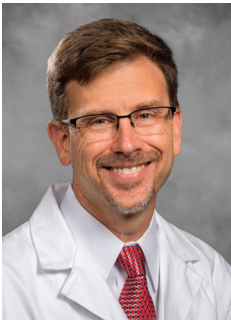


Pediatric Short Cuts

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

CHAIR'S MESSAGE



What a great two years it has been! I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the Pediatric Section and give something back to the national pediatric neurosurgery organization that has been such an integral component of my career. It has been an honor to preside over the past two national meetings:

exploring the Frontiers of Neurosurgery in Oklahoma City and experiencing the Power of Partnership in New York City. The support from our parent organizations, the CNS and the AANS, continues to be critical to our Section's success, but really what drives us forward is the strength, dedication, and skill of our team of volunteer Officers, Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs, and members. Together, we have seen record meeting attendance, enhanced volunteer engagement in Section activities, healthy balance sheets, significantly increased grants, fellowships, and awards, expansion of Section membership, and a substantially growing subset of advanced practice providers joining the Section and participating in our annual APP courses. Organized pediatric neurosurgery has a bright future.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank our past Chairs, Benny Iskandar, Mark Krieger and Mark Proctor, for their guidance and support this past term. I am enthusiastically grateful for our current Secretary, Ruth Bristol, for her can-do attitude and outstanding organizational skills, our Treasurer, Dave Limbrick, for keeping the lights on, and a special thank you to our incoming Chair, Rich Anderson. Rich has been a tremendous source of wisdom and energy which promise to continue to energize our Section in the coming years.

The Executive Committee is looking forward to working with a newly updated roster of committee chairs and members—but it is still not too late to get involved with any number of our initiatives and activities. For those who would like to engage in Section efforts, our main website has a link to the volunteer form. Or you can reach out directly to any of the officers or the Chair/Co-Chair of a committee that interests you. I hope you enjoy the following ShortCuts content prepared by our Officers and Committee Chairs. See you in Memphis!

Matt Smyth

Chair, AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

2025 Joint
Pediatric
Section
Annual
Meeting

The **PRIVILEGE** to
Inspire.



DEC 4-7, 2025
Peabody Memphis Hotel
Memphis, TN

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CHAIR ELECT'S MESSAGE

Richard Anderson



It is a profound honor to begin as Chair of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery this April. I accept this role with humility in honor of the previous Section leaders including Mark Proctor, Mark Krieger, Benny Iskandar, and others who have provided tremendous mentorship, guidance, and sage advice along the way. Thanks to the visionary leadership of our current Chair, Matt Smyth, the Section is thriving. Perhaps the best evidence of this was the recent Annual Section meeting in New York City, which turned out to be the highest attended meeting in Section history! A meeting that was over ten years in the making, it was extremely rewarding to see so many Section members engaged in scientific discussion, educational courses, and enjoying all the amenities that New York City has to offer. A big shout-out goes to the local hosts from three different institutions for their efforts in making the meeting so successful.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform members of a major initiative that the Section will be launching over the next two years. Over decades, the Section has created a tremendous infrastructure for education, research, and advocacy. This has laid the groundwork for an aspirational project that we have all envisioned eventually bringing to life: a specialty-specific collaborative network that would facilitate greater participation in research among Section members and overall higher quality research for our field. To this aim, we are planning this summer to launch the Pediatric Section Research Group (PSRG). Under the PSRG, eight separate Research Interest Groups (RIGs) will be established that investigate different pediatric neurosurgical research areas. The initial RIGs will focus on Chiari, Craniofacial, Epilepsy/Functional, Hydrocephalus, Neuro-oncology, Spine, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Vascular. Section members are invited to participate in up to two RIGs at any given time, and can change RIGs if desired. Based on interest and success of the initiative, additional RIGs will be developed over time (e.g., spasticity, transition of care, global neurosurgery, peripheral nerve, etc.). Members of RIGs will meet to discuss collaborative research ideas virtually throughout the year and then in person with dedicated time and meeting space during the Annual Pediatric Section meeting. I have asked Todd Hankinson (Chair) and David Hersh (Vice Chair) to oversee this initiative, and I am grateful that they have accepted the challenge. More information and details about how to sign up and participate in the RIGs will be provided in the summer.

In closing, I could not be more excited about the group of officers that will be working with me for the next two years: Matt Smyth (Past Chair), Ruth Bristol (Chair-elect), David Limbrick (Secretary), and Amy Lee (Treasurer). I want to thank them in advance for keeping me on track and tempering (when needed) what is already looking like a very ambitious agenda. On behalf of all of the officers, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us with comments, concerns or ideas regarding the Section. We welcome involvement of all members, and look forward to serving the Section for the next two years.

AANS / CNS SECTION ON PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

MEMBERSHIP REPORT—SPRING 2025

Jennifer Ronecker

Membership Class	2025 Dues	2025 Spring	2024 Fall	2024 Spring	2023 Fall	2023 Spring
Active	\$150	383	377	370	359	368
International	\$50	36	34	34	34	39
Adjunct/Associate	\$75	54	48	37	33	33
Lifetime	\$0	93	89	92	93	95
Med Student	\$0	43	29	19	45	38
Resident/Fellow	\$0	136	121	124	159	161
TOTAL		745	698	676	723	734

Membership Retention

Members are inactivated if they have not paid their dues for more than 36 months. Those who have been inactivated are being contacted and encouraged to re-apply.

Category	Unpaid	Total	% Unpaid
Active	113	383	30
International	15	36	42
Adjunct/Associate	20	54	37

Membership Recruitment

New members can apply online through the www.myaans.org website.

Category	2024
Active	52
International	5
Adjunct/Associate	26
Lifetime	0
Medical Student	49
Resident/Fellow	81
Total	213

INDUSTRY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Michael McDowell and Brian Hanak

The Industry Relations Committee is pleased to announce the third annual **KLS Martin Innovations Award** of \$20,000 dedicated to supporting early-stage development of intellectual property for commercialization. In addition, we are equally pleased to announce the establishment of the **Sophysa Research Award**, also for \$20,000, dedicated to supporting research related to traumatic brain injury, intracranial hypertension, and hydrocephalus. Proposals for both awards at due October 15, 2025 and should be sent to pedssectionresearch@gmail.com. The winners will be announced at the 2025 meeting in Memphis. The senior author must be a section member and meeting attendance by at least one member is a requirement for receipt of the award.

NON-PROFIT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Diana Gray, David Limbrick and Dorothy Poppe

NAC Pilot Project: Transition of Care

Bobby Jones CSF and the Hydrocephalus Association have been selected for our inaugural collaborative project with pediatric neurosurgery: the Transition of Care Pilot Project. Diana Gray will serve on the Policy Committee alongside Dr. Benny Iskandar and Dr. Joe Piatt, while Dorothy Poppe co-chairs the Transition Committee with Dr. Laila Mohammad. The anticipated completion date for this project is 2026.

The Spina Bifida Association has submitted an application for approval by the Executive Committee and, if approved, will join our committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT

David Limbrick

The AANS/CNS Joint Section in Pediatric Neurological Surgery remains in sound financial health. Total net assets as per the financial statement dated 12/31/2024 totaled \$1,432,477, reflecting a healthy increase of \$188,833 from the prior year (\$1,243,644) and representing a comfortable reserve to support an entire annual meeting plus Section activities for two years without any additional revenue.

Annual Meeting

As of March 27, 2025, the summative financials for the 2024 New York City meeting as well as the projections for the 2025 Memphis meeting are pending.

Long Term Investments

The Section's long-term investment account experienced a robust increase of \$161,228 to \$1,203,481. Notably, the Section's long-term investments are handled via a pooled investment portfolio with the other sections, which allows the sections to participate in funds not otherwise available to smaller investors. The Section also holds \$500,000 of matched funds in the CNS Foundation.

Honor your Mentor Funds

As of 3/27/2025, the A. Leland Albright fund has accumulated \$64,605, with \$16,757 in investment earnings, and has disbursed awards totaling \$40,906. The Sanjiv Bhatia fund has accumulated \$112,450, with \$21,615 in investment earnings and has disbursed \$7,715 (awards were previously subsidized by the Section and the ASPN). The Marion "Jack" Walker fund has accumulated \$27,790.00, with \$5070 in investment earnings. The Walker fund is just over 50% of the way to the \$50,000 milestone to begin award disbursement. The Jerry Oakes HYM fund has accumulated \$12,800 with \$2021 in investment earnings.

Specific Expenses and Financial Resolutions

The Section continues to maintain and even expand its commitment toward its educational and research missions. Between the section research awards, the pediatric NREF fellowship award, domestic and international traveling fellowships, and industry-matched innovation awards, and private foundation donations, the section continues to offer nearly 20 different awards, with others on the way soon.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Heather Spader and Rebecca Reynolds

Clinical Collaborations Sub-committee.

We completed the section-wide survey that assesses section participation in global neurosurgery and these results were presented at the annual meeting in NYC. The goal for next term is to publish this information on the section website and integrate with Intersurgeon.

Education Sub-committee

The committee successfully launched the international neurosurgery journal club. We have hosted one with Africa and Japan and are planning another one with Japan focused on hydrocephalus. We are in the planning stages for a research mentorship partnership with ISPN. Our goal for next term is 3 journal clubs per calendar year. We also want to launch the first participant in the research training/mentorship program. Our overall goal for next term is to broaden the relationship with ISPN education and mentorship committees including publishing the journal clubs in the ISPN Guide.

Bhatia Fellowship

Management of the fellowship is now run through the fellowship sub-committee with significant input from the IR committee. We awarded the fellowship at the section meeting in NYC to Sarah McNutt from Penn State. Her mentors are Brandon Rocque & Le Nam Thang. Vietnam Children's Hospital, Hanoi. Her research project is: Retrospective investigation of EVD infection rates and identification of significant risk factors. Design an EVD placement/management protocol. Prospective data collection to evaluate implementation and success of protocol. Application solicitation will begin this summer for announcement at the annual meeting next year.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Robert Naftel and Edward Ahn

The National Meetings Committee with Hal Meltzer, Jeff Campbell, Jesse Winer, and Jay Hauptman have put together an exciting and educational pediatric program for the 2025 National Meetings. The AANS is in Boston this year and runs from April 25-28. Registered attendees (>1700 medical as of 3/1) and submitted abstracts (>4000) have set new records. Dr. Alan R. Cohen will deliver the 2025 Matson Lecture and share with us his legendary wit and charm as he takes us on a tour of his lifetime achievements. The Matson Reception will follow later that evening. Hopefully, Dr. Cohen will be bringing his Karaoke machine with him to supplement the festivities. Global Neurosurgery is emphasized this year (registered international attendees from >70 countries to date) and we will be awarding best international abstracts as well as those in clinical and basic science. Other meeting highlights include Dr. Sandi Lam curating a cutting-edge seminar on AI/Machine Learning, Dr. Joseph Gleeson reviewing his groundbreaking work on the molecular etiologies of spina bifida and cortical dysplasias, Dr. George Ibrahim sharing his results and insights on the use of neuromodulation to treat pediatric neurodevelopmental/behavioral disorders, and expanded abstract, rapid fire, and oral poster presentations with real time judging followed by additional awards. The CNS Annual Meeting will be held in Los Angeles from October 11-15 with a plethora of pediatric content to enjoy. The theme this year is "CNS Connects" and topical joint symposia have been organized in pediatric spinal deformity, precision neurosurgery for the epilepsies, cervical instability, secondary dystonia, and intraventricular/pineal region approaches to neoplastic disease. Additionally, special sessions will be held reviewing new innovations in the treatment of hydrocephalus and wellness/work life balance in pediatric neurosurgery. Finally, there will be interactive sessions in deciphering surgical indications for tethered spinal cord and another joint session reviewing the role of bypass in the endovascular era.

The Traveling Fellowship Committee is collecting applications for the domestic and international fellowship cycle in 2025. The committee is co-chaired by Jason Blatt and Eric Thompson. The 2024 award cycle was particularly competitive due to the robust number of excellent applicants. There were 7 domestic and 15 international applicants. Because of the increasing number and quality of applicants, the Section leadership also voted to provide funding for additional domestic fellows going forward (an increase from two to four awards per

year). Congratulations to the following awardees: Gregory Keating, a resident at Georgetown, will be traveling to SickKids. Elise Yoon, a resident at Michigan State, will be traveling to Vanderbilt. Joseph McAbee, a resident at NIH, will be traveling to St. Louis Children's Hospital. Joyce Koueik, a resident at the University of Wisconsin, will travel to SickKids. Kebelele Sipalo from Zambia will be traveling to the University of Iowa, and Kamga Nkouli from Kenya will be traveling to University of Oklahoma.

The Committee also published the paper, "The AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery Domestic Traveling Fellowship: History and Survey Results of Past Recipients" by Eric M. Thompson, Agnieszka Stadnik, Jason E. Blatt*, Edward S. Ahn, MD* (* = co-senior authors) in JNS: Pediatrics. thejns.org/pediatrics/view/journals/j-neurosurg-pediatr/aop/article-10.3171-2024.11.PEDS24455/article-10.3171-2024.11.PEDS24455.xml?rskey=TYa4Vs&result=1

Announcements for this coming year's fellowship cycle will be made in Spring 2025 via the joint section website and most neurosurgery journals.

The podcast committee, led by Jim Johnston, Vijay Ravindra, and Ariana Barkley continues to produce innovative content with "Insights in Pediatric Neurosurgery." They have released many fascinating interviews, most recently conversations with Jerry Oakes and Susan Durham. These podcasts are available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

The Lectures and Webinars committee chaired by Toba Niazi presented a webinar in January 2025 on the management of hemispheric-onset drug refractory epilepsy. The moderator was Dr. Jonathan Pindrick and featured speaker Jay Hauptman.

The Examinations Questions Committee, led by Patrick McDonald and Lance Governale, strives to continue to provide high-quality questions for the SANS CNS Exam relevant to pediatric neurosurgery. In addition to the current group of question writers, they seek expand the number of question writers by recruiting individuals based on subspecialty expertise in order to encompass the breadth of pediatric neurosurgery. They will continue collaborating with the ABNS in creating answer choices and educational narratives for all of the ABNS question stems.

APP COMMITTEE

Haley Vance, *Chair*

The APP committee continues to grow in our mission to facilitate networking and engagement of APPs within the Pediatric Section. We had over 100 APPs attend the APP course at the Peds Section Meeting this year in New York. How exciting! We enjoyed active discussion and engagement on topics such as global health, craniofacial, transition of care, coding/reimbursement, and TBI.

We would like to extend a special thank you to the local host teams and speakers for this year's APP course:

Columbia	Samantha Himsworth, NP
Mount Sinai	Chinonye Ihekweazu, NP
New York Presbyteria	Dr. Thomas Imahiyerobo
Weill Cornell	Dr. Jim Johnston
Mandy Breedt, NP	Emily McClernon, PA
Dr. Chris Bonfield	Lisa McLennan, DNP
Michelle Buontempo, NP	Dr. Peter Morgenstern
Alicia Cook, NP	Saralee Morales, NP
Lauren Delgado, NP	Dr. Smruti Patel
Dr. Virendra Desai	Dr. Ursala Rohlwink
Ana Diaz, NP	Lucia Ruggieri, PA
Dr. Tony Figaji	Dr. Peter Taub
Dr. Jeffrey Greenfield	Haley Vance, DNP
Han Hadacek, PA	
Dr. Roger Hartl	

The APP committee hosted 3 APP journal clubs during the 2024 year. Topics covered included DIPG, EVD management, and craniofacial anomalies. Thank you to Lisa McLennan for facilitating great discussion during these journal clubs. 2025 APP journal club dates will be posted on the website soon... more details to come!

Over the past year, we have also grown in our partnership with the Communications Committee to expand our presence through an APP page on the pediatric section website. This will be our primary source of communication with APPs moving forward, so please share with your APP colleagues.

pedsneurosurgery.org/advanced-practice-providers-committee/

In efforts to keep APPs updated throughout the year, our APP committee has produced 4 newsletters. These newsletters provide information on upcoming events, membership, the annual meeting, and educational opportunities. These newsletters have been uploaded to the APP page on the website.

As we move forward in 2025 and my time as Chair ends, I would like to say that it has been an honor to serve as Chair of the APP committee. I am grateful for the support, encouragement, and wisdom provided to our committee, as well as me personally, from the Executive Committee. It is humbling to reflect on the growth of this committee over the past few years, and I know this will only continue in the years to come!

AANS/CNS SECTION ON PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY AWARDS COMMITTEE

Esther Dupepe and Smruti K. Patel, Co-chairs

As a result of another successful annual meeting, we presented a total of 10 awards through the section this past year in New York City. The awardees are listed below.

Award Name	Recipient
2024 KLS Martin Innovations Challenge Award	Andrew T. Hale, MD, PhD
Best Oral Presentation Regarding Global Surgery	Rya Muller
Meghan Rose Bradley Foundation Award for Best Abstract on Tumor	Alexandra Giantini Larsen, MD
The Timothy George DEI Award for Best Poster Presentation	David Fletcher
The Timothy George DEI Award for Best Oral Presentation	Yifei Sun
Schulman Award for Best Overall Presentation by Resident	Karim Mithani, MD
The Bobby Jones Chiari & Syringomyelia Foundation Award Winner	Kelsi Chesney, MD
Hydrocephalus Association Award	Lauren Schulz
Molly Hubbard Award for Best Paper by Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellow	Bernardo Assumpcao de Monaco, MD
Franc D. Ingraham Award for Distinguished Service and Achievement	Jeffrey H. Wisoff, MD
Award for Exemplary Service	Haley Vance, DNP, CPNP-AC

A special **THANK YOU** to the following Pediatric Section Members for their time and commitment as abstract judges!

Allyson Alexander	Ziyad Makoshi
Luigi Bassani	Catherine McClung Smith
Katrina Ducis	Carrie Muh
Esther DuPepe	Smruti K. Patel
Darien Esfahani	H. Westley Phillips
Tracy Flanders	Laura Prolo
Anne Marie Flannery	Tola Roberts
David Garcia	Brandon Rocque
David Gruber	Amanda Saratsis
Irene Kim	Steven Schiff
Suresh Magge	Anastasia Smith

AANS/CNS PEDIATRIC SECTION QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Annie Drapeau and Carolina Sandoval-Garcia

The AANS/CNS Quality Improvement Committee has made several new additions to the growing number of resources available in our [website](https://www.pedsneurosurgery.org/case-studies-project/quality-improvement-initiatives/). [pedsneurosurgery.org/case-studies-project/quality-improvement-initiatives/](https://www.pedsneurosurgery.org/case-studies-project/quality-improvement-initiatives/)

We've worked to make this website a rich and trusted forum and a powerful source of information on how our colleagues approach a variety of neurosurgical issues. As a repository of several institutions' QI work, this resource can be used for sharing ideas and inspiring collaborations. You can find recently added clinical pathways, algorithms and institutional /personal practices on diverse topics like indications for imaging of simple sacral dimples, infection reduction, stereoEEG naming standardization, safety of indwelling devices and perioperative care of pediatric neurosurgery patients specifically related to postoperative use of NSAIDs and ketorolac, among others.

This upcoming summer, we will release a free on-demand online course to provide education on Science of Improvement & Safety specific for pediatric neurosurgeons. We developed this course with the help of several of our committee members with the intent of increasing the output of safety-centered data and QI studies amongst our community. The course should serve as a short primer on the topic and will be a useful resource for those interested in learning basics of QI methodology and its implementation in pediatric neurosurgery care.

Thank you in advance for your interest and contributions!

Please send any comments or suggestions to pedsneurosurgeryqi@gmail.com.

THE TIMOTHY GEORGE COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY

Smruti K. Patel and Kurtis Auguste

"I truly enjoyed the conference, and I found it gave me a new sense of hope. The doctors allowed me to realize that no matter how many obstacles life throws at you, we always have the choice to move forward."

—Laura Morel, age 16, high school student

In this edition of the Shortcuts, we wanted to highlight our 3rd Annual DEI Outreach Program offered at our annual meeting. During the 2025 Pediatric Neurosurgery Joint Section meeting, with the help of our hosts and partners at the Center for Excellence in Youth Education (CEYE) in New York City, we successfully hosted 60 local high school and 10 undergraduate students of varying backgrounds and ethnicities. Given the sheer number of students, CEYE was able to secure a venue the American Museum of Natural History where the program faculty were able to share stories of resilience, their journeys into neurosurgery and provide information about our field.

Just as last year, our visiting undergraduate students were provided with an immersive experience in all that is pediatric neurosurgery, to include one on one time with their faculty or advanced practice provider chaperones, visiting the exhibit hall, and attending the general and luncheon sessions. We surveyed the students and received 52 responses with great feedback regarding their experience. Most students noted that they were equally or more likely to pursue medicine in the future with the majority stating that they were equally or more likely to consider neurosurgery!

The winners of this year's Timothy George DEI awards were as follows:

Timothy George DEI Award for Best Oral Presentation:
Neighborhood Level Socioeconomic Status is Associated with Pediatric Hydrocephalus Outcomes: A Cohort Study;
Author: Yifei Sun

Timothy George DEI Award for Best Poster Presentation:
A Retrospective Analysis of the Socioeconomic Benefit of Telehealth for Appalachian Families Before, During, and After the COVID-19 Pandemic; Author: David Fletcher

Congratulations to each of the winners on their work to help highlight disparities in the field of pediatric neurosurgery and addressing health inequities that exist in our patient population.

Finally, we would like to send a heartfelt THANK YOU to our faculty presenters and chaperones for their commitment, time and hard work in allowing us to put on the best program yet!

As we work to rotate out as the co-chairs of the committee, we would love to hear from our membership regarding any ideas that would move our mission forward. In addition, we will seek volunteers to help precept students at 2025 Annual Meeting in Memphis, TN! If you are interested in volunteering or being involved on the committee, please reach out to Smruti Patel or Kurtis Auguste at smruti.patel@cchmc.org or kurtis.auguste@ucsf.edu.





PEDIATRIC SECTION GUIDELINE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dear Pediatric Section Membership:

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 by submitting ideas to the CNS Guidelines Committee, and we create guidelines through members volunteering to be in a guidelines working group. We also nominate committee members to the CNS/AANS Joint Guideline Review Committee (JGRC), where we review internally and externally produced guidelines for endorsement by the CNS/AANS, a review which 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.

Our members have been involved in many projects. The recent Guidelines for the Surgical Treatment of Chiari I Malformation were featured at the last CNS meeting, with many authors of the guidelines volunteering as course faculty. An update to the Guidelines for Positional Plagiocephaly has been completed, and it is being reviewed by the Joint Guidelines Review Committee for publication in Neurosurgery. We are nearly finished creating new guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of tethered spinal cord. The working groups are drafting the chapters, and we plan for publication this year. The Spina Bifida Association is working with this effort, and we are appreciative of their support. We are in the early stages to update the previously published Spina Bifida Guidelines. The working group will be created, and updated literature will be reviewed later this year.

Outside of the section, 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. Pediatric section members have been involved in this process, and the group is around halfway through the project. Manuscript preparation is set to begin later this year.

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 in an advisory role for the section.

I would like to thank the following members for serving on the Joint Guideline Review Committee this year: Dan Donoho, Tina Sayama, Carolyn Quinsey, Jennifer Strahle, Mari Groves, Raj Iyer, Peter Chiarelli, and Nisha Gadgil.

I would like to thank the following members for serving on the Chiari Guideline Working Group and volunteering to be faculty at the CNS meeting: 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 the following members for serving on the plagiocephaly update working group: Alex Beier, Cathy Mazzola, Catherine McClung-Smith, George Koutsouras, and Brandon Laing.

I would like to thank the following members for serving on the tethered cord working group: Mari Groves, Daniel Donoho, Peter Chiarelli, Alex Ropper, Rich Anderson, Carrie Muh, Eylem Ocal, Raj Iyer, Steve Hwang, Nisha Gadgil, Zulma Tovar-Spinoza, Jon Pindrik, Jen Strahle, and Greg Heuer.

I would like to thank prior committee chairs Cathy Mazzola and Ann Flannery for continued mentorship and support, and Angela Price and Howard Wiener 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.

Sincerely,
David

David F. Bauer, MD, MPH
dfbauer@texaschildrens.org

PEDIATRIC CODING AND REIMBURSEMENT COMMITTEE (PCRC) REPORT

Viren Desai and Meena Vessell

The Pediatric Coding and Reimbursement Committee (PCRC), which was formerly an individual liaison position, continues to expand its membership since its inaugural year. We have expanded to 25 members and continue to welcome new membership. The PCRC provides a forum to deliberate on coding and reimbursement issues specific to pediatric neurosurgery, serving as a voice on behalf of our community. Within this realm, the PCRC is dedicated to advocacy, inquiry, education and study of pediatric neurosurgical coding.

Clinical Resources

PCRC remains committed to improving pediatric coding resources and enhancing value and accuracy. Our primary effort over this term was and will continue to be adding detailed pediatric coding recommendations to the 2025 AANS Guide to Coding book edited by Joseph Cheng, John Ratliff and Luis Tumialan. We anticipate this will serve as a primary coding reference for daily practice.

Education

The PCRC served as course faculty for the AANS Coding & Reimbursement Pediatric-Focused Course on June 14th, 2024, with plans to continue this annual course in 2025. Registration is open to all, and the course is held virtually.

The PCRC also held the first annual Coding Course at the Pediatric Section meeting in New York City December 12, 2024. Faculty

included Drs. Viren Desai, David Bauer, Mark Proctor and Lance Governale. We anticipate another course at the next meeting.

We are partnering with the Transition of Care Committee led by Subcommittee Chair Dr. Laila Mohammad and the Coding and Reimbursement Committee led by Dr. Anand Veeravagu to create an educational reference with common CPT codes used for pediatric patients transitioning to an adult neurosurgeon.

Study & Inquiry

In early 2024, PCRC released a survey to section members through the section Survey Committee. The survey was completed by 70 individuals, finding that over half of practicing pediatric neurosurgeons code by self or in concert with a billing department, about two thirds believe coding knowledge is very important although have not done a formal coding course. About 90% are unaware of or do not use online AANS resources but would find a Pediatric-focused coding manual valuable.

We will work towards fellow coding education and potential inclusion of coding questions into the pediatric fellowship board examination.

The Committee looks forward to reporting back on further work in the next edition of Shortcuts.

TRANSITION OF CARE COMMITTEE

Bermans Iskandar and Brandon Rocque

The pediatric neurosurgery community has long provided exceptional care for children with congenital neurosurgical conditions, particularly hydrocephalus and spina bifida. This care has encompassed not only surgical interventions but also the complex non-surgical challenges associated with diagnosing and managing neurological symptoms. However, the transition and transfer of care to adulthood have faced significant obstacles, primarily due to a lack of interest, training, or practicality among adult neurosurgeons in continuing such

specialized care. While some pediatric neurosurgeons have committed to following their patients into adulthood, logistical difficulties and institutional constraints, such as limitations imposed by children's hospitals and the complexities of adult medical care, make this increasingly unsustainable. As a result, many patients struggle to access the same high-quality care they received in childhood.

Transition of Care Committee continued on page 12

TRANSITION OF CARE COMMITTEE *continued from page 11*

The TOCC aims to develop strategies, processes, and templates to support neurosurgical programs in implementing transition-of-care initiatives. Initially, the committee will focus on transitioning patients with hydrocephalus and spina bifida, expanding later to other congenital conditions. Our efforts will address challenges at multiple levels, including patient care (Readiness and Transition Subcommittee), healthcare providers (Transfer & Continuity Subcommittee), infrastructure and reimbursement (Business Model & Coding Subcommittee), and policy (upcoming subcommittee).

Specifically, the TOC Committee is dedicated to 1) developing standardized transition-of-care templates to help neurosurgical programs enhance continuity and quality of care at their institutions, and 2) establishing structured APP-led clinics to manage the complex non-surgical aspects of patient care, ensuring a more seamless and comprehensive transition into adulthood. Under this model, APPs would receive specialized training and work in structured collaboration with neurosurgeons within a rational infrastructure and sustainable financial framework.

The following are updates from the main TOC subcommittees:

Readiness and Transition Subcommittee

Laila Mohammad and Dorothy Poppe, *Co-chairs*

The Readiness and Transition Subcommittee recently conducted a survey to evaluate current transition of care programs in Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus nationwide. Among 80 respondents, 40% had formal programs in place, while 68% had personnel involved in transition efforts, and 79% had affiliated adult clinics or hospitals, reflecting a strong commitment to continuity of care, despite limited structured pathways. Since January 2025, the subcommittee has completed 11 institutional interviews, with 10 more scheduled by March.

At this year's Joint Section meeting in NYC, a live audience poll revealed that 40% supported transition programs, 16% preferred lifelong congenital neurosurgical care, and 44% endorsed both approaches. Additionally, 58% believed neurosurgeons should oversee the transfer of care, followed by 32% APPs, and 11% non-neurosurgeons. A resolution has also been submitted for the CSNS Spring 2025 meeting, requesting AANS, CNS, and the Washington Committee's

support in advancing transition of care clinics. Furthermore, we are collaborating with the Pediatric Neurosurgery Coding and Reimbursement Committee and CSNS Reimbursement Committee to develop a coding and payment tip sheet for pediatric-to-adult neurosurgical transitions.

Transfer & Continuity Subcommittee

Haley Vance and Smruti Patel, *Co-chairs*

The Transfer and Continuity Subcommittee goals include identifying the appropriate providers to deliver neurosurgical care for adults requiring transition. The main focus during this past term has been to address the population of patients transitioning care with the diagnosis of hydrocephalus. The complexity and spectrum of hydrocephalus is certainly well known to pediatric neurosurgery providers; however, the nuances may not be well established in adult models of care. Neurosurgery Advanced Practice Providers are well positioned to provide comprehensive and ongoing medical care to these patients with adult neurosurgeon support for surgical evaluations. Our subcommittee has worked to develop clinical practice guidelines for transition and management of patients with hydrocephalus, which is intended for use by providers interested in transitional care. The hydrocephalus clinical practice guidelines have been drafted and are currently in the editing stage. Ultimately, we will continue to support the training of transitional care providers in areas of need and continued education/mentorship.

Business Model & Coding Subcommittee

Andrew Kobets and Darian Esfahani, *Co-chairs*

The goal of the Business Model & Coding Subcommittee is to develop or adapt sustainable business plans and reimbursement models that support transition-of-care initiatives. Our work has started by leveraging transition-specific CPT codes. Establishing reimbursement strategies for APP-led clinics will follow.

Pediatric neurosurgeons, APPs, fellows, residents, or students interested in serving on the TOC committee would be most welcome, and should contact Benny Iskandar (iskandar@neurosurgery.wisc.edu) or Brandon Rocque (Brandon.Rocque@childrensal.org).

AANS/CNS JOINT SECTION ON PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

OFFICERS

Chair	
Matthew Smyth	(2023–2025)
Immediate Past Chair	
Bermans Iskandar	(2023–2025)
Chair-Elect	
Rich Anderson	(2023–2025)
Secretary	
Ruth Bristol	(2023–2025)
Treasurer	
David Limbrick	(2023–2025)
Members at Large	
Krystal Tomei	(2023–2025)
Ben Kennedy	(2023–2025)
Carolina Sandoval-Garcia	(2024–2026)
Rob Bollo	(2024–2026)
Resident Member of Executive Committee	
George Koutsouras	

Education Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)

Rob Naftel—Co-Chair
Ed Ahn—Co-Chair
Jeff Leonard—Advisor
Rob Bollo—Advisor
Dave Limbrick—Advisor
Al Amin Salek
Albert Tu
Reem Elwy (R)
Joanna Gernsback
Jesse Winer
Elias Rizk
Peter Morgenstern
Stephanie Greene
Virendra Desai
Jeffrey Greenfield
Suresh Magge
Tsulee Chen
Jason Scott Hauptman
Andrew Kobets
Brent O’Neil
Hasan Syed
Katie Fehnel
Scott Wait
Amanda Kwasnicki

STANDING COMMITTEES

Nominating Committee (6-year term after Section Chair)	
Bermans Iskandar—Chair	(2023–2029, Chair 2023–2025)
Mark Krieger	(2021–2027)
Mark Proctor	(2019–2025)

Lifetime Achievement Award
(Frank Ingraham Award for Distinguished Service):
Bermans Iskandar— Immediate Past Chair

Rules & Regulations Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)
Christian Kaufman—Advisor
Charles Stevenson—Chair
Ron Grondin

Membership Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)
Jennifer Ronecker—Chair
Irene Kim—Advisor

EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES (ad hoc)

Pediatric Section Annual Meeting Subcommittee	
Andrew Jea—Chair	2023: Oklahoma City
Richard Anderson	2024: NYC
Mark Souweidane	2024: NYC
Caitlin Hoffman	2024: NYC
Neil Feldstein	2024: NYC
Saadi Ghatan	2024: NYC
Peter Morgenstern	2024: NYC
David Harter	2024: NYC
Haley Vance	Co-Chair APP
Elisha Peregrino	Co-Chair APP
Matt Smyth	Section Chair
Bermans Iskandar	Section Past Chair
Richard Anderson	Section Chair- elect
Ruth Bristol	Section Secretary
David Limbrick	Section Treasurer

AANS and CNS Meetings Subcommittee*(2-year term; 2023–2025)*

Jeffrey Campbell—Co-Chair

Hal Meltzer—Co-Chair

Jay Hauptman

Jesse Winer

Traveling Fellowship Subcommittee *(2-year term; 2023–2025)*

Jason Blatt—Co-Chair

Eric Thompson—Co-Chair

Derek Samples

Patricia Clerkin

Kristin Weaver

Examination Questions Subcommittee*(2-year term; 2023–2025)*

Lance Governale—Co Chair

Pat McDonald—Co Chair

Jason Blatt

Joel Katz

Neena Marupudi

Rabia Qaiser

Ammar Shaikhouni

Jesse Winer

Hannah Goldstein

Laura Prolo

David Hersh

Lectures and Webinars Subcommittee*(2-year term; 2023–2025)*

Jeff Greenfield—Co-Chair

Toba Niazi—Co-Chair

Hands-on Workshops Subcommittee *(2-year term; 2023–2025)**(Joint Subcommittee with International Education Subcommittee)*

Joanna Gernsback—Co-Chair

Peter Morgenstern—Co-Chair

Podcasts Subcommittee *(2-year term; 2023–2025)*

Jim Johnston—Co-Chair

Vijay Ravindra—Co-Chair

Arianna Barkley

Heather Spader—Advisor

AD HOC COMMITTEES**Communications Committee** *(2-year term; 2023–2025)*

Benjamin Kennedy—Co-Chair

Carrie Muh—Co-Chair

Lance Governale

Farrukh Javeed

Taylor Abel

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES*(2-year term; 2023–2025)***Website Subcommittee**

Benjamin Kennedy—Chair

George W. Koutsouras (R)

Social Media Subcommittee

Randaline Barnett—Co-Chair

Nathan Shlobin (MS)—Co-Chair

Taylor Abel

Devon Mitchell

Mustafa Motiwala

Olivia Kozel (MS)

Victor Lu (R)

Amber Gaulden (R)

Survey Subcommittee

Patrick McDonald—Co-Chair

Shelly Wang—Co-Chair

Eric Sribnick

Krystal Tomei

Albert Tu

Farrukh Javeed

Todd Hankinson (Research Liason)

Listserve Subcommittee

Nir Shimony—Co-Chair

Weston Northam—Co-Chair

Andrew Kobets

Mark Proctor

Katie Klas

Tony Macalindong

John Schroeder

International Relations Committee *(2-year term; 2023–2025)*

Rebecca Reynolds—Co-Chair

Heather Spader—Co-Chair

Christopher Bonfield—Advisor

Eylem Ocal—Advisor

Jim Johnston—Advisor

Caitlin Hoffman

Belinda Shao

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES*(2-year term; 2023–2025)***International Education Subcommittee**

Ariana Barkley—Co Chair

Aaron Robinson—Co Chair

Michael Dewan

Syed Hassan Akbari

Albert Tu

Patrick Obrien

Carolyn Quinsey

International Clinical Collaborations Subcommittee

Eisha Christian—Chair
 Megan Still
 Patricia Clerkin
 Raheel Ahmend
 Chris Bonfield

International Liaisons Subcommittee

(report directly to the committee chairs)

Tola Roberts—Chair	
ISPN	Zulma Tovar-Spinoza
ESPN	TBD
WFNS	Albert TU
AAP SOICH/ GICS	Eylem Ocal
South America	Zulma Tovar Spinoza
Central America and Caribbean	Louis Valery Carius
Brazil	Bruno Braga
Australia and New Zealand	TBD
Middle East	Kaveh Asadi
Africa	Tola Roberts
India	Aaron Mohanty
Pakistan	Hasan Raza Syed
China	Phil Aldana
Japan	Kaveh Asadi
Southeast Asia	Phil Aldana

**The Timothy George Committee on Diversity and Inclusion
 in Pediatric Neurosurgery** *(2-year term; 2023–2025)*

Smruti Patel—Co-Chair
Kurtis Auguste—Co-Chair
 Cathy Mazzola—Advisor
 Clarence Greene Jr—Advisor
 Tola Roberts Oritsejolomi
 Brandon Rocque
 Patricia Clerkin
 Armaan Malhotra (R)
 H. Westley Philips
 Elizabeth Tyler-Kabara
 James Botros
 Krystal Tomei
 Nisha Gadgil
 Anthony Wang
 Tristan Mackey (R)
 Amber Gaulden (R)
 Myron Rolle (R)

Research Committee *(2-year term; 2023–2025)*

Amanda Saratsis—Co-Chair
David Hersh—Co-Chair
 Todd Hankinson—Advisor
 David Daniels—Advisor
 Steve Schiff—Advisor

RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEES *(2-year term; 2023–2025)***Grants Subcommittee**

Heather McCrea—Subcommittee chair
 Taylor Abel—Subcommittee chair
 Allyson Alexander

Faculty Development and Mentoring

Laura Prolo—Subcommittee chair
 Manish Shah—Subcommittee chair
 Allyson Alexander
 Winson Ho
 Brandon Miller
 Christina Sarris
 Eric Sribnick
 Shih-Shan Chen
 Christina Sarris

Clinical Networks Subcommittee

Jonathan Pindrik—Subcommittee chair
 Heather Spader—Subcommittee chair
 Marian Michael Bercu
 Samuel (Trey) McClugage
 Monique Gomes
 Jason Hauptman
 Ioannis Mavridis
 Daxa Patel
 Jared Pisapia
 Leonard Verhey

Basic Science and Genetics Networks Subcommittee

Jenn Strahle—Subcommittee chair
 Brandon Miller—Subcommittee chair
 Moise Danielpour
 Michael DeCuypere
 Brian Dlouhy
 Winson Ho
 Alfred See
 Sudhakar Vadivelu
 Anthony Wang
 Kristopher Kahle

Quality Improvement Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)

Annie Drapeau—Co - Chair
 Carolina Sandoval Garcia—Co - Chair
 Joe Piatt—Senior Advisor
 Bruce Kaufman—Senior Advisor
 Karl Balsara
 Virenda Desai
 Katrina Ducis
 Tracy Flanders
 Andrew Foy
 Alexandra Giantini Larsen
 Amanda Kwasnicki
 Greg Olavarria
 Jonathan Pindrik
 Andy Stadler
 Rachana Tyagi
 Marike Zwienenberg

Young Pediatric Neurosurgeons Committee

(2-year term; 2023-2025)

Ariana Barkley—Chair
 Michael McDowell—Advisor
 Brannan O’Neill (R)
 Adam Ammar (F)
 Maryam Shahin (R)
 Jennifer Quon
 Tracy Flanders
 Shabal Sapkota
 Samantha Bouchal (MS)
 Rachel Moor (R)
 Nolan Brown (MS)
 Nisha gadgil
 Nathan Shlobin (MS)
 Adam Conley
 Neevya Balasubamaniam (MS)
 Saad Javed
 Hanish Polavarapu

Committee on Public Engagement, Education, and Advocacy

(SONS Chair and past Chair; 4 year term, switches after Section Mtg)

Greg Albert—Chair (2021–2025)
 Sandi Lam—Vice-Chair (2023–2027)
 Andrew Jea—Advisor (2021–2025)
 Jonathan Martin
 Michael Feldman (R)
 Natasha Hongsermeier-Graves (MS)

Industry Relations Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)

Michael McDowell—Co-Chair
 Brian Hanak—Co-Chair

Coding and Reimbursement Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)

Virendra Desai—Co-Chair
 Meena Vessel—Co-Chair
 Eric Jackson—Advisor
 Kaveh Asadi
 Randaline Barnett (F)
 Adam Ammar
 David Donahue
 David Garcia
 Arman Jahangiri
 Tsulee “Julie” Chen
 George Koutsouras
 Daxa Patel
 Ed Vates
 David Bauer
 Chesney Oravec
 Eric Jackson
 Jason Blatt
 Lance Governale
 Timothy Gooldy
 Marty Piazza
 David Wrubel
 Laurie Ackerman

Transition to Adulthood Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)

Benny Iskandar—Co-Chair
 Brandon Rocque—Co-Chair
 Bradley Weprin—Advisor
 Sara Hartnett-Wright
 Andrew Kobets
 Haley Vance
 Lisa McLennan
 Smruti Patel
 Diana Gray
 Dorothy Poppe
 Kaitlyn Esposito
 Laila Mohammad
 Mary Poppe
 Eric Sribnik
 Jeffrey Blount
 Christine Gumma
 Jeevan Dhruve
 Joseph Piatt
 Joyce Koueik
 Laurie Ackerman
 Mandy Breedt
 Mark Kraemer
 Michael Cools
 Piazza Martin
 Samantha Cater (Himsworth)
 Trisha Leonard
 Sheila Buchana

APP Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)

Haley Vance—Co-Chair
Mandy Breedt—Co-Chair
Patti Batchelder—Senior Advisor
Lisa McLennan

Membership/Engagement Subcommittee

Mandy Breedt
Stephanie Chen
Carrie Young

Education Subcommittee

Lisa McLennan
Jennifer Amon
Michelle Buontempo
Lucia Ruggieri
Stephen Smith

APP Annual Conference Planning Subcommittee (2023–2024)

Haley Vance
Laura Propester
Jamie Valenzuela
Mandy Breedt

Pediatric Section Guidelines Committee

(3-year term, change at CNS meeting)
David Bauer—Chair (2017–2019, Chair 2020–2022)
Dan Donoho—Vice-Chair (2023–2025)
Thomas Larrew (F)
Armaan Malhotra (R)

History Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)

Andrew Kobets—Chair
John Duncan—Co-Chair
Laila Mohammad

Senior Advisory Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)

Mark Proctor—Chair
Tina Duhaime—Advisor
Al Cohen—Advisor

Awards/Lectures Committee (2-year term; 2023–2025)

Esther DuPepe—Chair
Smruti Patel

Innovation and Technology (2-year term; 2023–2025)

Sam Browd—Co-Chair
Daniel Donoho—Co-Chair
Scellig Stone

Non-Profit Advisory Council

David Limbrick
Dorothy Poppe
Diana Gray

REPRESENTATIVES AND LIAISONS

Liaison to the AANS Executive Committee

Matt Smyth—Current Chair (2023–2025)

Liaison to the CNS Executive Committee

Rich Anderson—Chair Elect (2023–2025)

Liaison to the ABPNS

Bruce Kaufman—Current Chair of ABPNS (2024–2025)

Liaison with ACPNF

Jodi Smith—Current Chair of ACPNF (2024–2026)

Liaison with ASPN

Jay Wellons—Current President of ASPN (2024–2025)

Liaison with AAP Section of Neurological Surgery

Sandi Lam—Current Chair of SONS (2023–2025)

Liaison to the Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies

TBD, appointed by CSNS

Liaisons to the Drugs and Devices Committee, AANS

Sean McEvoy (2023–2025)
Elizabeth Tyler Kabara (2023–2025)

Liaison to the American College of Osteopathic Surgery

Sudhakar Vadivelu, DO (2023–2025)

Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on Tumors

Eric Thompson (2023–2025)

Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care

Trey McCluggage (2023–2025)

Liaisons to Neurosurgery Quality Council (NQC)

Annie Drapeau—Co-Chair QI Committee (2023–2025)
Carolina Sandoval Garcia – Co-Chair QI Committee (2023–2025)

Liaisons to AANS/CNS Section on History of Neurological Surgery

Andrew Kobets (2023–2025)
John Duncan (2023–2025)

Liaisons to AANS/CNS Cerebrovascular Section

Alfred See (2023–2025)
Leopold Arko (2023–2025)

Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on Pain

TBD

**Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on
Disorders of Spine and Peripheral Nerves**

Louis Valery Carius Estrada (2023–2025)

**Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on
Stereotactic and Functional Surgery**

Marian Michael Bercu (2023–2025)

**Liaison to AANS/CNS Section on
Women in Neurosurgery**

Jennifer Quan (2023–2025)

Elsie Yoon (2023–2025)

**Liaison to the AANS/CNS
Washington Committee**

Greg Albert (2023–2025)

Liaison to AANS/CNS JGRC

Tim Sayama (2022–2025)

Daniel Donoho (2022–2025)

David Bauer (2022–2025)

Carolyn Quinsey (2023–2026)

Mari Groves (2023–2026)

Jen Strahle (2023–2026)

Raj Iyer (2024–2027)

Peter Chiarelli (2024–2027)

Nisha Gadgil (2024–2027)

Liaison to CNS Foundation

Jeffrey Campbell (2024–2027)

(F) = Fellow (R) = Resident (MS) = Medical Student