskey, MD, FAANS. Dr. Linskey has devoted himself to the mission of the CSNS for many years and it was gratifying to see him receive this highest honor bestowed by the Council. Dr. Rosenow would like to direct you towards the recent publication of a detailed review of the history of the CSNS (and its several transformations). “A History of the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies” appears in the January 2017 issue of *Neurosurgery*. This paper was spearheaded by Clarence Watridge MD, FAANS(L), our historian, along with one of our resident socioeconomic fellows.

It is a continuing testament to the potential of the CSNS to foster neurosurgical leaders that AANS Past President Rick Boop, MD, FAANS; current CNS President Alan Scarrow, MD, JD, FAANS; AANS President-elect Shelly Timmons, MD, PhD, FAANS; AANS Vice President Moustapha Abou-Samra, MD, FAANS; and Chair of the Washington Committee Ann Stroink, MD, FAANS, are all past officers of the CSNS.

The fall CSNS meeting occurred on October 6-7, 2017 at the Westin Boston hotel immediately preceding the CNS Annual Meeting. The theme of the meeting was Transformation Celebration.

The Council only succeeds through the efforts of its volunteers. It works best when neurosurgeons bring their energy, ideas and issues to the Council. We all have many obligations that pull us in different directions. However, the CSNS continues to be the most direct way to influence neurosurgical practice in myriad ways. Dr. Rosenow encourages you to be an active participant in the process. Bring an issue forward and you are likely going to find multiple other surgeons who experience similar situations and will collaborate to devise a solution with you.

The CSNS is the engine of neurosurgical progress, powered by all of us.

## CODING AND REIMBURSEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Lance Governale, MD, FAANS

Although the most common items discussed by the Coding and Reimbursement Committee relate to degenerative spine disease, a few recent topics are of more interest to pediatric neurosurgeons. Specifically, the possibility of creating new codes for endoscopic skull base procedures and laser interstitial thermal therapy (LITT) procedures is being considered. To decide whether new codes would be beneficial, surveys will soon be sent to the Tumor, Functional, and Pediatric Sections regarding current coding practices and reimbursement outcomes for these procedures. The more information the Committee has, the less chance that current successful billing practices would be interrupted by new codes. Section members who perform these procedures are encouraged to respond to the survey.

## NEW LIAISON: AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC SURGEONS

Francesco T. Mangano, DO, FAANS

I am humbled and honored to have been selected as the liaison between the AANS/CNS Pediatric Section and the Neurosurgery Section of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons (ACOS). I hope to bring these two groups closer together with open communication and the sharing of information. The yearly meeting that brings together the ACOS neurosurgery membership occurs as part of the Annual Clinical Assembly that will be held October 18-21, 2018, at the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta. The meeting will offer AMA PRA-1 credits™ for attendees as well as American Osteopathic Association (AOA) CME credits. Non-osteopathic neurosurgeons are invited to join the ACOS as full active members, and as such, they are eligible to vote on ACOS business, participate in committees and be elected to leadership positions within the subspecialty. The ACOS offers members a unique membership experience with small intimate networking opportunities, leadership development education and participation in high quality CME, both in person and online. Unofficially, it appears that there are 12 osteopathic neurosurgeons that have completed pediatric neurosurgery fellowships. These individuals include men and women from all social and cultural backgrounds. They practice medicine in settings ranging from academic medicine to private practice. They have been notified about opportunities within the AANS/CNS Pediatric Section. We hope that our groups can be brought together by the shared mutual interest of academia, research and clinical pediatric neurosurgery.

# AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery Officers and Committees

## Officers

**Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS**  
Chair (2017-2019)

**Sarah Gaskill, MD, FAANS**  
Immediate Past Chair (2017-2019)

**Mark Krieger, MD, FAANS**  
Chair-elect (2017-2019)

**Benny Iskandar, MD, FAANS**  
Secretary (2017-2019)

**Matt Smyth, MD, FAANS**  
Treasurer (2017-2019)

## Members At-Large

**Phil Aldana, MD, FAANS**  
(2016-2018)

**David Limbrick, MD, PhD, FAANS**  
(2016-2018)

**Ann Ritter, MD, FAANS**  
(2017-2019)

**Greg Albert, MD, FAANS**  
(2017-2019)

**Eric Jackson, MD, FAANS**  
(2018-2020)

**Jim Johnston, MD, FAANS**  
(2018-2020)

## Communications Subcommittee

(2-year Term)  
**Richard C. E. Anderson, MD, FAANS**  
Chair (2017-2019)  
**Benjamin Kennedy, MD**  
Social Media (2017-2019)

## Training Subcommittee

Traveling Fellowships and Training  
(2-year Term)  
**David Sandberg, MD, FAANS**  
Chair (2017-2019)  
**Andrew Jea, MD, FAANS**  
Vice Chair (2017-2019)  
**Edward Ahn, MD, FAANS**  
(2017-2019)  
**Erin Kiehna, MD**  
(2017-2019)

## Standing Committees

**Nominating Committee** (2-year Term)  
**Sarah Gaskill, MD, FAANS - Chair**  
(2017-2023, Chair 2017-2019)  
**Al Cohen, MD, FAANS**  
(2013-2019)  
**Bruce Kaufman, MD, FAANS**  
(2015-2021)

## Rules & Regulations Committee

(2-year Term)  
**Nick Wetjen, MD, FAANS**  
Chair (2017-2019)  
**Dean Hertzler, MD, FAANS**  
(2017-2019)  
**Ruth Bristol, MD, FAANS**  
2017-2019)

## Membership Committee

(2-year Term)  
**Toba Niazi, MD, FAANS - Chair**  
(2017-2019)  
**Brent O'Neill, MD, FAANS**  
(2017-2019)  
**Rob Bollo, MD, FAANS**  
(2017-2019)

## Education Committee

(2-year Term)  
**Dave Limbrick, MD, PhD, FAANS**  
Chair (2017-2019)  
**Susan Durham, MD, FAANS**  
Chair-elect (2017-2019)

## Ad Hoc Committees

### Pediatric Section Annual Meeting Subcommittee

**Howard Weiner, MD, FAANS**  
(2017-Houston)  
**David Sandberg, MD, FAANS**  
(2017-Houston)  
**Greg Olavarria, MD, FAANS**  
(2016-Orlando)  
**Jay Wellons, MD, FAANS**  
Upcoming Meeting Chair  
**Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS**  
ex-officio – Section Chair  
**Mark Krieger, MD, FAANS**  
ex-officio – Chair-elect  
**Matt Smyth, MD, FAANS**  
ex-officio – Section Treasurer

### National Meetings Subcommittee

(2-year Term)  
**Lissa Baird, MD, FAANS**  
Co-chair (2017-2019)  
**Elias Rizk, MD, FAANS**  
Co-chair (2017-2019)  
**Todd Hankinson, MD, MBA, FAANS**  
(2017-2019)  
**Amy Lee, MD, FAANS**  
(2017-2019)  
**Sandi Lam, MD, FAANS**  
(2017-2019)

## International Education Subcommittee

(2-year Term)  
**James Johnston, MD, FAANS**  
Chair (2017-2019)  
**Phil Aldana, MD, FAANS**  
(2017-2019)

## Examination Questions Subcommittee

(2-year Term)  
**Lance Governale, MD, FAANS**  
**Rabia Kaiser, MD**

## Pediatric Section Guidelines Committee

(3-year Term, Changed at CNS Meeting)  
**Cathy Mazzola, MD, FAANS**  
Chair (2015-2018)  
**Mandeep Tamber, MD, PhD, FAANS**  
(2015-2018)  
**Rachana Tyagi, MD, FAANS**  
(2015-2018)  
**David Bauer, MD, FAANS**  
Chair-elect (2017-2019)  
**Catherine McClung-Smith, MD**  
(2017-2019)  
**Demetrios Nikas, MD, FAANS**  
(2017-2019)  
**Brandon Rocque, MD, MS, FAANS**  
(2017-2020)  
**Rob Naftel, MD, FAANS**  
(2017-2020)  
**Scellig Stone, MD, PhD, FAANS**  
(2017-2020)

## AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery Officers and Committees

### *Lifetime Achievement Award:*

#### *Immediate Past Chair*

**Sarah Gaskill, MD, FAANS**  
(2017-2019)

### *Research Committee*

(2-year Term)

**Ed Smith, MD, FAANS**

(2013-2019, Chair 2016-2018)

**Cormac Maher, MD, FAANS**

(2015-2019)

**Eric M. Thompson, MD, FAANS**

(2015-2019)

**David Daniels, MD, PhD**

(2017-2019)

### **Representatives and Liaisons**

#### **Liaison to the AANS Executive**

**Committee** - Current Chair

Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS

(2017-2019)

#### **Liaison to the CNS Executive**

**Committee** - Chair-elect

Mark Krieger, MD, FAANS

(2017-2019)

#### **Liaison to the Washington**

**Committee, AANS/CNS** - Past Chair

Sarah Gaskill, MD, FAANS

(2017-2019)

#### **Liaison to the ABPNS**

Rick Boop, MD, FAANS

Current Chair of ABPNS

#### **Liaison with ACPNF**

(Accreditation Council of Pediatric  
Neurosurgery Fellowships)

Cormac Maher, MD, FAANS

Current Chair of ACPNF

#### **Liaison with ISPN**

Eylen Ocal, MD, FAANS

(2017-2019)

#### **Liaison with ASPN**

Jim Drake, MD, FAANS

Current President of ASPN

#### **Liaison with AAP Section of Neurological Surgery (SONS)**

Andrew Jea, MD, FAANS

Current Chair of SONS

#### **Liaison to the Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies**

(2-year Term)

Curtis Rozzelle, MD, FAANS

(2017-2019)

#### **Liaison to the Coding and Reimbursement Committee, AANS**

(2-year Term)

Lance Governale, MD, FAANS

(2017-2019)

Curtis Rozzelle, MD, FAANS

(2017-2019)

#### **Liaison to the Drugs and Devices Committee, AANS location-specific**

(2-year Term)

Joseph Madsen, MD

(2017-2019)

Sam Browd, MD, PhD, FAANS

(2017-2019)

#### **Liaison to the Young Neurosurgeons Committee**

Luke Tomycz, MD

(2017-2021)

Alt: Benjamin C. Kennedy, MD

#### **Liaison to Quality/Outcomes Groups**

(2-year Term)

Sandi Lam, MD, FAANS

(2017-2019)

#### **Liaison to the NREF**

(2-year Term)

Ed Smith, MD, FAANS

(2017-2019)

David Gruber, MD, FAANS

(2017-2019)

#### **Liaison to the American College of Osteopathic Surgery**

(2-year Term)

Francesco Mangano, DO

(2017-2019)

