



Pediatric Short Cuts

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery



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Editor: Matthew D. Smyth, MD, FAANS

The views reflected in this newsletter are solely the views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views, opinions or positions of either the AANS or the CNS.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Mark D. Krieger, MD, FAANS

Welcome to the Fall 2019 Edition of Short Cuts!

It is a great honor for me to kick off this newsletter and an even greater honor to serve as chair of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery.

I truly love being a pediatric neurosurgeon. I love being able to make a difference in the lives of children and their families at times of crisis. I love developing and helping others to develop requisite precision and technical expertise. I love working with and mentoring students, residents, fellows and faculty. I love the science and bringing the science to the forefront to benefit our patients. I love and am grateful for our community of pediatric neurosurgeons, with all its collegiality and camaraderie.

My involvement with the Section over the years has been especially rewarding. The Pediatric Section embodies all that is wonderful about a career in pediatric neurosurgery. We support scientific developments through our programs at the CNS and AANS national meetings and our own Annual Section Meeting as well as through our many grants and fellowships. We promote the education and training of students, residents and fellows. We nurture the growing community of pediatric neurosurgery advanced practitioners, including nurses, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. We assist junior colleagues with career development. And we collaborate across specialties with other child-focused organizations and specialties – altogether we help create a rapidly growing, inclusive and productive community of neurosurgeons for children.

Over the next two years, we will present our plans to enhance Pediatric Section membership and activities. I encourage you to engage in this highly rewarding collaboration. We are proud to have superb and dedicated Executive Council members, all of whom would be happy to hear from you and welcome new ideas and directions: Chair-elect Benny Iskandar, MD, FAANS; Secretary Matt Smyth, MD, FAANS; Treasurer Rich Anderson, MD, FAANS; and Members-at-large Eric Jackson, MD, FAANS; Jim Johnston, MD, FAANS; Ruth Bristol, MD, FAANS; and Elias Rizk, MD, FAANS.

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Chair's Message Continued from Page 1

Finally, I encourage you to attend our Annual Meeting in Scottsdale/Phoenix, December 5 - 8, 2019. Dave Adelson, MD, FAANS, and Dr. Ruth Bristol have put together an outstanding program aimed to advance the practice and science in our field with the theme Creativity and Innovation. This has always been a fabulous forum for getting to know one another, exchanging ideas and contributing to the betterment of pediatric neurosurgery's future. It has also traditionally been a lot of fun.

Please touch base with me or any of our officers at the CNS Meeting in San Francisco in October and at the Pediatric Section Meeting in December, or email us with questions, suggestions or comments. I look forward to serving as chair of your section for the next two years.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Krieger, MD, FAANS



TREASURER'S REPORT

Richard C. E. Anderson, MD, FAANS

The Pediatric Section remains in good financial health. Total net assets as per the last financial statement (6/30/2019) totaled \$971,716. This is an increase over the prior year (\$841,153) and continues to reflect a comfortable reserve to support an entire annual meeting, plus section activities, for two years without any revenue. A strategic plan is under development by section leadership to prioritize the use of the extra reserves in a manner consistent with the Pediatric Section's mission.

Annual Meeting

The 2018 Annual Meeting for the AANS/CNS Section in Pediatric Neurological Surgery in Nashville, Tenn., had a net excess of \$91,908. This is compared to a net excess of \$111,523 at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Houston. The upcoming 2019 meeting in Phoenix is estimated to have an excess of \$36,560, but the numbers will certainly change as meeting planning continues. The net revenue for meetings has now been positive for five consecutive years in a row, as a result of continued efforts by Pediatric Section officers to reduce costs in collaboration with local meeting hosts and AANS staff.

Long Term Investments

The Section's long-term investment account remains favorable at \$807,795. This is an increase from last year at \$775,264. The 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

As of 6/30/2019, the A. Leland Albright fund has accumulated \$46,240. The Sanjiv Bhatia fund has accumulated \$51,415.

15 HONOR YOUR MENTOR (HYM) FUNDS				
HYM Funds	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
A. Leland Albright	22,199	28,455	39,657	46,240
Sanjiv Bhatia	---	---	38,820	51,415
Total HYM Funds	22,199	28,455	78,477	97,655

Specific Expenses and Financial Resolutions

The Section continues its commitment toward its educational and research missions. In the 2020 budget, there is renewed financial commitment toward the Pediatric Neurosurgical Research & Education Foundation (NREF) Fellowship grant, Pediatric Section research awards and domestic and international traveling fellowships.

Overall, there appear to be no concerns.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery roster includes **370** active, **27** adjunct/associate, **85** lifetime, **44** international, **85** resident/fellow members and **11** medical student members, for a total of **622** members.

The newly approved Pediatric Section members are:

ACTIVE

Nir Shimony, MD
George M. Ibrahim, MD, FAANS
Usiakimi Igbaseimokumo, MD, FAANS
Kimberly Anne Mackey, MD
Judith Ming-Hai Wong, MD
Lauren Rose Ostling, MD, FAANS
Caitlin Elizabeth Hoffman, MD, FAANS
Peter F. Morgenstern, MD
Shawn M. Vuong, MD

MEDICAL STUDENT

Kathrin Zimmerman
Connor Douglas Reynolds
Andrew Hale

INTERNATIONAL

Claudiu Matei, MD, IFAANS
Gilraed Mota Garcia, MD

ADJUNCT/ASSOCIATE

Katie Lichty, DNP
Latarsha Jones, MSN-FNP
Ilana Ruth Patino, PA-C
Alina Shumakova, MSN, CPNP
Caitlin Sippey, PA-C

LIFETIME

Patricia Aronin Sherrill, MD, MS, FAANS(L)

RESIDENT/FELLOW

Melissa Ann LoPresti, MD
Yan Hua Su, MD
Sana Akbar Qazi, MD
Omar Antonio Gomez Valdes, MD
Christos Tsitsipanis, MD
Farrukh Javeed, MBBS
Jacob Richard Lepard, MD
Michael Bradley Keough, MD, PhD
Branavan Manoranjan, MD
Nikita Alexiades, MD
Roboan Guillen, MD
Ghadeer Alkousa, MD
Anagha Prabhune, MBBS
Julio Quispe Alcocer, MD
Saad Javed, MS
Rabail Akbar Qazi, MBBS
Omkar Narayan Churi, MBBS
Cheick Ahmed Komara, MD
Rafael de Oliveira Sillero, MD
Anagha Prabhune, MBBS
Julio Quispe Alcocer, MD
Juan Carlos Gomez Vega, MD
Moses Osaodion Inojie, MBBS
Omar Hussain, MD
Veronica Martinez Zeron, MD
Yunus Kuntawi Aji, SpBS (K)
Ahmad Alsayegh, MD
Rasha Gamaleldin Elbadry Ahmed, MBBSCh

For additional membership information, please visit the [Pediatric Section website](#).



TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

David I. Sandberg, MD, FAANS

Resident Traveling Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery

The AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery offers 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 to obtain 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. Fellowships are awarded on the basis of a competitive evaluation by a committee of the 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; and
- 4) The applicant's current curriculum vitae.

International Traveling Fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery

The AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery also offers an international traveling fellowship for neurosurgeons who, at the time of their application, are either training in a residency program outside the U.S. and Canada or have completed residency training outside the U.S. and Canada within the past five years.

The fellowship will cover the 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 U.S. or Canada. Fellowships will be awarded yearly on the basis of 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; and
- 4) The applicant's current curriculum vitae.

The deadline for application submission is **Nov. 1, 2019**.

The completed application should be emailed to: **David.I.Sandberg@uth.tmc.edu**



NATIONAL MEETINGS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Amy Lee, MD, FAANS | Todd Hankinson, MD, MBA, 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 goal is to promote discussions that address timely topics and updates as well as consensus management from experts in the field.

Notably, unlike our annual pediatric conference, at which the majority of attendees are pediatric neurosurgeons, the AANS and CNS meetings also include a large number of general neurosurgeons, allied health professionals and trainees. As such, we have continued the trend of recent years to tailor Pediatric Section priorities so that they complement the annual pediatric meeting. This is work in-progress (feedback and recommendations are strongly encouraged).

The **2019 CNS Annual Meeting** will be held in **San Francisco, October 19-23**.

The **Pediatric Scientific Sessions** are **Monday - Wednesday, October 21-23**, and there will be a sunrise session on **Tuesday, October 22**.

The meeting includes a luncheon seminar regarding Pediatric Concussion. Topics during the pediatric scientific sessions include "Advances in Molecular Diagnostics for Pediatric Brain Tumors," "Potential New Paradigms for the Management of Post-hemorrhagic Hydrocephalus," "Challenges in Recurrent Epilepsy," and "Chiari Malformations."

We want to thank everyone participating in the educational and scientific program and look forward to seeing you there.



ANNUAL MEETINGS COMMITTEE REPORT

David Adelson, MD, FAANS | Ruth Bristol, MD, FAANS

The Annual Meeting Host Committee is excited to welcome our members and guests to Phoenix for the **2019 AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery Annual Meeting, December 5-8**. The theme is *Creativity & Innovation* and we are excited to build upon the terrific 2018 meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

This year's meeting will again take place Thursday through Sunday morning, with plenty of time to fly back home Sunday afternoon, following the meeting's end. Thursday brings the Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Seminar, continuing to build on the role of the APP in pediatric neurosurgical practice. New this year, we have added an afternoon of roundtable discussions, allowing for conversations with experts on a variety of neurosurgical topics. Note that hotel conference rooms will be available that day for collaborative research or other topical meetings. If you need to reserve meeting space during the conference, please submit your request by [visiting the meeting website](#). For Thursday night, we plan a memorable outdoor opening reception at the meeting hotel, the Hyatt Regency at Gainey Ranch, centrally located in Scottsdale. Enjoy live music, meet up with old and new friends and then take the opportunity to head out and explore.

An exciting program with excellent speakers highlights the theme for this year. In addition to scientific abstracts, we look forward to hearing back from last year's collaborative research study investigators with an update on the progress of their collaborative research and progress in catalyzing multicenter studies. Importantly, there are a number of recommendations and comments by this past year's attendees that we will be incorporating into the meeting. For the most up-to-the-minute program details, please visit the [meeting page](#).

With enviable weather, there are abundant outdoor activities, including hiking in the local mountain preserves, biking and multiple golf courses from which to choose. There are also great venues nearby for all interests, including the Heard Museum (Native American Art), Desert Botanical Gardens and Phoenix Zoo, the Musical Instrument Museum, the Butterfly Wonderland, Pangaea (Dinosaur Museum), OdySea at the Desert Aquarium, Old Town Scottsdale and the Scottsdale Center for Performing Arts. All are nearby and just a quick ride away. There is something to do for all.

See you in Phoenix/Scottsdale!

Host Committee:

David Adelson, MD, FAANS

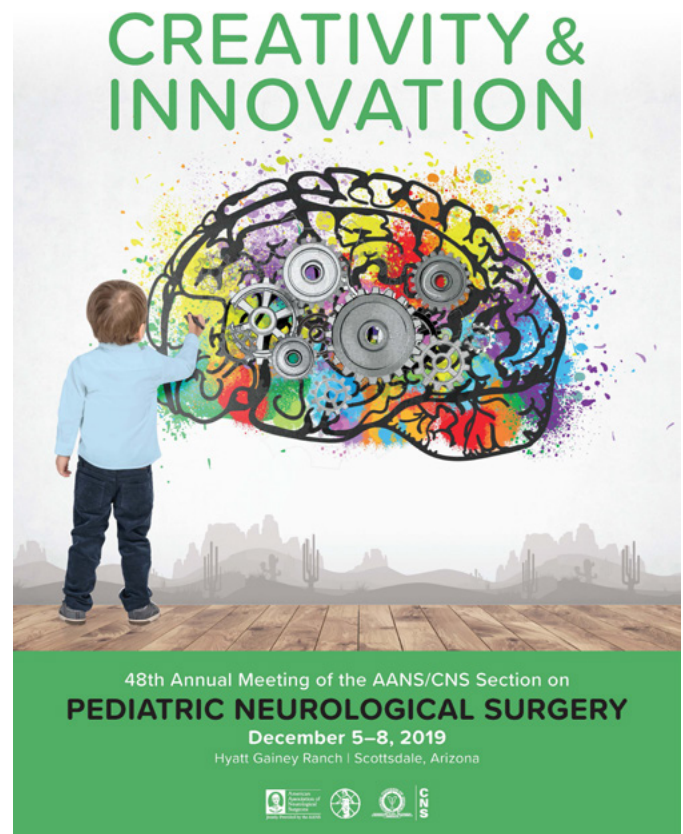
Ruth Bristol, MD, FAANS

Kathleen Klas, CPNP-PC

David Shafron, MD, FAANS

Jennifer Ronecker, MD

Jamal McClendon, MD



EXAMINATION QUESTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Amy Lee, MD, FAANS | Todd Hankinson, MD, MBA, FAANS

The Examination Questions Subcommittee continues to focus on updating the **CNS SANS Pediatric exam**. Although the exam remains the product of the CNS SANS Committee, there is oversight by the Pediatric Section. The Subcommittee would like to thank the question writers listed below who have contributed in 2019!

Jason Blatt, MD

Markus Bookland, MD, FAANS

Annie Drapeau, MD, FAANS

Mari Groves, MD, FAANS

Joel Katz, DO

Ben Kennedy, MD

Neena Marupudi, MD

Jon Pindrik, MD, FAANS

Rabia Qaiser, MD

Ammar Shaikhouni, MD, PhD

Eric Sribnick, MD, PhD, FAANS

University of Florida Shands Children's Hospital

Connecticut Children's Hospital

Nationwide Children's Hospital

Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Akron Children's Hospital

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Children's Hospital of Michigan

Nationwide Children's Hospital

Baylor Scott & White Health

Nationwide Children's Hospital

Nationwide Children's Hospital

AAP SONS REPORT

The Section of Neurological Surgery (SONS) of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) will undergo a transition at the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

Andrew Jea, MD, FAANS, has been elected to a first term as chairperson; **Gregory Albert, MD, FAANS**, elected as vice-chair; **Sandi Lam, MD, FAANS**, as secretary; and **Jonathan Martin, MD, FAANS**, and **David Bauer, MD FAANS**, elected as at-large members of the Executive Committee. Drs. Martin and Bauer will lead our Education and Policy & Advocacy Subcommittees, respectively.

In conjunction with the AAP initiative to develop the Child Health Improvement through Longitudinal Data (CHILD) registry, over the next two years, one of the main aims of SONS is to initiate a national pediatric neurosurgery database, which would add value for our members in terms of benchmarking, research and education. There will be more details to come.

We thank our outgoing chair, **Philipp Aldana, MD, FAANS**, for his years of service on the Executive

Committee and as chair. Dr. Aldana brought a renewed sense of organization and purpose to SONS; a legacy that we hope to carry on. Dr. Aldana will continue on the Executive Committee in a past chair role, and we are thankful that he will still lend his leadership and inspiration to the section.

SONS is sponsoring the keynote address at the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery Annual Meeting by **Michael Berens, PhD**. Dr. Berens is professor and director of the cancer and cell biology division as well as deputy director of research resources and head of the glioma research laboratory at Translational Genomics Research Institute. His talk is titled "Promise and Perils of Liquid Biopsy for Pediatric Brain Tumor Care." It will highlight advances in molecular measurement technologies and the value-proposition of liquid biopsies for pediatric brain tumor care. SONS will also present its fifth annual award for the best oral presentation to exemplify a broad and significant impact on health care for children with pediatric neurosurgical diseases.

GUIDELINES COMMITTEE REPORT

David Bauer, MD, MPH, FAANS

The **Pediatric Section Guidelines Committee** last met in April at the 2019 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting. The current committee chair is David Bauer, MD, MPH, FAANS.

The guidelines committee has two functions: to review guidelines for the AANS/CNS as part of the **Joint Guidelines Review Committee (JGRC)** and to produce guidelines for the Pediatric Section. We have been busy in both regards over the past six months.

Members of the section attended the JGRC meeting in April. Since then, members have helped review four unique guidelines submitted by other sections to the JGRC. A successful review of a submitted guideline provides AANS/CNS approval for the document and publication in *Neurosurgery*.

The committee is also busy producing guidelines. **Guidelines for Pediatric Myelomeningocele** were published in *Neurosurgery* on August 16, 2019. Lead by Cathy Mazzola, MD, FAANS, the guidelines included 13 authors from the Pediatric Section, who addressed five clinical questions pertaining to patients with myelomeningocele and provided seven recommendations.

In progress, the committee is formally reviewing the **Hydrocephalus Guidelines**, published in *JNS: Pediatrics* in 2014, for a planned year-five update. The lead author from each chapter reviewed updated literature in the five years since publication and either affirmed the prior recommendations remain valid or recommended an update to the chapter. A full text review was performed, and the few new articles that met inclusion criteria did not change the original recommendations. A formal update in the form of a brief communication will be submitted to *Neurosurgery and JNS: Pediatrics*. The next update will be performed in 2024.

At the CNS Guidelines Committee meeting at the AANS meeting in April, Dr. Bauer successfully secured support from the CNS

to begin a new project: **Guidelines for the Treatment of Chiari I Malformation**. A working group has been formed, and PICO questions will be finalized by the Pediatric Section meeting in December. The formal writing process will start at that time.

Additional current projects include a joint CNS/American Academy of Neurology (AAN)-sponsored **guideline for the surgical treatment of epilepsy**. Three section members were asked to help with this process for the pediatric portion of the guideline: Dr. Bauer, Brent O'Neill, MD, FAANS, and Angela Price, MD, FAANS.

The AAN also tapped Dr. Bauer to be part of the author group to develop an updated, unified, **adult and pediatric guideline for the diagnosis of brain death**. The process is beginning in October. Dr. Bauer would greatly appreciate having any interested section member contact him to discuss this topic in more detail or to request that he advocate for specific points during the writing process. Future work for our committee includes creation of guidelines for the treatment of tethered cord (on hold by the CNS Guidelines Committee until the Chiari guidelines are underway) and an update or review of the plagiocephaly guidelines set for 2020.

In reminder, all guidelines produced by the Pediatric Section can be downloaded from the CNS Guidelines website. Anyone interested in guidelines should complete a three-hour training course (online) that was created by the CNS Guidelines Committee. CME is available after completion. Further information can be obtained on the CNS guidelines website or by emailing David Bauer at dfbauer@mac.com.

The Pediatric Guidelines Committee will be meeting Sunday at the CNS annual meeting and just before the Opening Reception at the Pediatric Section meeting. Please email David Bauer (dfbauer@mac.com) or Trish Rehring (trehring@cns.org) for more information.

WEBSITE UPDATE FROM COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Richard C.E. Anderson, MD, FAANS | Benjamin Kennedy, MD

After eight years, the [AANS/CNS Pediatric Section website](#) is undergoing an “extreme makeover.” Hosting of the website is transitioning to the AANS in-house website team. The transition is near completion, and the new website is expected to go live in September 2019. Benefits include the following:

1. A more contemporary design with a mobile-based platform.
2. The need for separate usernames and passwords on the pedsneurosurgery.org website will no longer be necessary. Members will be able to log into the members only section of the website using their AANS credentials. This will be a big advantage as the AANS can insure accurate and updated user profiles through its mechanisms for paying dues.
3. The Section will still be able to maintain complete control over the content, updates and the ability to communicate to the membership through eblasts.
4. Very low yearly maintenance costs.

The Section website posts the most current information for the upcoming Section meeting at Hyatt Gainey Ranch, Scottsdale/Phoenix. In addition, keep in mind that job postings on the website are free and can be maintained until the position is filled. If you have a position available, please send me the posting with contact information to place on the site.

Please reach out to Richard C.E. Anderson, MD, FAANS, or Benjamin Kennedy, MD, if the website can be modified to help Section members in any way.

CSNS LIAISON REPORT

Jason Blatt, MD

The CSNS adopted a single pediatric-focused resolution this spring – to study the current landscape of adolescent spinal deformity care between neurosurgery and orthopedics. The hope is to understand how large the scoliosis “pie” is, how it is sliced and whether there is a path to advance neurosurgery’s position in the management of this condition. The CSNS also adopted several agenda items that will affect some or all of us. These include

efforts to streamline/combine annual training modules for neurosurgeons who cover multiple hospitals, unifying guidelines for the provision of disability placards, surveying neurosurgeons on the potential effects of single-payer healthcare, standardizing the format of peer-review conferences, improving medical student mentorship and fighting the increasingly frustrating system of prior authorizations.

TUMOR SECTION LIAISON REPORT

Amanda M. Saratsis, MD

As a reminder, in 2018, leadership of the **AANS/CNS Sections on Tumors and Pediatric Neurosurgery** designated a liaison to promote the shared interests and activities of these groups. In April, I represented these joint interests at the 2019 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting in San Diego, where I relayed an extensive update on the activities of the Pediatric Section to the Tumor Section during their Executive Committee meeting. New points discussed included participation and leadership at upcoming CNS and AANS tumor satellite meetings and during CNS and AANS annual meetings; submitting and participating in pediatric tumor sections at these annual meetings; promoting and collaborating around liquid biopsy specimen collections within tumor clinical trials; submission to a new journal affiliated with the Society of Neuro Oncology, *Neuro Oncology Advances*; and a reminder to use and contribute to the CNS NEXUS online, a case review resource.

I look forward to continuing to represent the pediatric neurosurgical community in this capacity, and encourage anyone with ideas or interest in partnering on these or other initiatives to please contact me (asaratsis@luriechildrens.org).

ABPNS REPORT

Frederick Boop, MD, FAANS, ABPNS Chair | Bermans J. Iskandar, MD, FAANS, ABPNS Secretary

The Boards of Directors of the ABPNS and ABNS continue to work seamlessly on the new certification process for pediatric neurosurgeons, which is now approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). As a result, the first wave of candidates has received a Recognition of Focused Practice in Pediatric Neurosurgery in collaboration with the ABNS and the RCPS(C). All neurosurgeons seeking certification or recertification in pediatric neurosurgery should refer to the ABPNS (<https://abpns.org>) and ABNS (<https://www.abns.org>) websites for details. The following are recent important changes that we would like to bring to your attention:

Changes to ABPNS Pediatric Written Examination

- As stated in previous communication, the ABPNS pediatric written examination is now given online. After two cycles, this seems to be working out well.
- All ACPNF fellowship graduates are requested to take it upon completion of their fellowship.
- Starting in 2020, the exam will be given annually instead of semi-annually, usually in June.
- The exam is now taken in the comfort of your own home or office. For the second year in a row, the exam will be electronically proctored by the ABPNS. The success of remote proctoring will be assessed and re-considered over time.

Message to the Pediatric Fellowship Directors Regarding the Written Examination

- The fellowship directors should encourage their ACPNF fellows to apply for the exam and be ready to take it around the last month (June) of their fellowship.
- Many fellowship directors have been offering to reimburse the fellows for their written examination fee. These decisions are usually made at the beginning of the fellowship, is highly appreciated by the fellows and encouraged by the ABPNS Board of Directors.

Conversion of MOC to CC

- The ABMS has required specialty boards to change from a Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program to a Continuous Certification (CC) program.
- Since all ABPNS diplomates have a time-limited certificate, which now converts to a joint certification recognized by the ABMS, all pediatric neurosurgeons are asked to enroll in the CC process, which is accessed through the ABNS website, and includes CME credit, which is now available for the pediatric adaptive learning tool designed to update one's knowledge annually. In addition, the general adaptive learning tool will give ACS trauma credits for anyone covering a level I trauma center.

ABPNS Report Continued from Page 11

- Since all pediatric neurosurgeons will hold an ABNS certificate and a recognition of focused practice document, all neurosurgeons interested in maintaining pediatric certification are requested to take the general adult adaptive learning tool as well as the pediatric module annually. These can be completed online (from home or office) any time during the year.

Reminder of Case Volume Requirements for Pediatric Certification and Recertification

- ABNS certification requires 125 consecutive, major surgical cases within an 18-month time period, with the oldest case being no more than 24 months from the time of application and with a minimum of three months follow-up. The case log submitted must represent all locations of the practice of the applicant at the time of submission.
- A dual-focused practice credential requires that 95 of the 125 cases be performed on patients 21 years of age or younger over an 18-month period.
- For ABPNS recertification, the requirement remains 65 consecutive cases in patients 21 years old or younger over a 12-month period.
- For Canadian diplomates and candidates of ABPNS certification that do not follow the standard ABNS pathway, refer to the ABPNS website.
- Although the 10-year certificate has been replaced by annual certification and the recertification written examination is no longer required, ABPNS diplomates are still required to apply for and submit a case log every 10 years, with a case log requirement of 65 major pediatric cases over 12 months.

Changes in Certification and Recertification Costs to the Candidate

- Please note that the annual dues now go to the ABNS rather than the ABPNS office and can be paid online through the ABNS website. The candidates expected to pay via the ABPNS website are 1) Canadians and 2) those non-time limited members who are not paying the ABNS annual assessment fees. If you are not sure of your status, please contact Kari Bollerman at kbollerman@abns.org.
- Going from a 10-year certificate to an annual certificate and from a fly-in written exam to an online proctored exam have increased expenses through annual dues as well as CC and direct exam costs, but

saved expenses on flights and lodging. It is important to remember that the transition to an ABMS-recognized certification has led to a well-deserved and long-overdue legitimization and recognition of our subspecialty, which we feel outweighs the small cost differential.

Cost before and after the merger:

- o Exam (\$750 pre-merger, \$2,000 post-merger)
- o ABNS annual fee (\$495 pre, \$495 post)
- o ABPNS annual fee (\$100 pre, \$0 post – now included in the ABNS fee)
- o Airline/lodging (\$750-1,000 pre, \$0 post).

ABPNS Website Update

A full overhaul of the ABPNS website is underway, including clarifications of the new certification system and Bylaws and Rules updates. We appreciate your patience as we work on the updates.

Introducing the ABPNS Administrator

Kari Bollerman has worked tirelessly on administering the ABPNS functions for over the past five years. Starting as administrative assistant to John Ragheb, MD, FAANS, she agreed to help Dr. Ragheb with his board duties when he became secretary-treasurer. Accordingly, she was instrumental in managing all board functions, including streamlining committee functions, helping with bylaws and website updates, interacting with the attorneys and banks, and was the go-to person for all matters of certification and recertification. During the merger negotiations, planning and construction phases, Ms. Bollerman was front and center and the repository for all important details. At the completion of the ABNS/ABPNS merger, she became an official employee of the ABNS, specifically tasked to administer the ABPNS. The ABPNS Board of Directors is grateful for Ms. Bollerman's years of commitment to the organization, and would like to introduce her formally to the membership.

AANS/CNS SECTION ON PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

OFFICERS

Chair

Mark Krieger (2019-2021)

Immediate Past Chair

Mark Proctor (2019-2021)

Chair-Elect

Benny Iskandar (2019-2021)

Secretary

Matt Smyth (2019-2021)

Treasurer

Richard Anderson (2019-2021)

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Eric Jackson (2018-2020)

Jim Johnston (2018-2020)

Elias Rizk (2019-2021)

Ruth Bristol (2019-2021)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Nominating Committee (6-year term after Section Chair)

Mark Proctor – Chair (2019-2025, Chair 2019-2021)

Sarah Gaskill - Chair (2017-2023)

Bruce Kaufman (2015-2021)

Rules & Regulations Committee (2-year term)

Brent O'Neill - Chair (2019-2021)

Heather McCrae (2019-2021)

Jen Strahle (2019-2021)

Membership Committee (2-year term)

Robert Bollo - Chair (2019-2021)

Caitlin Hoffman (2019-2021)

Krystl Tomei (2019-2021)

Education Committee (2-year term)

Susan Durham - Chair (2019-2021)

William Whitehead – Chair-elect (2019-2021)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES (*ad hoc*)

Pediatric Section Annual Meeting Subcommittee

David Adelson – Chair (2019 – Phoenix)

Ruth Bristol (2019 – Phoenix)

Jay Wellons (2018 – Nashville)

Mark Krieger ex-officio - Section Chair

Benny Iskandar ex-officio – Section Chair-elect

Richard Anderson ex-officio - Section Treasurer

Chevis Shannon (2018 – Nashville)

National Meetings Subcommittee (2-year term)

Todd Hankinson, co-chair (2019-2021)

Amy Lee, co-chair (2019-2021)

Raheel Ahmed (2019-2021)

Rob Naftel (2019-2021)

Communications Subcommittee (2-year term)

Benjamin Kennedy – Chair (2019-2021)

Carrie Muh, social media (2019-2021)

Tracy Flanders – Resident (2019-2021)

Peter Madsen – Resident (2019-2021)

Training Subcommittee (Traveling Fellowships) (2-year term)

Andrew Jea - Chair (2019-2021)

Edward Ahn, Vice Chair (2019-2021)

Nathan Ranalli (2019-2021)

Stephanie Greene (2019-2021)

International Education Subcommittee (2-year term)

Phil Aldana - Chair (2019-2021)

Christopher Bonfield (2019-2021)

Eylem Ocal (2019-2021)

Examination Questions Subcommittee (2-year term)

Lance Governale - Chair (2018-2021)

Rabia Qaiser (2018-2021)

*List of Officers and Committee Members Continued from Page 13***AD HOC COMMITTEES****Pediatric Section Guidelines Committee**
(3-year term, change at CNS meeting)

David Bauer – Chair	(2017-2019, Chair until CNS 2020)
Brandon Rocque	(2017-2020)
Jon Pindrik	(2019-2022)
Taylor Abel	(2019-2022)
Greg Heuer	(2019-2022)
Sarah Jernigan	(2019-2022)
Laurie Ackerman	(2019-2022)
Howard Silberstein	(2019-2022)
Alex Beier	(2019-2022)

Lifetime Achievement Award: Immediate Past Chair

Mark Proctor	(2019-2021)
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Research Committee (2-year term)

Cormac Maher – Chair	(2013-2019, Chair 2019-2021)
Eric M. Thompson	(2015-2021)
David Daniels	(2017-2021)
Scellig Stone	(2019-2021)
David Limbrick	(2019-2021)

Industry Relations Committee

Alex Powers - Chair	(2019-2021)
Sam Browd	(2019-2021)
TBD	(2019-2021)

REPRESENTATIVES AND LIAISONS**Liaison to the AANS Executive Committee Current Chair**

Mark Krieger	(2019-2021)
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Liaison to the CNS Executive Committee Chair Elect

Benny Iskandar	(2019-2021)
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Liaison to the Washington Committee, AANS/CNS Past Chair

Mark Proctor	(2019-2021)
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Liaison to the ABPNS

Rick Boop	Current Chair of ABPNS
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Liaison with ACPNF(Accreditation Council of Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowships)

Cormac Maher	Current Chair of ACPNF
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Liaison with ISPN

Eylen Ocal	(2017-2019)
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Liaison with ASPN

Jim Drake	Current President of ASPN
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Liaison with AAP Section of Neurological Surgery (SONS)

Andrew Jea	Current Chair of SONS
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Liaison to the Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (2-year term)

Jason Blatt	(2019-2021)
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Liaison to the Coding and Reimbursement Committee, AANS (2-year term)

Curtis Rozelle	(2017-2021)
Jason Blatt	(2019-2021)

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

Joseph Madsen	(2018-2021)
Sam Browd	(2018-2021)

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

Benjamin C. Kennedy	(2019-2020)
Alt: Michael McDowell	(resident)

Liaison to Quality/Outcomes groups (2-year term)

Brandon Rocque – Chair	(2019-2021)
Sandi Lam – former Chair	(2017-2021)

Liaison to the NREF (2-year term)

Cormac Maher	(2019-2021)
David Limbrick	(2019-2021)

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

Francesco Mangano, DO	(2019-2021) (second term)
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Liaison to Tumor Section (2-year term) - New

Amanda Saratsis, MD	(2018-2021)
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