

# Pediatric Short Cuts

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



My fellow EC officers join me in thanking you for the privilege of leading the section, and to let you know that we fully understand that the opportunity to lead comes with responsibilities. These include the responsibility to be fair and equitable, to preserve a productive infrastructure, to adapt to the times and advance the mission, to provide opportunities for section members and to be fiscally sound.

As previously described, we've expanded the committee structure to enhance our mission, while simultaneously providing opportunity for all interested members to participate in section leadership and activities. For example, the *Timothy George Committee on Diversity and Inclusion in Pediatric Neurosurgery*, the *Committee on Public Engagement, Education and Advocacy* and the *Transition of Care Committee* are developing guidelines and programs to ensure diversity, equitability and inclusion across our membership and activities and engagement with our patients. *The Senior Advisory Committee, Young Neurosurgeons Pediatric Neurosurgery Sub-committee* and *APP Committee* are ensuring equitability in leadership (note the article on Yosef Dastagirzada, the inaugural resident member of the EC). *The Education, QI, Guidelines* and *Research Committees* are developing new programs to advance the central mission

of the section and building connections with non-profit advocacy groups. The *International Relations Committee* is expanding the section's global footprint to enhance partnerships with, and provide education, advocacy and research to underrepresented regions of the world. The *Rules and Regulations, Membership, Industry Relations* and *Nominating Committees* are helping preserve our robust organizational structure. The *Communications Committee* and the various liaisons are making sure the section is contemporary, connected and heard. And the *Chair's Committee on Planning and Development* is giving us a glimpse of what the future of the section might look like.

Enthusiastic kudos to the Salt Lake City 2021 team and the upcoming Washington, DC 2022 team *Annual Meeting Subcommittees* for putting together elaborate section conferences that provide a meaningful educational programs, while showcasing the visions and activities of the various section committees. As part of this effort, we are excited to report that there has been a sizable expansion of the number of grants and awards provided by the section, which now include the *Shulman Award, Pediatric NREF Research Grant, Pediatric Section Research Grant, Donald D. Matson Lecture, Hydrocephalus Association Award, Bobby Jones Chiari & Syringomyelia Foundation Award, Franc D. Ingraham Award for Distinguished Service and Achievements, Meghan Rose Bradley Foundation (tumor) award, Timothy George Awards* in diversity and inclusion, *Molly Hubbard Award* for best Fellow's abstract and *Global Pediatric Neurosurgery* awards. We are particularly delighted

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about the DC team’s effort to globalize the 2022 conference, thus the decision to sponsor an international guest speaker and provide free virtual access to our international colleagues.

Decisively, the long-term success of these efforts relies in large measure on financial viability, which is now a reality, thanks to the dedication of prior section chairs, including Mark Krieger, Mark Proctor, Sarah Gaskill and others. Recently, the EC has initiated a measured approach to manage section funds in support of our mission, while also maintaining fiscal security. In our first initiative, we have established independent \$250K funds with the Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation and Congress of Neurological Surgeons Foundation (CNS Foundation) (matched by the CNS Foundation) to function as endowments in support of section research and education. Future strategies include partnership grants with industry and non-profit organizations.

We bear witness to personal tragedies daily by virtue of our jobs. We are also constantly reminded of population-wide devastations in low-income countries and inner cities. This past year alone, the world has witnessed the relentless multiple strains of COVID-19, the tragedy of Ukraine and perpetual racial injustice. There is always someone suffering, and we have the extraordinary privilege to have been trained to alleviate suffering. The EC remains committed to steadfastly building infrastructure and empowering our members to support the need of children and alleviate their suffering. In turn, when we hoped that you, the members, would get involved, your response was tremendous. As a result, the number of committee members rose five-fold, leading to a corresponding expansion of section activities. Now, we challenge you to take the next step: Get involved and stay involved; complete a section project each year and seek collaborations across committees and across societies (ASPN, AAP, ISPN, etc.) The collective effort and accomplishments of our community will always be our greatest reward.

**Bermans J. Iskandar, MD, FAANS**



## SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Tina Duhaime, MD and  
Al Cohen, MD, Co-Chairs

We are grateful to the senior leadership of the Pediatric Section who have agreed to volunteer their time to support Section Committees. We remind the committee chairs that these senior advisors are available to provide guidance and answer questions as they come up.

**EDUCATION** — Tad Tomita

**INTERNATIONAL** — Rick Boop

**DIVERSITY** — Laurie Ackerman

**RESEARCH** — John Kestle

**QUALITY** — Bruce Kaufman

**TRAINEES** — Jeff Wisoff

**GUIDELINES** — Ann Flannery

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Ruth E. Bristol, MD, FAANS

The Pediatric Section remains in good financial health. Total net assets as per the last (02/28/2022) financial statement totaled \$1,436,857. This is a slight increase from the prior year (\$1,351,992) and continues to reflect a comfortable reserve to support an entire annual meeting plus section activities for around two years without any revenue.

### Annual Meeting

Total revenue for the 2021 meeting came to \$432,468 with 340 in-person and 184 virtual attendees. The expense for the 2022 Annual Meeting for the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/ Congress of Neurological Surgeons (ANS/CNS) Joint Section in Pediatric Neurological surgery is still preliminary. The virtual component will be continued to expand availability to the meeting, but at a reduced cost to national attendees, and free for international attendees.

### Long-term Investments

The Section's long-term investment account continued to do well in fiscal year 2021 with a gain of \$152,555 for a total of \$1,131,797. Short-term investments are up \$69,014 for a total of \$247,954. 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.

### Honor Your Mentor Funds

There have been no further disbursements from the Honor your Mentor funds. Updated balances will be reported in the fall for the A. Leland Albright fund, The Sanjiv Bhatia fund and The Marion "Jack" Walker fund.

### Specific Expenses and Financial Resolutions

The section has expanded its commitment toward its educational and research missions. Between the section research awards, the Pediatric Neurosurgical Research & Education Foundation Fellowship grant and domestic and international traveling fellowships and private foundation donations, the section now offers 12 different awards. Investments with the CNS and AANS of \$250,000 each also represent opportunities.



## THE TIMOTHY GEORGE COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY

Catherine Mazzola, MD and Clarence Greene, MD, *Co-Chairs*

The Timothy George Committee on Diversity and Inclusion in Pediatric Neurosurgery was created in 2021 to address the deficiencies in our profession in representation of persons of color, gender and members of the LGBTQ+ community. The primary responsibility of the committee was to **begin the conversation** about the importance and value of a diverse and all-inclusive workforce in Pediatric Neurosurgery. The committee has developed organizational learning experiences and educational tools to increase the cultural competence and intelligence of the AANS and CNS membership, our trainees and medical students.

Drs. Alexa Canady, Anthony Wang, Hal Meltzer, Holly Gilmer, Karin Murazsko, Krystal Tomei, Mari Groves, Sarah Jernigan, Zulma Tovar-Spinoza, Lawrence Daniels, AnnMarie Flannery, Allison Rathmann, Leslie Satchivi and Gabbie Johnson are serving on this committee, chaired by Drs. Clarence Greene and Cathy Mazzola. Dr. Laurie Ackerman is serving as our senior advisor.

The committee met most recently via Zoom in early January. There was much discussion about possible projects that would help create a better understanding of diversity in pediatric neurosurgery. A study of the diversity of the applicants to pediatric neurosurgery training was suggested. Depending on the results, a plan for outreach to improve diversity could be formulated. We also discussed the possibility of exploring departmental populations to see if the department was

representative of the community that it served. We also suggested a survey to determine if our university or departmental staff is culturally competent and sensitive to various issues.

There will be awards and recognition for research papers/presentations that address disparity, access and inclusion at our annual section meeting. The "Timothy George Award" will be given for the best oral presentation about diversity and inclusion for \$1,000 and there will be one award for \$500 for the best poster presentation, or the second-best oral presentation if no posters on the subject are presented.

We will start developing culturally diverse patient educational videos. Examples of hydrocephalus educational videos can be viewed here:

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)

Finally, our committee is working with Dr. Bob Keating to see if we could host 10 students for a day at our next meeting in DC. We could host lunch for students interested in neurosurgery. We will need to identify Pediatric Neurosurgeons who would be willing to volunteer as AANS mentors, with special interests in disparity, equality, inclusion and outreach, especially to act as a mentor at the next peds section meeting. Hopefully, we can host these students for a day at our December 2022 meeting.



## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Christopher Bonfield, MD, and Eylem Ocal, MD, *Co-Chairs*

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons (ANS/CNS) Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery International Relations Committee is working to promote the global neurosurgical efforts of its section members. Drs. Phillip Aldana, Heather Spader and Eylem Ocal represented the section at an ISPN-sponsored African course with lectures on neural tube defects and head trauma. Likewise, the committee is determined to further participation of section members in global neurosurgical educational activities for the future. Partnership with pediatric neurosurgical societies in India, Brazil, Africa and South Asia are being established, and our liaisons are identifying international education partners to work towards building long lasting collaborations. International Education Subcommittee (co-chairs: Samer Elbabaa, Caitlin Hoffman) and International Liaisons positions will continue to enhance the section's network and involvement within global neurosurgery.

Topics such as global neurosurgery, diversity and equity in health care, equal access to pediatric surgical care and advocating the wellbeing of children via collective global effort will be highlighted in the upcoming Annual Section Meeting in Washington DC this year, hosted by Dr. Robert Keating and Dr. Hasan Syed. To this extent, a new award category for the Best Global Neurosurgical Paper has been created for the upcoming section meeting. Look for more details in the abstract submission section of the meeting website.

The International Committee is also working on identifying section members who collaborate internationally with the purpose of enlisting them as mentors for the next generation of pediatric neurosurgeons. Our aim is to define a model for global fellowship training for North American trainees to broaden their perspective on an international scale.

The International Relations Committee will position the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery as a key player in international education, training, fellowship and humanitarian efforts.

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## INTERNATIONAL TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP IN PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY

The Joint Pediatric Neurosurgery Section of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and Congress of Neurological Surgeons has established an international traveling fellowship 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 last five years.

The fellowship will cover travel 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. Fellowships will be awarded yearly based on a competitive evaluation by a committee of the Pediatric Section at the annual meeting in December. The maximum fellowship stipend is \$7,500.

The application must 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 CV.

The strict deadline for application submission is November 4, 2022. The completed application should be emailed to Edward Ahn at [ahn.edward@mayo.edu](mailto:ahn.edward@mayo.edu). More information can be found at [here](#).

## RESIDENT TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP IN PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY

The Joint Pediatric Neurosurgery Section of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and Congress of Neurological Surgeons established a traveling fellowship for residents in accredited North American neurosurgical training programs. The fellowship is intended to cover the travel 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.

Two fellowships per year are awarded based on a competitive evaluation by a committee of the Joint Pediatric Section. The maximum fellowship stipend is \$2,500.

The application must include:

1. A statement defining the purpose of the proposed fellowship;
2. Written permission from the applicant's residency program director to pursue the one-month fellowship if it is awarded;
3. A letter of acceptance from the pediatric neurosurgical program where the applicant will seek the fellowship;
4. The applicant's current CV.

The strict deadline for application submission is November 4, 2022. The completed application should be emailed to Edward Ahn at [ahn.edward@mayo.edu](mailto:ahn.edward@mayo.edu). More information can be found [here](#).

## NATIONAL MEETINGS REPORT

Robert Naftel, MD and Raheel Ahmed, MD, Co-Chairs

The National Meetings Subcommittee aims to organize pediatric content for the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) and the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) meetings that will target the unique attendee audience of the national meetings and also complement the pediatric-focused annual meetings (pediatric section and ASPN). Our goals are to focus on education for general- and pediatric-focused neurosurgeons and trainee physicians by highlighting practice updates, field advancements and topical research updates. The committee also leverages local pediatric neurosurgeons and their subspecialty strengths to help provide deep and local experiences for the national stage and identify speakers from associated fields.

Cancellation of the Annual AANS and CNS meetings in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the late conversion of the 2021 AANS Annual Meeting to virtual format led to reorganization of the pediatric session into limited content. The 2021 CNS Meeting was also significantly impacted by low attendance.

For 2022, the Pediatric Section content was modified following reorganization of the 2022 AANS (Philadelphia) meeting format to transition from a broader, general to a subspecialty focus through the course of the meeting. In addition, a new series of Neurosurgical Community Sessions organized by the AANS SPC and Ped EC was scheduled focusing on pediatric

brain tumors and hydrocephalus. Featuring national leaders in those areas, these sessions are comprised of lectures and panel expert discussions.

The CNS 2022 (San Francisco) Meeting features Symposia that integrate pediatric with CVS and general subsections to provide broader, updated content for management of pediatric cerebrovascular diseases, neurotrauma and programmatic development in clinical pathways. Coinciding with the 20-year mark since publication of the MOMS landmark trial, the SF venue has facilitated a session on updates on fetal myelomeningocele repair. In line with the CNS mission, Pediatric Section speaker invites have focused on junior faculty, trainee representation and a social reception focusing on career development, job search and practice building. The 2022 CNS meeting also features two awards for Best Clinical and Basic Science abstract that has been funded by the Pediatric Section. The awardee will be chosen based on originality, merit, innovation and scientific process. Abstracts will be reviewed by the Pediatric Section members. This award includes a \$500 honorarium presentation of the abstract at the CNS Meeting.

We welcome any suggestions to improve access and broaden impact for the Pediatric Sessions within the national meetings.

**Robert Naftel, Raheel Ahmed, Hal Meltzer and Dean Hertzler 2021–2023**

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Annie Drapeau, MD and Carolina Sandoval Garcia, MD, Co-Chairs

The Quality Improvement Committee has been enthusiastically working to promote the role of Quality Improvement (QI) in pediatric neurosurgery. The co-chairs of the committee were able to introduce the newly created group and its ambitious goals at the 50th Annual Meeting of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery in Salt Lake City.

First, during the meeting, we had the opportunity to share the preliminary result analysis from our survey in the form of an e-poster. To address the goal of evaluating and reporting on the role of QI, the committee had sent a survey to members of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery, inquiring about their perception of the importance and challenges related to the implementation of QI in the field of pediatric neurosurgery. We will further disseminate these results in the form of a publication later this year. We highly encourage members to submit their quality/process improvement and patient safety work for the 51st Annual Meeting of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery.

Second, a subcommittee has been created to update the QI page on the [pedsneurosurgery.org](https://pedsneurosurgery.org) website. This will serve as a central source to support members in their QI initiatives. Our hope is that it will foster collaboration and inspire the pediatric neurosurgery community to improve patient care.

Third, another subcommittee has been created to develop a curriculum that would provide education on science of improvement and safety for pediatric neurosurgeons. We intend to provide tools and guidance for those interested in learning QI methodology, and its implementation in pediatric neurosurgery care. We would like to thank all of those who shared their ideas and enthusiasm for QI, and especially to all who have volunteered to begin work on these subcommittees.

Furthermore, we continue to evaluate various opportunities to achieve our final goal — establishing QI standards for pediatric neurosurgery and encouraging multicenter collaboration. We intend to review the existing multicenter databases collecting pediatric neurosurgery data. We hope that the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery will be a key player in guiding the pediatric neurosurgery community in establishing benchmarks for outcomes in our field.

Finally, the QI Committee would like to thank Dr. Joseph Piatt, the quality officer of the Chair's Committee on Planning and Development, and Dr. Bruce Kaufman, QI Senior Advisory Committee, with their continued support and encouragement.

Photo of the QI committee co-chairs, big smiles after a productive meeting.



## 2022 PEDIATRIC SECTION ANNUAL MEETING

Robert F. Keating, MD

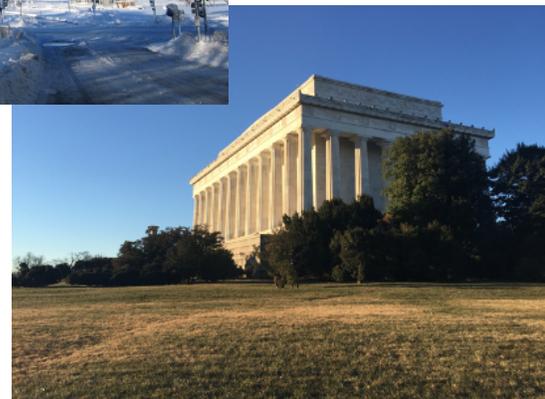
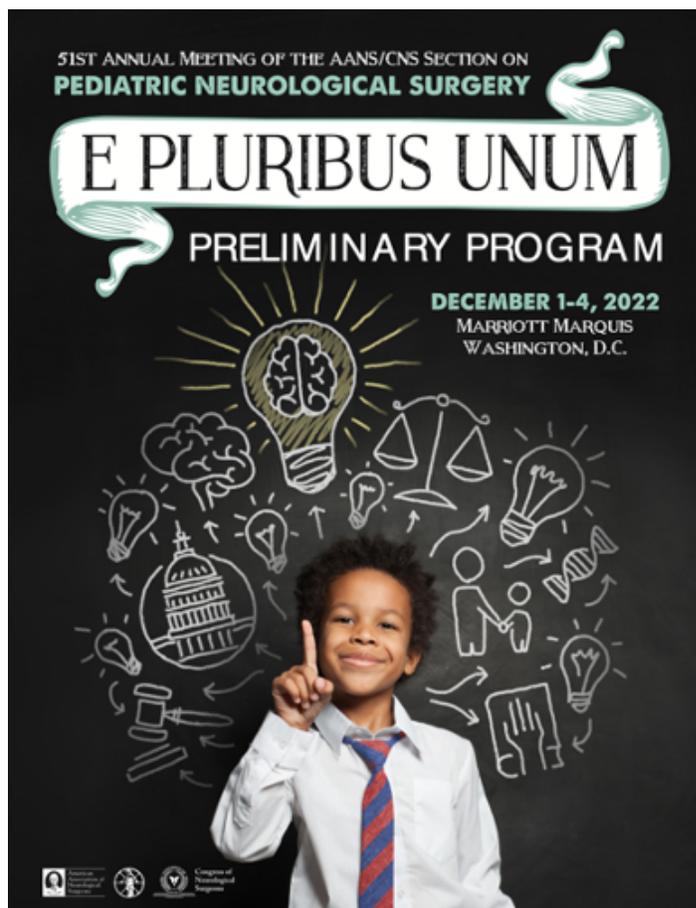
We are pleased to announce that the 51st Annual Meeting of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery will be held in Washington, DC from Dec. 1-4, 2022. The meeting will be live, as well as streamed online for those unable to attend in person or from international venues. Proof of vaccination will be required to attend in person.

This year's meeting theme will be *E Pluribus Unum: Advocacy, Health Care Policy, and the Future of Pediatric Neurosurgery*. A national as well as international focus will be made on advocacy for our kids and their health care needs, especially as it pertains to current and future pediatric Neurosurgery. An emphasis will be made for an international outreach to participants, to share their insight and unique challenges, as well as to foster collaborative efforts.

Some of the highlights include:

- Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellow's Bootcamp on Dec 1.
- Neurosurgery AAP Section Meeting/Workshop on Dec 1.
- International Section/Collaborative Meeting on Dec 1.
- The meeting will start with a Global Perspective/Future Directions section with national and international keynote speakers focusing on advocacy, inequities and challenges in delivery of pediatric health care.
- Keynote speakers for each session (Hydrocephalus, Epilepsy, Dysraphism, Craniofacial, Vascular, Tumors, Chiari, Trauma, Spine, Technology)
- Point/counterpoint debates on controversial topics for each section topic
- Review of the best recent evidence-based paper(s) for each section
- Concurrent luncheon seminars with Basic Science/NIH sections running parallel with Dec 2 luncheon seminar on *Avoiding and Managing Complications/QI initiatives*, Dec 3 luncheon seminar on *Education/workforce/equity issues/Parent advocacy groups*
- Lecture on challenges and advocacy for adult transition of the spina bifida patient
- Awards for best papers in multiple areas for basic science and oral/poster presentations (domestic and international)

*The metropolitan Washington DC area combines world-class facilities within an extraordinary matrix of innumerable, easy access, historical and cultural attractions. We look forward to seeing you this December.*



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Jeff Leonard, MD and Rob Bollo, MD, Co-Chairs

The educational webinars continue with the latest focusing on pediatric arteriovenous malformations. The featured speaker, Dr. Edward Smith, provided a comprehensive review, which highlighted the insights he has gathered over his years in practice. After the webinar was interrupted briefly by unwanted guests, we continued with our three presenters discussing several challenging vascular cases. The entire webinar is on the website for those wishing to view it. The next webinar will be sponsored by the group at the Toronto Sick Kid's Hospital. Please look for the announcement coming later this month.

The Podcast Committee has published their first [podcast](#). This podcast has Drs. Spader and Bollo interview Dr. Michael Scott and Dr. Marion Walker. These two leading neurosurgeons have mentored many current pediatric neurosurgeons and have each left their individual marks on our profession. They discuss the history of pediatric neurosurgery and the insights they have gathered over their many decades of practice. The second podcast will be an interview with Dr. Jay Wellons about his book; this is scheduled to be recorded in May and released in June. Dr. Vijay Ravindra was added to the Podcast Subcommittee.

The Traveling Fellowship Subcommittee received the highest number of applicants in the recent past for the Resident Traveling Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery in 2021. In response, the section was able to award additional fellowships this year for a total of six awards to the following residents:

- Yosef Dastagirzada from New York University visiting Seattle Children's Hospital
- Daniel Duran from University of Mississippi visiting Boston Children's Hospital
- Timothy Gooldy from Barrow Neurological Institute visiting Shriners Hospital for Children — Philadelphia
- Victor Lu from University of Miami visiting Boston Children's Hospital
- Chesney Oravec from Wake Forest University visiting Seattle Children's Hospital
- Martin Piazza from University of North Carolina visiting University of Utah

There were two awardees for the International Traveling Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery in 2021:

- Kevin Ferraris from Philippines visiting British Columbia Children's Hospital in Vancouver.
- Beste Gulsuna from Turkey visiting Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago

A robust examinations committee is managing the CNS SANS section on pediatrics. The co-chairs, Drs. Governale and Morgenstern, continue preparing questions that are taken directly from the released stems from the American Board of Neurological Surgery. The 12 members of this committee are all contributing material for this important endeavor. This has been an exciting year, and we look forward to many more activities in the upcoming year that increase the educational footprint of this committee and the AANS/CNS Pediatric Neurosurgery Section.

# COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Ben Kennedy, MD and Carrie Muh, MD, Co-Chairs

## Social Media Subcommittee

Co-chairs: Carrie Muh and Smruti Patel

The purpose of the Social Media subcommittee is to manage and expand the social media footprint of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery to encourage communication and engagement both among and between our members and the wider community. Our goals are: 1) to represent pediatric neurosurgery in a professional manner; 2) share our research and mission with the community; 3) to keep our members aware and updated of educational opportunities, conferences and job opportunities within the field of pediatric neurosurgery and 4) to present regular, pertinent content to increase engagement both in the form of sharing of the content, as well as number of followers.

The Social Media subcommittee has established professional accounts across the Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn platforms. We successfully established a "Feature Fellow Spotlight" series that showcased our current ABPNS-accredited fellows, which was well received across all platforms. On Instagram, we have now grown to more than 1,000 followers. There has been great overlap and feedback between the AANS Diversity Task Force account, as well as the parent organizations with sharing of content and stories to help promote our mission and increase visibility. Regular weekly content, including highlighting upcoming meetings, current pediatric neurosurgery fellows, pioneers in our field and the educational lecture series has been very good for engagement. On Twitter, we now have 3,099 followers and continue to grow. We have had 23,500 impressions in the past four weeks and consistently achieve thousands of impressions every month. We will continue to live tweet and actively post across the platforms throughout the annual meetings to increase interaction among current and future members. The subcommittee will also continue to post and share information regarding new research and innovation in our field, as well as award and scholarship opportunities available through both the Joint Section and our parent organizations.

For content sharing, the following members manage the following accounts:

**Instagram** (Smruti K. Patel): @aanscns\_pedssection

**Facebook** (Smruti K. Patel): AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery Page

**LinkedIn** (Smruti K. Patel; Carrie Muh): AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery Page

**Twitter** (Carrie Muh): @PedsSection

Please reach out to Smruti K. Patel, MD ([smruti.patel@cchmc.org](mailto:smruti.patel@cchmc.org)) if you would like the Joint Section to host any relevant and appropriate content related to the section or pediatric neurosurgery (subject to subcommittee review and approval).

## Website Subcommittee

Chair: Ben Kennedy

With the help of new member, George Koutsouras, our website continues to stay updated with news and meeting information for our membership, with several recent improvements. Interested residents, fellows and attendings can complete our new volunteer form to become involved in the section and current chairs of section subcommittees can be found on the website. The Education Lecture Series now has a YouTube channel link that can also be found on our website where anyone can access the recordings of the bimonthly event. Our social media accounts have been linked with buttons and our Twitter feed can be seen on the side panel. The Quality Improvement page is in the process of being updated and expanded. We look forward to bringing everyone the latest updates and much more.

### Virtual Meeting Subcommittee

Co-chairs: Krystal Tomei and Albert Tu

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a period of unprecedented upheaval and disruption around the world. In response, the development of adaptive technologies to facilitate virtual communication has allowed for new opportunities in knowledge dissemination. The virtual meeting subcommittee did convene for the first time in 2021 to look at options for hosting and supporting the annual meeting in a virtual format. We identified early on that we wanted vendors that could assist with providing a hybrid conference experience, with a live and virtual component. Furthermore, we felt that the ability to pivot to a full virtual meeting would be important given the volatility of the pandemic and regional disparities in management. After several rounds of interviews and meetings, we did identify a vendor that fit all our needs in addition to having had recent experience in virtual and hybrid conference production. It was with great fortune that the conference was eventually held live, and the virtual component was utilized to stream content to all those unable to physically attend. While most participants were present in person, a significant number were also able to view the talks and presentations remotely from the comfort of their homes and offices. Furthermore, the virtual content was shareable among affiliated groups and research labs, allowing for greater viewership than previously possible. While we all hope that the pandemic has reached a point where life may resume in a way that is more familiar, the virtual meeting did reveal that this evolving technology may become an increasingly essential component for meetings in the future. This subcommittee looks forward to future opportunities where virtual viewership may augment or supplement live hosted events.

### Survey Subcommittee

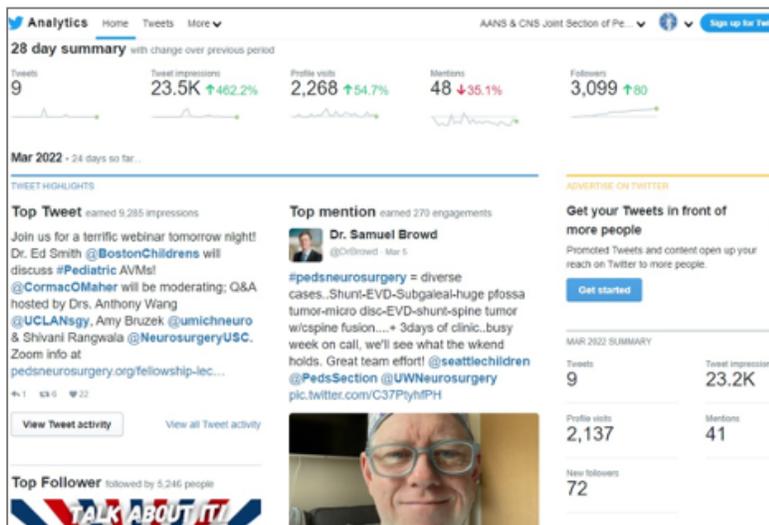
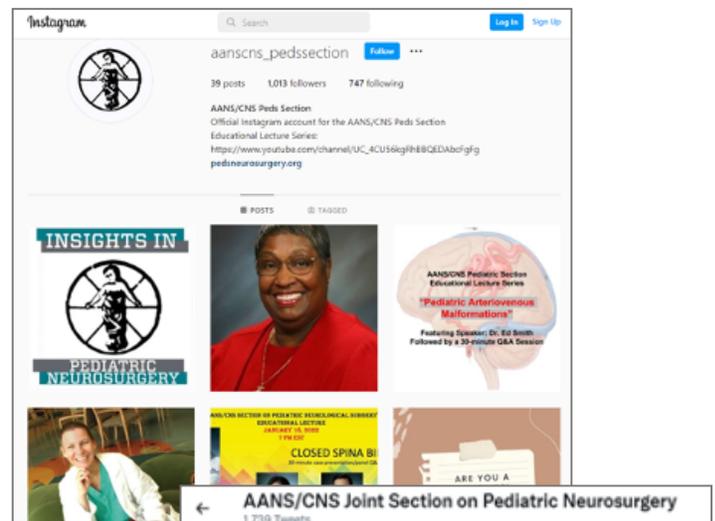
Co-chairs: Eric Sribnick and Shelly Wang

The Survey Subcommittee was designed to allow members with high quality survey studies to distribute their surveys directly to our membership via email. The subcommittee has set up a process for submitting survey study proposals, has reviewed multiple studies and will be promoting its first study shortly.

### Listserv Subcommittee

Co-chairs: Nir Shimony and Jennifer Ronecker

The Listserv Subcommittee has initiated research into our prior section listserv, as well as other neurosurgical listservs, and aims to improve this moderated forum for our section membership.



## RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Todd Hankinson, MD and David Daniels, MD, Co-Chairs

The *Pediatric Section Research Committee* is now divided into four subcommittees, each of which has been reorganized and taken on a new focus during the last year.

### Clinical Networks Subcommittee

(Co-Chairs: Jonathan Pindrik and Jennifer Strahle)

**Subcommittee members:** David Hersh, Jason Hauptman, Samuel [Trey] McClugage and Manish Shah

This subcommittee has assembled a full team of voluntary members committed to establishing and enhancing relationships between the Pediatric Section and clinical research networks/registries. Together, they have developed a vision statement and list of goals for the two-year term. They have created a comprehensive list of 17 North American and/or international clinical research networks and registries with representation in or affiliation with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery. They have identified liaisons for most of these entities to serve as points of contact for research inquiries. Currently, they are developing guidelines for research collaborations between Pediatric Section members and the research networks/registries. Subsequent projects will solicit research questions and proposals from Pediatric Section members, which may lead to collaborative projects with research networks/registries.

### Section and NREF Grants Subcommittee

(Co-Chairs: Heather McCrea and Brandon Miller)

The Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation and Section Grants Subcommittees have been consolidated into a single subcommittee. They are soliciting applications for the 2022 Pediatric Section Grant. This is a \$10,000 research grant opportunity **specifically targeted to incoming or current pediatric neurosurgery fellows and junior faculty in their first year of practice**. The Pediatric Section recognizes there are limited funding opportunities for fellows and junior faculty, despite the evidence that this population is in greatest need of support. This grant provides funding to support research collaboration between fellows/new faculty and senior faculty. This will stimulate mentorship and support pediatric neurosurgeons seeking to incorporate research as part of their careers. Projects should have a clear pediatric neurosurgical focus. Reviews will be completed by late May for initiation of projects by July 1, 2022

### Faculty Development and Mentoring Subcommittee

(Co-Chairs: Amanda Saratsis and Brian Dlouhy)

**Subcommittee members:** Francesco Magnano, and Manish Shah

This subcommittee has been working on several important items. First, is the development of a research mentoring/junior faculty development session in association with the Pediatric Section meeting. Second, the development of a mentor list that will be made available to interested students/residents/junior faculty via the Pediatric Section website. Third, the development of an online resource or manual designed to provide introductory information and guidance for those who are interested in developing a basic or translational research career focus.

### Basic Science and Genetic Networks Subcommittee

**(BSGN)** (Co-Chairs: Kris Kahle and Samuel Cheshier)

The BSGN subcommittee is working with the 2021 and 2022 Pediatric Section Annual Meeting teams to establish short sessions dedicated to the presentation and discussion of basic science endeavors. This is designed to foster a specific science session for interested members, while recognizing that not everyone would like to participate in this section. During the 2022 meeting in Washington DC, we are planning to have a representative from the NIH attend a session and be available to interact with attendees during the meeting. We are also compiling a list of potential basic science focused mentors, who will be able to help support young pediatric neurosurgeons with a basic science research focus.

## GUIDELINE COMMITTEE UPDATE

David Bauer, MD, Chair

The *Pediatric Section Guideline Committee* has been active over the last six months. This committee serves many purposes. We initiate the production of practice guidelines for pediatric neurosurgeons by submitting ideas to the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Guidelines Committee, then creating a working group to produce the guidelines through a process supported by CNS. We also nominate committee members to the CNS/American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Joint Guideline Review Committee (JGRC), where we review internally and externally produced guidelines for endorsement by the CNS/AANS, a review which often serves as ad hoc peer review for publication in neurosurgery. Finally, we serve as an internal pediatric section review committee for any pediatric specific practice parameter, guideline or practice statement that might be submitted from external sources to the section. Overall, the committee provides many services to the section, all of which revolve around the goodwill of section membership donating time to these efforts. The defining attribute of a committee member is either a knowledge of methodology, or a desire to learn the methodology through CNS-sponsored methodology educational courses.

Currently, we are working on guidelines for the Surgical Treatment of Chiari I Malformation. The process started Spring 2021. We are finalizing the chapters, and we hope to review in JGRC in April or May. Publication will hopefully be in Summer 2022. Section committee members are currently helping with the SFNS Surgical Treatment of Epilepsy guidelines with AAN/AES/CNS. This process is being expedited through outsourcing of the systematic literature review. I am hopeful we will begin manuscript preparation in winter 2022. Section committee members are also involved

with an update of the diagnosis of brain death guidelines with AAN. This manuscript should be finalized this summer, with a hope of publication in the fall.

As chair of the guideline committee, I truly appreciate the many hours committee members have donated to producing and reviewing guidelines, and I look forward to continuing this work for the section. Future endeavors for our committee include updates of prior guidelines (plagiocephaly, spina bifida) and creation of a new guideline on tethered spinal cord. These projects have been submitted to the CNS, and we are waiting for approval to move forward.

I would like to thank the following members for serving on the Joint Guideline Review Committee in 2021/2022: Jonathan Pindrik, Taylor Abel, Greg Heuer, Sarah Jernigan, Laurie Ackerman, Howard Silberstein, Alex Beier and James (Andy) Stadler.

I would like to thank the following members for serving on the Chiari Guideline Working Group: Toba Niazi, Rabia Qaiser, Shobhan Vachhrajani, Eric Jackson, Jeffrey Raskin, Sarah Jernigan, Jogi Pattisapu, Laurie Ackerman, Cormac Maher, Brandon Rocque, Carolyn Quinsey, Libby Infinger and Howard Silberstein.

I would like to thank prior committee chairs Cathy Mazzola and Ann Flannery for continued mentorship and support, and Angela Price and Brent O'Neil for volunteering for the AES Epilepsy Guideline project.

If anyone is interested in helping with future projects, or if you would like to learn more about the development of guidelines, please reach out to me at any time at [dfbauer@texaschildrens.org](mailto:dfbauer@texaschildrens.org).

## TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT: YOSEF DASTAGIRZADA, MD



The Pediatric Section Executive Committee would like to introduce **Dr. Yosef Dastagirzada**, the inaugural resident member of the EC, as part of a committee-wide effort to offer meaningful involvement to trainees in section leadership and activities.

Dr. Dastagirzada is currently a PGY5 in neurosurgery at NYU Langone in NYC. He was born and raised in Queens, NY with first-generation parents immigrating from Afghanistan and Ecuador. He graduated summa cum laude from an accelerated seven-year BS/MD program at The Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education (City College) in NYC and received his medical degree from the NYU School of Medicine. In medical school, his interest in neurosurgery was sparked by observing and working with esteemed mentor Dr. Jeffrey Wisoff. Throughout his training, he developed a passion for pediatric neurosurgery (skull base and epilepsy), global health and medical student/resident education. Dr. Dastagirzada's research interests include endoscopic endonasal surgery quality improvement, pediatric auditory brainstem implantation outcomes, pediatric occipito-cervical fusion failure prediction and identifying barriers to pediatric epilepsy surgical care for underserved populations.

Dr. Dastagirzada is also involved in the Young Neurosurgeon Pediatric Neurosurgery Subcommittee (YNPNS), Quality Improvement, International Relations, and Lecture/Webinar subcommittees under the section. Dr. Dastagirzada was recently awarded the 2022 Resident Traveling Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery and will be working this summer with Drs. Amy Lee and Jason Hauptman at Seattle Children's Hospital. In his free time, he enjoys dancing (Latin American, hip-hop, etc.), playing volleyball/tennis, completing the daily NYT Wordle/Mini Crossword, traveling with his family and photography. He is currently completing an enfolded pediatric fellowship during his research year and plans to enter the pediatric neurosurgery fellowship match in 2023.

During residency, Dr. Dastagirzada was invited to join the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Pediatric Section Executive Committee as its resident member under the mentorship of Dr. Richard Anderson. The EC encourages similar involvement to students, residents and fellows in Section committees. Moving forward, each edition of ShortCuts will feature a trainee involved in section committees and activities. Please forward any nominations to the Section secretary at [Richard.Anderson@nyulangone.org](mailto:Richard.Anderson@nyulangone.org).

## AANS/CNS JOINT SECTION ON TUMORS

Anthony Wang, MD and Amanda Saratsis, MD

The Executive Committee of the Joint Section on Tumors met in Austin, Texas on October 16, 2021. An update on pediatrics-related concerns was provided by Anthony Wang, MD.

The field of pediatric neuro-oncology continues to expand at a rapid pace even relative to neuro-oncology in general, and pediatric neurosurgeons with interest and expertise in clinical trials, translational development, pharmaceutical discovery and data science surrounding CNS tumors are needed to help drive the clinical aspects of the field forward.

- Two specifically pediatric CNS tumor consortia are currently running clinical trials in the United States (PNOC and Connect), as well as two broader pediatric oncology consortia (COG and SIOPE). Each has opened new pediatric neuro-oncology trials in the past year.
- The new revision to the WHO CNS tumor classifications identifies several entities which will likely receive orphan disease consideration from the NIH.
- The NCCN is in the final stages of preparing its first pediatric CNS tumor management guidelines. Gerald Grant, Renee Reynolds and Anthony Wang represented neurosurgery in the development of these guidelines.
- Pediatric and AYA cancers, as well as brain tumors, continue to receive priority status in research funding from the DOD CDMRP, and this is expected to continue when the next funding priority determination is released.
- The NCI Cancer Moonshot Research Initiatives now include pediatric immunotherapy discovery and development, and research on the major drivers of childhood cancers with focus on fusion oncoproteins.

## YOUNG NEUROSURGEON PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY SUBCOMMITTEE (YNPNS)

Michael McDowell, MD

On February 23, 2022, the *Young Neurosurgeon Pediatric Neurosurgery Subcommittee (YNPNS)* held its inaugural meeting. The YNPNS was established to increase the representation of trainees and early career practitioners in organized pediatric neurosurgery. The subcommittee is led by Chair Michael McDowell, MD and Chair Elect Ariana Barkley, MD. Twenty-four members from 18 institutions were appointed. Members have been assigned to all standing committees and subcommittees to assist with the initiatives of those groups and to provide their unique perspective on issues. In addition, the YNPNS will pursue its own initiatives on topics relevant to its members and constituents. The first of these initiatives is the organization of additional social activities for trainees at the upcoming meeting in Washington D.C. Should any committee or subcommittee require additional assistance for a project, the YNPNS has a large reserve of members that would be happy to assist beyond those who have been already assigned to you. Please feel free to contact Dr. McDowell ([mcdowellmm2@upmc.edu](mailto:mcdowellmm2@upmc.edu)) and Dr. Barkley ([arianabarkley@gmail.com](mailto:arianabarkley@gmail.com)) for support.

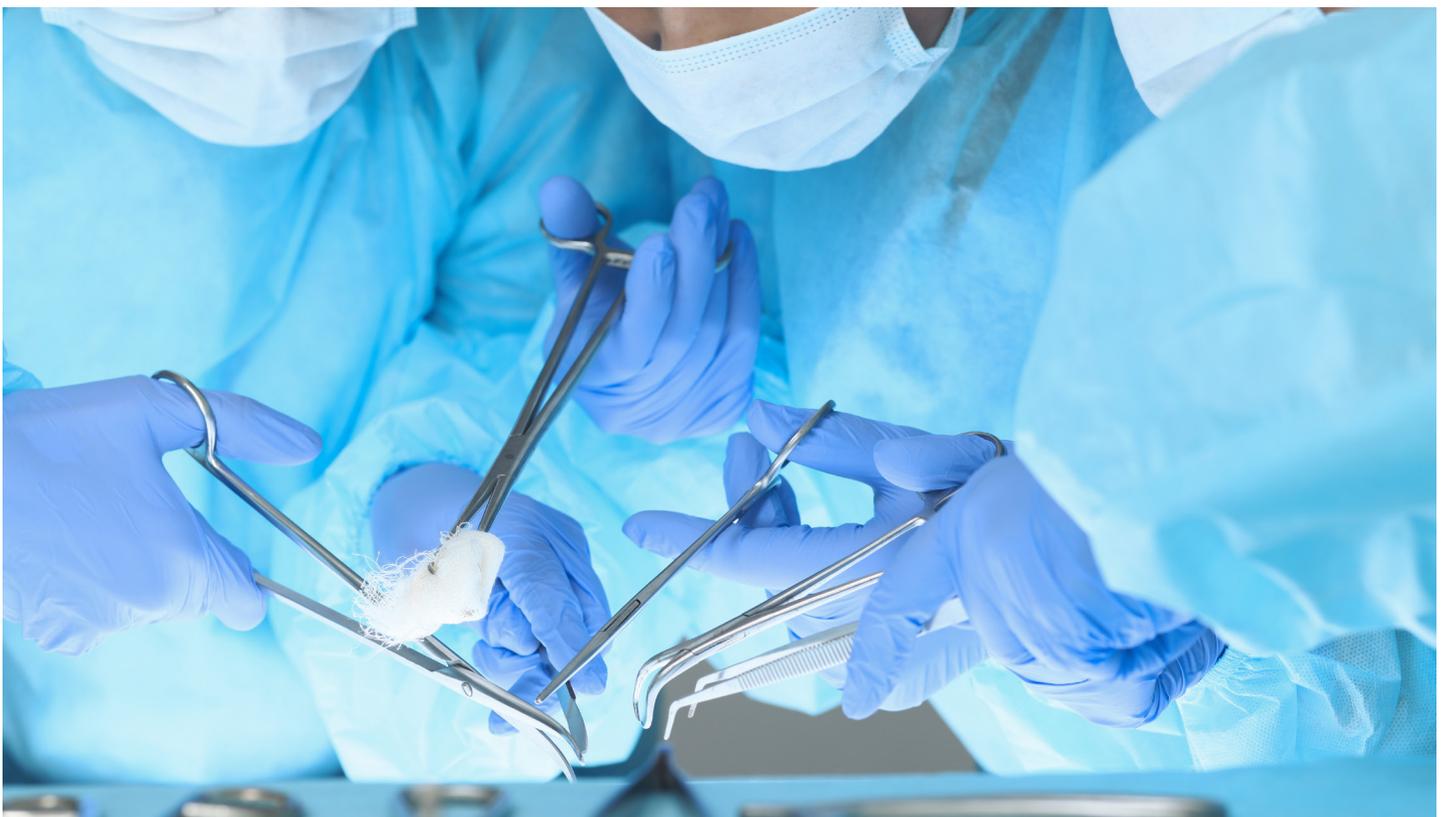
## ADVANCED PRACTITIONERS (APP) COMMITTEE REPORT

E. Haley Vance, DNP, CPNP-AC

We were truly fortunate to have had a great first year as the newly formed APP committee. Though 2021 was filled with challenges, we celebrated a successful Annual APP Meeting in Salt Lake City. Thank you to Sidney Tanner – Host team NP - for her hard work and dedicated efforts towards this meeting. As we continue to look ahead, our second-year committee goals include:

- Recruitment of APPs for membership in the Peds Section
- Offering of APP education sessions geared towards APP practice
- Expansion of networking opportunities for APPs
- Increased APP participation on committees within the Peds Section

Thank you to the Executive Committee for your constant support, encouragement and mentorship. Thank you for the opportunity to have a seat at the table and a voice to promote APPs working in Pediatric Neurosurgery.



## ABPNS REPORT SPRING 2022

Ian Pollack, MD (ABPNS Chair)

Bruce Kaufman, MD (ABPNS Secretary-Treasurer)

The Boards of Directors of the American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery (ABPNS) and the American Board of Neurological Surgery (ABNS) continue to refine the new American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)-approved certification process for pediatric neurosurgeons. After completing the requirements, candidates receive a Recognition of Focused Practice (RFP) in Pediatric Neurological Surgery in collaboration with the ABNS or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). All neurosurgeons seeking certification or recertification in pediatric neurosurgery should refer to the ABPNS ([abpns.org](http://abpns.org)) and ABNS ([abns.org](http://abns.org)) websites for details. Other important highlights can be found in previous editions of the Pediatric Short Cuts, which are available on the ABPNS website.

### ABNS Oral Exam

- Four of the 12 ABPNS directors will serve as examiners at the Spring 2022 Virtual ABNS Oral Examination on May 6 and 7. The date for the Fall 2022 Virtual ABNS Oral Examination is November 4 and 5.
- The ABPNS holds occasional oral exam sessions for those who are seeking the pediatric RFP, but did not take the pediatric-focused ABNS oral exam. This mainly affects RCPSC diplomates seeking the RCPSC-ABPNS RFP, as well as the few ABNS diplomates who did not take the pediatric-focused ABNS oral examination. The next ABPNS oral exam will be held virtually in December of 2022, tentatively in conjunction with the Pediatric Section meeting.

### ABPNS Recertification

- All ABPNS diplomates who plan to recertify (at the end of 10 years) are required to participate in the ABNS Continuous Certification program (CC). This includes Canadian diplomates (who have now been authorized to take the annual pediatric adaptive learning modules on the ABNS website), and both time limited and non-time limited ABNS diplomates who intend to recertify.
- The Board of Directors (BOD) will review ABPNS recertification applicants at its June 2022 meeting. The deadline for ABPNS recertification application submission was April 1, 2022. For those recertification applicants who were unable to submit their applications by April 1, 2022, there is a second deadline of October 1, 2022, for December review.

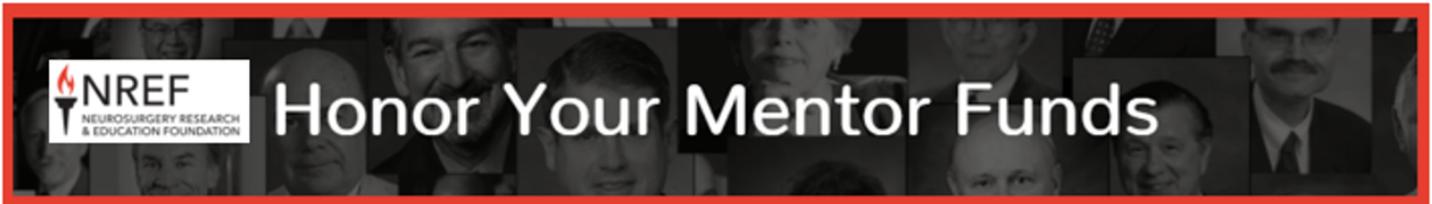
### Officers and New ABPNS Director

- The current ABPNS Officers are: Ian Pollack — Chair, Bermans Iskandar — Vice Chair, Bruce Kaufman — Secretary-Treasurer
- The ABPNS Board is happy to welcome its new director, Dr. Abhaya Kulkarni.

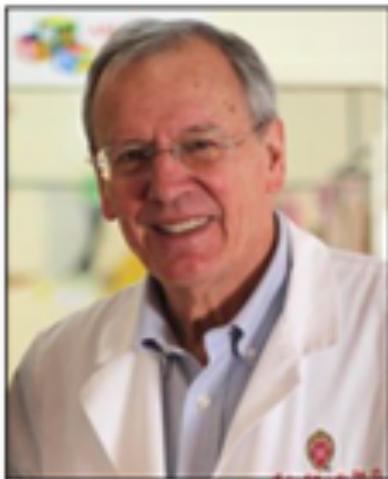
### Ongoing Developments

- We will work on continuing to enhance our partnership with the ABNS by combining the ABNS and ABPNS websites, maintaining access for Canadians to ABNS-ABPNS activities, automating a centralized application process and caselog entry for certification and recertification applications and making Certification, RFP and CC status accurate and available to our diplomates who search the ABNS website..

For any additional information, contact our Administrator Kari Bollerman ([kbollerman@abns.org](mailto:kbollerman@abns.org)), Secretary Bruce Kaufman ([bkaufman@mcw.edu](mailto:bkaufman@mcw.edu)), or Chair Ian Pollack ([ian.pollack@chp.edu](mailto:ian.pollack@chp.edu)).



The Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation Honor Your Mentor's Fund established for Dr. A. Leland Albright has been used to support the neurosurgical residency of Dr. Martin Kiriinya in Cape Town with \$3,600/year, among other things. Dr. Kiriinya is progressing well and is contracted to return to Kijabe Medical Center as a neurosurgeon there. We are proud of the continuing mentorship and support that Dr. Albright has provided the neurosurgical community in Africa. Through his advocacy and concern, Dr. Leland Albright has touched the lives of millions of children throughout the world. Donations to Dr. Albright's fund will continue to help resident training in Africa, now and in the future.



**A. LELAND ALBRIGHT**

To support neurosurgery resident and fellow education in Africa.



**MARION L. "JACK" WALKER**

To support clinical and translational research and fellow education in pediatric neurosurgery.



**SANJIV BHATIA**

To fund an international pediatric neurosurgery, pediatric epilepsy surgery traveling fellowship, a Bhatia lectureship and pediatric neurosurgery medical missions.

## AANS/CNS SECTION ON PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

### OFFICERS

#### Chair

Bermans J. Iskandar, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

#### Immediate Past Chair

Mark D. Krieger, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

#### Chair-elect

Matthew Smyth, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

#### Secretary

Richard Anderson, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

#### Treasurer

Ruth E. Bristol, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

#### Members at Large

Sandi Lam, MD, MBA, FAANS (2020–2022)

Brandon Rocque, MD, MS, FAANS (2020–2022)

Amy Lee, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Cormac Maher, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

#### Resident Member of Executive Committee

Yosef Dastagirzada, MD (2021–2023)

### STANDING COMMITTEES

#### Nominating Committee (6-year term after Section Chair)

Mark D. Krieger, MD, FAANS — Chair (2021–2027, Chair 2021–2023)

Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS (2019–2025)

Sarah Gaskill, MD, FAANS (2017–2023)

#### Rules & Regulations Committee (2-year term)

Lauren Schwartz, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Christian Kaufman, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

David Wrubel, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

#### Membership Committee (2-year term)

Irene Kim, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

James Botros, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

#### Education Committee (2-year term)

Jeff Leonard, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Rob Bollo, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES (*ad hoc*)

#### Pediatric Section Annual Meeting Subcommittee

Douglas Brockmeyer, MD, FAANS — Chair (2021 — Salt Lake City)

John Kestle, MD, FAANS (2021 — Salt Lake City)

Rob Bollo, MD, FAANS (2021 — Salt Lake City)

Samuel Cheshier, MD, PhD, FAANS (2021 — Salt Lake City)

David Adelson, MD, FAANS (2019 — Phoenix)

Ruth E. Bristol, MD, FAANS (2019 — Phoenix)

Bermans J. Iskandar, MD, FAANS ex-officio — Section Chair

Mark D. Krieger, MD, FAANS ex-officio — Section Past Chair

Matthew Smyth, MD, FAANS ex-officio — Section Chair-elect

Richard Anderson, MD, FAANS ex-officio — Section Secretary

Ruth E. Bristol, MD, FAANS ex-officio — Section Treasurer

#### National Meetings Subcommittee (2-year term)

Raheel Ahmed, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Rob Naftel, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Dean Hertzler, MD, FAANS — Co-vice chair (2021–2023)

Hal Meltzer, MD, FAANS — Co-vice chair (2021–2023)

#### Traveling Fellowship Subcommittee (2-year term)

Edward Ahn, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Stephanie Greene, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Eric Thompson, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Jason Blatt, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

#### Examination Questions Subcommittee (2-year term)

Lance Governale, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Peter Morgenstern, MD — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Jason Blatt, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Markus Bookland, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Annie Drapeau, MD FAANS (2021–2023)

Mari Groves, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Joel Katz, DO (2021–2023)

Benjamin Kennedy, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Neena Marupudi, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Jon Pindrik, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Rabia Qaiser, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Ammar Shaikhouni, MD (2021–2023)

Eric Sribnick, MD, PhD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Jesse Winer, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

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**Pediatric Specialties Subcommittee (2-year term)**

Jason Hauptman, MD, PhD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 Laura Prolo, MD, PhD—Co-chair (2021–2023)

**Lectures and Webinars Subcommittee (2-year term)**

Susan Durham, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 Jeff Leonard, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 David Limbrick, MD, PhD, FAANS (2021–2023)  
 James Johnston, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)  
 Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Hands-on Workshops Subcommittee (2-year term)**

*(Joint Subcommittee with International Education Subcommittee)*

Jeff Leonard, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 Per IEC — Co-chair (2021–2023)

**Podcasts Subcommittee (2-year term)**

Rob Bollo, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 Heather Spader, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 Jeff Leonard, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**Communications Committee (2-year term)**

Benjamin Kennedy, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 Carrie Muh, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

**COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES**

**Website Subcommittee (2-year term)**

Benjamin Kennedy, MD, FAANS — Chair (2021–2023)

**Social Media Subcommittee (2-year term)**

Carrie Muh, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 Smruti Patel, MD — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 Jarod Roland, MD (2021–2023)  
 Nathan Shlobin (2021–2023)

**Survey Subcommittee (2-year term)**

Shelly Wang, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 Eric Sribnick, MD, PhD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 Albert Tu, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)  
 Bradley Weprin, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)  
 James Botros, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)  
 Krystal Tomei, MD, MPH, FAANS, FAAP (2021–2023)  
 Smruti Patel, MD (2021–2023)  
 Todd Hankinson, MD, MBA, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Listserve Subcommittee (2-year term)**

Jennifer Ronecker, MD — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 Nir Shimony, MD — Co-chair (2021–2023)

**International Relations Committee (2-year term)**

Eylem Ocal, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 Christopher Bonfield, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 Charles Wilkinson (2021–2023)  
 Ryan Jafrani, MD (2021–2023)

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES**

**International Education Subcommittee (2-year term)**

Samer Elbaba, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 Caitlin Hoffman, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
 Exequiel Verdier (2021–2023)  
 Nathaniel Tshibambe (2021–2023)

**International Clinical Collaborations Subcommittee**

*(2-year term)*

TBD (2021–2023)

**International Liaisons Subcommittee**

*(report directly to the committee chairs; 2-year term)*

**Liaison with ISPN**

Zulma Tovar-Spinoza, MD, IFAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison with ESPN**

Mike Handler, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison with WFNS**

Albert Tu, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison with South America**

Art DiPatri, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison with AAP SOICH/GICS**

Philipp Aldana, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison with Brazil**

Bruno Braga, MD, IFAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison with Middle East**

Samer Elbaba, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison with Africa**

Heather Spader, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison with India**

Shibu Pillai, MD (2021–2023)

**Liaison with Pakistan**

Hasan Raza Syed, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

*"Officers and Committee Members" Continued on Page 15*

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**Liaison with Japan**

Kaveh Asadi, MD PhD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison with Southeast Asia**

Albert Tu, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison with Central America and Caribbean**

TBD (2021–2023)

**Liaison with Australia and New Zealand**

TBD (2021–2023)

**Liaison with Far East**

TBD (2021–2023)

**Liaison with China**

TBD (2021–2023)

**The Timothy George Committee on Diversity and Inclusion in Pediatric Neurosurgery (2-year term)**

Catherine A. Mazzola, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Clarence Greene, MD, MHA, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Alexa Canady (2021–2023)

Anthony Wang, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Hal Meltzer, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Holly Gilmer, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Karin Murazsko, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Krystal Tomei, MD, MPH, FAANS, FAAP (2021–2023)

Mari Groves, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Sarah Jernigan, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Zulma Tovar-Spinoza, MD, IFAANS (2021–2023)

Laurie Ackerman, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Lawrence Daniels, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Ann Marie Flannery, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Allison Rathmann, DO (2021–2023)

Leslie Satchivi (2021–2023)

**Research Committee (2-year term)**

David Daniels, MD, PhD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Todd Hankinson, MD, MBA, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES**

**NREF Subcommittee (2-year term)**

David Daniels, MD, PhD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Todd Hankinson, MD, MBA, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Section Grants Subcommittee (2-year term)**

Brandon Miller, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Heather McCrae — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Samuel (Trey) McClugage, MD (2021–2023)

Jason Hauptman, MD, PhD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Faculty Development and Mentoring Subcommittee**

*(2-year term)*

Amanda Saratsis, MD — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Brian Dlouhy, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Manish Shah, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Francesco Mangano, DO (2021–2023)

**Clinical Networks Subcommittee (2-year term)**

Jonathan Pindrik, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Jennifer Strahle, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

David Hersh, MD (2021–2023)

Manish Shah, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Jason Hauptman, MD, PhD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Samuel (Trey) McClugage, MD (2021–2023)

**Basic Science and Genetics Networks Subcommittee**

*(2-year term)*

Kris Kahle, MD, PhD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Samuel Cheshier, MD, PhD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

**Quality Improvement Committee (2-year term)**

Annie Drapeau, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Carolina Sandoval Garcia, MD — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Luis F. Rodriguez, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Asadi Kaveh (2021–2023)

Carolyn Quinsey, MD (2021–2023)

Louis Valery Carius, MD (2021–2023)

Jesse Winer, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Shimony Nir (2021–2023)

Rachana Tyagi, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

James Andrew Stadler, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Trainee Committee (2-year term)**

Sandi Lam, MD, MBA, FAANS (MAL) — Co-chair (2020–2022)

Brandon Rocque, MD, MS, FAANS (MAL) — Co-chair (2020–2022)

Amy Lee, MD, FAANS (MAL) — Co-vice chair (2021–2023)

Cormac Maher, MD, FAANS (MAL) — Co-vice chair (2021–2023)

**TRAINEE COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES**

**Medical Student Subcommittee (2-year term)**

TBD (2021–2023)

**Resident Subcommittee (2-year term)**

TBD (2021–2023)

**Fellow Subcommittee (2-year term)**

TBD (2021–2023)

*"Officers and Committee Members" Continued on Page 16*

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**Committee on Public Engagement, Education, and Advocacy** (2-year term)

Andrew Jea, MD, FAAP, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
(Past SONS Chair)

Gregory Albert, MD, FAAP, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)  
(SONS Chair)

**Industry Relations Committee** (2-year term)

Peter Sun, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Jesse Skoch, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

**Transition to Adulthood Committee** (2-year term)

Jeff Blount, MD, FAAP, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Brad Weprin, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

**APP Committee** (2-year term)

Haley Vance, DNP, APRN, CPNP-AC — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Elisha Peregino, RN, MS, CRNP PNP-AC, HTPA — Co-chair  
(2021–2023)

Patti Batchelder, RN, MS, CPNP (2021–2023)

Mandy Breedt, ARNP (2021–2023)

Lisa McLennan, DNP, RN (2021–2023)

**Pediatric Section Guidelines Committee** (3-year term, change at CNS meeting)

David Bauer, MD, MPH, FAANS — Chair (2017–2019, Chair 2020–2022)

**JGRC:** Taylor Abel, MD, FAANS; Jonathan Pindrik, MD,

**FAANS;** Alex Beier, DO

**Chiari:** Toba Niazi, MD, FAANS; Rabia Qaiser, MD, FAANS; Sarah Jernigan, MD, FAANS; Jeffrey Raskin, MS, MD, FAANS; Eric Jackson, MD, FAANS; Laurie Ackerman, MD, FAANS; Jogi Patitisapu; Cormac Maher, MD, FAANS;

Brandon Rocque, MD, MS, FAANS; Carolyn Quinsey, MD; Libby Infinger, MD, MPH, FAANS; Howard Silberstein, MD, FAANS; Shobhan Vachhrajani, MD, PhD, FRCSC

**Epilepsy:** Brent O'Neil, MD, FAANS; Angela Price, MD, FAANS

**Lifetime Achievement Award: Immediate Past Chair**

(2-year term)

Mark D. Krieger, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Chair's Committee on Planning and Development**

(2-year term)

Steve Schiff, MD, PhD, FAANS (Research) (2021–2023)

David Limbrick, MD, PhD, FAANS (Education) (2021–2023)

Jim Johnston, MD, FAANS (International relations) (2021–2023)

Joe Piatt, MD, FAANS (Quality) (2021–2023)

**Senior Advisory Committee** (2-year term)

Tina Duhaime, MD, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Al Cohen, MD, FAAP, FAANS — Co-chair (2021–2023)

Tad Tomita, MD, FAANS — Education (2021–2023)

Frederick Boop, MD, FAANS — International (2021–2023)

Laurie Ackerman, MD, FAANS — Diversity (2021–2023)

John Kestle, MD, FAANS — Research (2021–2023)

Bruce Kaufman, MD, FAANS — Quality (2021–2023)

Jeff Wisoff, MD, FAANS — Trainees (2021–2023)

Ann Marie Flannery, MD, FAANS — Guidelines (2021–2023)

**REPRESENTATIVES AND LIAISONS**

**Liaison to the AANS Executive — Committee Current Chair** (2-year term)

Bermans J. Iskandar, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison to the CNS Executive Committee — Chair Elect**

(2-year term)

Matthew Smyth, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison to the ABPNS — Current Chair of ABPNS**

(2-year term)

James Drake, MD, FAANS, MSc, FRCS (2021–2023)

**Liaison with ACPNF — Current Chair of ACPNF**

(2-year term)

Douglas Brockmeyer, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison with ASPN — Current President of ASPN**

(2-year term)

John Ragheb, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

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**Liaison with AAP Section of Neurological Surgery —  
Current Chair of SONS (2-year term)**

Gregory Albert, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison to the Joint Council of State Neurosurgical  
Societies (2-year term)**

TBD, appointed by CSNS (2021–2023)

**Liaison to the Coding and Reimbursement  
Committee, AANS (2-year term)**

Eric Jackson, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison to the Drugs and Devices  
Committee, AANS (2-year term)**

Brian Hanak, MD, IV (2021–2023)

Leopold Arko, MD, IV (2021–2023)

**Liaison to the Young Neurosurgeons Committee  
(2-year term)**

TBD, appointed by YNC (2021–2023)

**Liaison to the American College of Osteopathic Surgery  
(2-year term)**

Sudhakar Vadivelu, DO (2021–2023)

**Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on Tumors (2-year term)**

Anthony Wang, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on Neurotrauma  
and Critical Care (2-year term)**

Naina Gross, MD, FAANS (2021–2023)

Eric Sribnick, MD, PhD, FAANS (2021–2023)

**Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on  
History of Neurological Surgery (2-year term)**

TBD (2021–2023)

**Liaison to AANS/CNS Cerebrovascular Section  
(2-year term)**

TBD (2021–2023)

**Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on Pain (2-year term)**

TBD (2021–2023)

**Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on  
Disorders of Spine and Peripheral Nerves (2-year term)**

TBD (2021–2023)

**Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on Stereotactic and  
Functional Surgery (2-year term)**

TBD (2021–2023)

**Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on Women in  
Neurosurgery (2-year term)**

TBD (2021–2023)