CHAIR’S MESSAGE

It is difficult to believe that this is my last report as chair of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery. I am reminded of many years of gratifying service to this special organization of outstanding, close knit and collaborative individuals. While there are many ways to contribute to the advancement of pediatric neurosurgery, I thought I would share my path for the benefit of the younger generation.

Every journey starts with a first step, and mine was to join the AANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee (YNC) just after residency. The YNC is a great opportunity to be introduced to the inner workings of organized neurosurgery. My work on the committee resulted in my appointment as liaison to the Pediatric Section, a fortunate event that exposed me to the leadership of the Section. I will always remain grateful to Andrew Parent, MD, FAANS(L), for having faith in my abilities and appointing me to the Device and Technology Committee, which opened up other opportunities, including the Membership Committee and later treasurer. The position of treasurer begins the ladder to secretary, chair-elect and ultimately chair of the Section.

The Pediatric Section truly functions as a meritocracy, meaning that volunteerism and hard work are often rewarded with being asked to do more. It became obvious to me early on that if something has not been done, it is often because either no one had thought about it or no one had devoted time to it. Based on the concept that fresh outlooks from new members drive advancement, I encourage young members to get involved, pick up the baton and run with it. There are so many ways our specialty can benefit from creative minds and hard-working individuals.

A very rewarding aspect of pediatric neurosurgery is the close relationship among colleagues and the close collaborations we have with other specialties and groups, all for the well-being of children. This was highlighted at our most recent annual meeting in Nashville, where multi-institutional research projects that reach across our specialty were introduced and awards were given for the best collaborative proposals. Pediatric neurosurgery already enjoys several collaborative networks, including the Hydrocephalus Collaborative Research Network, the Park Reeves Syringomyelia Research Consortium, the Pediatric Craniocervical Society and others. Such collaborations reach beyond our specialty to include groups and societies, such as the American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery, the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery, the International Society of Craniofacial Surgeons, the Pediatric Oncology Group, the Scoliosis Research Society and more. The American Association of Pediatrics is a major partner via the Section on Neurological Surgery (SONS), in which our members actively propose and develop educational venues aimed at pediatricians. Since the inception of the Section, our
leadership have consistently chosen to replace competition among specialties with a spirit of collaboration. Accordingly, I encourage our members to attend our meetings on a regular basis, but also consider intermittently attending meetings organized by our partners in other fields committed to the care of children. As pediatric neurosurgeons, we have been leaders in global neurosurgery, a commitment that was beautifully highlighted at our Annual Meeting. As an organization, we are hoping to enter into a strategic and financial relationship with InterSurgeon, thus connecting our members with neurosurgical needs around the world. Section member involvement in organized pediatric neurosurgery can lead to long and rewarding journeys. In the past few decades, our specialty transitioned from a small field in which a few individuals fought for recognition that children are special and should be treated by specialists, to a vibrant community of academic, organizational and clinical leaders and stars. The future of this exceptional field promises to be exciting. I am pleased and honored to have been given the opportunity to play a small part in it. As my tenure of chair comes to an end, my Executive Committee and I are gratified to hand over the Section with a robust infrastructure of organized committees and charters (soon to be uploaded to the website). The Section's financial viability will allow future leaders to continue support of educational and research missions. For these reasons along with a solid, long-term relationship with our parent organizations, we leave with the same optimism for a bright future that we had when we started.

Upcoming meetings
• International Society of Craniofacial Surgery, Paris, September 16-19
• World Congress of Neuroendoscopy, Orlando, November 21-24
• International Congress on Early Onset Scoliosis, Atlanta, GA, November 21-22
• International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery, annually, September/October

Sincerely,
Mark R. Proctor, MD, FAANS

TREASURER’S REPORT
Matthew D. Smyth, MD, FAANS

The Pediatric Section remains in good financial health. Total net assets as per the last financial statement (12/31/2018) totaled $995,000. This is stable over the prior year ($997,000) 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 Section’s mission.

Annual Meeting
The 2017 Annual Meeting for the AANS/CNS Section in Pediatric Neurological Surgery in Houston had a net excess of $112,000. This is compared to a net excess of $60,995 at the 2016 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. Numbers for the 2018 Nashville meeting are still being finalized, but currently reflect an excess of $87,000. This will likely decrease as additional payments are made for meeting expenses. The net revenue has now been positive for five consecutive years as a result of continued efforts by Section officers to reduce costs in collaboration with local meeting hosts and AANS staff. The Section’s long-term investment account remains favorable at $681,656, as per the 12/31/2018 financial report. The Section’s long-term investments are handled via a pooled investment portfolio with the other sections, which allows the sections to get into funds not otherwise available to smaller investors.

Honor your Mentor Funds
As of 12/31/2018, the A. Leland Albright fund has accumulated $39,657. The Sanjiv Bhatia fund has accumulated $38,820.

Specific Expenses and Financial Resolutions
The Section continues its commitment toward its educational and research missions. Again, in the 2019 budget, there is renewed financial commitment toward the Pediatric Neurosurgical Research & Education Foundation (NREF) Fellowship grant, Section research awards and domestic and international traveling fellowships. Overall, there appear to be no concerns.
Membership in the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery continues to grow. We have had the most influx of new members in the past six months. The current roster includes 360 active, 22 associate, 84 lifetime, 43 international, 59 resident/fellow members and 13 medical student members, for a total of 581 members.

The newly approved Pediatric Section members are:

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<th>ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP</th>
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<td>Carolina Sandoval-Garcia, MD</td>
<td>Omar Antonio Gomez Valdes, MD</td>
<td>Brian T. Andrews, MD, FAANS</td>
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<td>Zachary Gelfand Wright, MD</td>
<td>Sanjeev Ariyandath Sreenivasan, MBBS</td>
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<td>Taylor John Abel, MD</td>
<td>Almas Abro, MBBS</td>
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<td>James A. Botros, MD</td>
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<td>Katie Pricola Fehnel, MD</td>
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<th>ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP</th>
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<td>Sara Mullinax Darden, MMSc, PA-C</td>
<td>Jianning Shao</td>
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<td>John Barnett, PA-C</td>
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<th>INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alessandro Perin, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Paul M. Kanev, MD, FAANS(L)</td>
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<td>M. Temitayo Shokunbi, MBBS</td>
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<td>Daiyan Martin Chaviano, MD</td>
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<td>Rajesh Parameshwaran Nair, MBBS</td>
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<td>Madhukar T Nayak, MBBS</td>
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<td>Thabo Leurander Rowland, MBChB</td>
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<td>Santino Ottavio Tomasi, MD</td>
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For additional membership information, please visit the Pediatric Section website at http://pedsneurosurgery.org/aans-membership/.
The Pediatric Section offers the following traveling fellowships:

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

2. **The Domestic Traveling Fellowship** is for residents in accredited North American neurosurgical training programs. The fellowship is intended to cover the traveling and living expenses for one month for a resident who wishes additional experience in pediatric neurosurgery during residency. The one-month fellowship can be spent at any pediatric neurosurgery program within North America to pursue an activity which broadens the resident’s exposure to pediatric neurosurgery, including observation at a clinical or research center, participation in a research project, or any other relevant activity. Fellowships are awarded yearly on the basis of a competitive evaluation by a committee of the Pediatric Section. The fellowship stipend is $2,500.

**Congratulations to the 2019 Fellowship Recipients:**

**International Traveling Fellowship**
1. Astri Avianti, MD (recently completed residency training in Indonesia; fellowship planned under Philipp Aldana, MD, at University of Florida/Jacksonville)
2. Sonal Jain, MD (recently completed neurosurgery training in Mumbai, India; fellowship planned under John Ragheb, MD, at Nicholas Children’s Hospital)

**Domestic Traveling Fellowship**
1. Derek Samples, MD (resident at UT Health San Antonio; fellowship planned at under Brent O’Neill, MD, at Children’s Hospital Colorado)
2. Manuel Sarmiento, MD (resident at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; fellowship planned under James Drake, MD, at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto)
3. Luke Smith, MD (resident at Ohio State University; fellowship planned under Rick Boop, MD, at St. Jude Hospital/University of Tennessee Health Science Center)
4. Alysa Almojuela, MD (resident at University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada; fellowship planned under Abhaya Kulkarni, MD, at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto)

**Call for 2019 Applications**

Requirements for both fellowships include:
1. A statement defining the purpose of the proposed fellowship
2. A letter of recommendation from the applicant’s current neurosurgical program director
3. A letter of acceptance from the institution where the applicant intends to take the fellowship confirming the description of the fellow’s potential activities during the period of the award
4. The applicant’s current Curriculum Vitae.

The deadline for application submission is November 1, 2019.

Send completed applications to: David.I.Sandberg@uth.tmc.edu
NATIONAL MEETINGS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

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

The National Meetings Subcommittee is charged with helping to plan the Pediatric Section activities at the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) national meetings. Building on our predecessors’ successes, Todd Hankinson, MD, MBA, FAANS; Lissa Baird, MD, FAANS; Amy Lee, MD, FAANS; and Elias Rizk, MD, FAANS, worked together to provide another high quality program for the annual meetings this year.

The 2019 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in San Diego April 13-17. Pediatric sessions will be held on Monday and Tuesday and will provide updates to practice-relevant topics and keep the attendees informed and educated. During the scientific session on Monday we will discuss “Ventricular Volumes and Hydrocephalus” with Jeffrey Blount, MD FAANS, and Schiff, MD. This is followed by the Matson Lecturer, Charles Nelson, PhD, presenting “Exposure to Early Adversity Can Undermine Healthy Brain Development”. The following day we start off with a point/counterpoint session discussing “Prophylactic Tethered Cord Release” with Nathan Selden, MD, PhD, FAANS, and Cormac Maher, MD, FAANS, followed by James Goodrich, MD, PhD, FAANS, discussing “Historical Perspectives in Pediatric Neurosurgery”. In both sessions, we continue with five-minute abstract presentations to keep the topics on point and capture the audience’s attention.

As a side note, the AANS meeting will also hold an international pediatric symposium on Sunday April 14 with speakers from Europe, India, the Middle East, South America and Southeast Asia, covering several topics in pediatric neurosurgery. Furthermore, there will be a breakfast seminar covering pediatric neurosurgery for the general neurosurgeon. We want to thank everyone participating in the educational and scientific program and look forward to seeing you there.
On behalf of the Meeting Host Committee:
Jay Wellons, MD, FAANS
Chevis Shannon, MBA, MPH, DrPH
Haley Vance, DNP, APN, CPNP-AC
Rob Nabel, MD
Chris Bonfield, MD, FAANS

Many thanks to all who were involved with and/or attended the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery meeting in Nashville last December. The well-attended opening reception in the historic rotunda at the Country Music Hall of Fame laid the groundwork for the enjoyable days to come. In giving the Raimondi Lecture on Friday, Historian Jon Meacham emboldened us with presidential examples of leadership. NFL CMO Allen Sills, MD, FAANS, gave us an inside look at the innovations in play to make our professional sports figures safer during Saturday’s AAP/SONS Lecture. In his address, Section Chair Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS, challenged us to chart a bold course for the Section moving forward. Each day featured excellent presentations and discussions, often drifting off into the hall when time ran short. The meeting was also well-attended by vendors, who we thank for their engagement and strong support of the Section. There was a record number of abstracts submitted and the science presented had more collaborative projects than ever. Clearly, the future of pediatric neurosurgery research is bright.

**Shulman Award:** Developing a de novo Stereotactic Electroencephalography (SEEG) Program: A Multiinstitutional Pediatric Experience: Jacob Richard Lepard, MD

**Hydrocephalus Award:** Cross-Sectional Evaluation of Transition Readiness in the Interdisciplinary Spina Bifida Clinic: Elizabeth Naylor Kuhn, MD

**Top Basic Science Poster:** CSF Circulating Tumor DNA Copy Number Quantifies Tumor Growth and In Vitro Treatment Response in Pediatric DIPG and High Grade Glioma: Amy Katherine Bruzek, MD

**Top Clinical Research Poster:** Quality of Life and Mental Health after Pediatric CNS Tumor Treated with Surgery Only: Brandon G. Rocque, MD, MS, FAANS

The **Collaborative Research Proposal Award**, new this year and supported by an educational grant from the Surgical Outcomes Center for Kids (SOCKS) at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt, was met with substantial interest and competition. Of the many submissions, eight were selected for two-minute presentations at the beginning of each scientific session. Every proposal was reviewed by a committee with one proposal selected to receive the $2,500 grant and biostatistical support.

**First place** prize went to Philipp Aldana, MD, FAANS, for his work, Management of cerebral vasculopathy in pediatric sickle cell disease, a retrospective study. An additional congratulations goes to Dr. Aldana for already moving ahead with the winning project; many centers are currently in the IRB approval phase and a study planning newsletter has already gone out.

**Second place** prizes went to Raheel Ahmed, MD, PhD, for the proposal Neural Network Organization in Focal Cortical Dysplasia Epilepsy; and to Jacob Greenberg, MD, for the proposal Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Intracranial Injury: A Platform for Collaborative Traumatic Brain Injury Research.

Speaking for the entire host committee, it was an honor to host our colleagues here in Nashville. Thank you for attending and we look forward to seeing you in Scottsdale!
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.

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 close. Thursday brings the Advance Practice Provider Seminar, continuing to build on the role of advanced practice practitioner in pediatric neurosurgical practice. Note that hotel conference rooms will be available that day for collaborative research or other topical meetings. Please, let us know room needs as soon as possible. For Thursday night, we are planning a memorable outdoor opening reception at the meeting hotel, the Hyatt Regency at Gainey Ranch, centrally located in Scottsdale.

There will be an exciting program with speakers highlighting the 2019 theme. In addition to scientific abstracts, we look forward to hearing back from last year’s collaborative research study winner with an update on the collaborative research and catalyzing multicenter studies. Perhaps most importantly, there are a number of recommendations and comments made by last year’s attendees that we will be incorporating into the meeting. Stay tuned!

With alluring weather, outdoor activities abound, including hiking in the local mountain preserves, biking and multiple golf courses from which to choose. There are 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 in the Desert Aquarium, Old Town Scottsdale and the Scottsdale Center for Performing Arts. There is something to do for all. See you there!

Host Committee:
Kathleen Klas, CPNP-PC
David Shafron, MD, FAANS
Taryn Bragg, MD, FAANS
Jamal McClendon, MD
At the conclusion of the 2018 AANS/CNS Section of Pediatric Neurological Surgery in Nashville, Faizal Haji, MD, PhD, a resident at the University of Alabama – Birmingham (UAB), and the pediatric neurosurgery team at UAB received the 5th annual AAP/SONS award for Best Oral Presentation for exemplifying a broad and significant impact on health care for children with pediatric neurosurgical diseases. Dr. Haji’s presentation was entitled Capacity building for the surgical treatment of pediatric epilepsy in Vietnam: A model for international collaboration.

The AAP SONS Lecturer for the 2018 Pediatric Section Meeting was Allen Sills, MD, FAANS. Dr. Sills was on the neurosurgical faculty at Vanderbilt before recently being named the NFL’s first chief medical officer. He discussed the care and health of young athletes in youth sports, fitting the theme of the AAP Lecture.

SONS is partnering with the ASPN on the following hot-button issues:

- Transition of care for patients with spinal dysraphism (Brandon Roque, MD, FAANS, and Jonathan Martin, MD, FAANS)
- Brain death guidelines (Dave Bauer, MD, FAANS)

A pediatric neurosurgery leadership summit is being organized to discuss some of the issues above.

New Executive Committee elections are being planned. Tina Duhaime, MD, FAANS, and John Ragheb, MD FAANS, are rotating off at the end of 2019; we thank them for their service and dedication to SONS over the past several years. The three candidates for these two vacant seats are Francesco Mangano, DO, Jonathan Martin, MD, FAANS, and David Bauer, MD, FAANS, and Greg Albert, MD, FAANS, has accepted the nomination as chair-elect.

The AAP has made a call for nominations for a Board of Directors seat. SONS is endorsing Sandi Lam, MD, FAANS, as the surgical subspecialist representative on the Board.

Choosing Wisely is a consortium of over 80 medical societies and national organizations that seek to advocate for avoiding unnecessary medical tests, treatments and procedures. It is led by the American Board of Internal Medicine. The AAP joined Choosing Wisely in 2012. The Advocacy and Policy Subcommittee led by Dr. Lam has helped SONS open a dialogue on the following matters in front of a national backdrop:

- Do not perform routine imaging for evaluation of infant head shape.
- Do not obtain imaging of the cervical spine following trauma in an awake and alert patient without considering the use of clinical decision-making (CDM) tools for cervical spine clearance.
- Do not perform routine imaging or routine elective procedures requiring sedation or general anesthesia for very young children with asymptomatic lesions.
- Do not perform routine imaging for evaluation of VP shunt function in a patient without signs or symptoms of shunt malfunction.
- Do not obtain imaging of the brain following trauma in an awake and alert patient without considering the use of CDM tools for radiology use in traumatic brain injury.
- Do not routinely obtain a CT or MRI scan for developmentally normal, clinically asymptomatic infants with macrocephaly.

Dr. Albert and the Education Subcommittee have worked hard on helping to organize the educational program of the 2019 AAP National Convention and Exhibition. The following talks were accepted:

- The MRI Showed What? – A Review of Common Findings on Neuroimaging
- Macrocephaly, ventriculomegaly and hydrocephalus: Who needs referral and treatment?
- Enhancing Spina Bifida Care in the Medical Home: Pitfalls and Possibilities
- Gun Violence, Mental Health and Advocacy: Where does the Trauma System Fit. Dr. Martin will be presenting at this Section program.
- Pearls for Children’s Surgical and Perioperative Care in Resource-limited Settings. Dr. Aldana will be participating in this session on global health.

If you would like to get involved with advocacy and improving the care of children with neurosurgical disorders, please contact Dr. Sandi Lam (sklam@texaschildrens.org). For more information about how to join the Education Subcommittee of SONS, contact Dr. Greg Albert (galbert2@uams.edu).
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

James Johnston MD, FAANS

Multiple members of the pediatric section will be participating as faculty for the AANS Global Neurosurgical Practice Course on Sunday, April 14, in San Diego. Organized by Gail Rosseau, MD, FAANS, the course includes didactic lectures and hands-on cadaveric workstations that cover myelomeningocele repair, tumor removal, ETV-CPC, peripheral nerve repair, plastic surgery techniques, basic spinal instrumentation and management of cranial trauma, with specific focus on the challenges of the low resource health care setting. In addition, there will be lectures covering ethical considerations, appropriate case selection, development of collaborative partnerships and effective mentoring. Pediatric faculty will include James Drake, MD, FAANS; Ab Kulkarni, MD, FAANS; John Ragheb, MD, FAANS; David Sandberg, MD, FAANS; Jeff Blount, MD, FAANS; and Brandon Rocque, MD, FAANS. Interested section members are encouraged to register for the course or contact Dr. Jim Johnston (jimj@uab.edu) for more information.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Edward Robert Smith, MD, FAANS

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

In 2016, the Section approved a significant change in the format of the annual research award in response to several years of limited applications. The Fellow/Junior Faculty Research Grant was initiated, changing the target population of the grant to fellows/new faculty in order to recruit and retain pediatric neurosurgeons engaging in research focused on problems unique to pediatric neurosurgery. The funding level is $10,000/year, with discretion to award as a single grant or divide it into two grants of $5,000. The response to this new format has increased each year, all of them of high quality. Two grants of $5,000 each were awarded for 2018-19.

• Brian Kelley, MD, PhD (Texas Children’s Hospital) – Selective Vulnerability of Unmyelinated Axon Segments Following Diffuse Traumatic Brain Injury (New staff)
• Annie Drapeau, MD, FAANS (Nationwide Children’s, Ohio) – The Blood Tumor Barrier in Pediatric Primary Malignant Brain Tumors (New staff)

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

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

David Bauer, MD, FAANS

The Pediatric Section Guidelines Committee last met at the Pediatric Section meeting in December 2018. New members were recruited, and they have since completed an online training course in guidelines methodology.

Current Work
In 2018, we finished the production of Evidence-Based Guidelines for Pediatric Myelomeningocele. The guidelines were produced by a stellar team lead by Cathy Mazzola, MD, FAANS, and includes Susan Durham, MD, FAANS; Catherine McClung-Smith, MD; Ann Marie Flannery, MD, FAANS; Nadege Assassi; Lissa Baird, MD, FAANS; David Bauer, MD, FAANS; Alexandra Beier, DO; Jeffrey Blount, MD, FAANS; Paul Klimo, MD, FAANS; Dimitrios Nikas, MD, FAANS; Mandeep Tamber, MD, PhD, FAANS; and Rachana Tyagi, MD, FAANS.

The guidelines address the timing of MM closure after birth, hydrocephalus and the impact of prenatal closure, the effect of prenatal closure on ambulation ability and tethered spinal cord as well as the relationship between enlarged ventricles and future neurocognition and intelligence. The guidelines were accepted in February 2019 by the CNS/AANS Guidelines Review Committee for publication in Neurosurgery. Publication is projected for the spring of 2019. The guidelines are currently being reviewed for endorsement by the Child Neurology Society, American Academy of Pediatrics and the Spina Bifida Association.

Update of Prior Work
Our hydrocephalus guidelines turned five years old in 2019, and a literature search was performed in January 2019 to evaluate for new literature that could change or update our recommendations. No significant literature was found at this time; however, quality evidence is expected to be published within the next two years. We plan to revisit these guidelines in one to two years for an update.

Future Projects
We were invited by Jorge Gonzalez-Martinez, MD, PhD, FAANS, (ASSFN section) to help with the pediatric portion of Guidelines for the Surgical Treatment of Epilepsy. To produce the guidelines with both neurologists and neurosurgeons, the CNS has been in negotiations with the American Academy of Neurology and American Epilepsy Society. The CNS is close to an agreement that would allow for a joint effort to produce these guidelines. The goal is to start the guidelines production process sometime in 2019.

With the successful production of the Spina Bifida Guidelines, we have submitted two new proposals to the CNS Guidelines Committee for potential support. The first topic is tethered spinal cord from occult spinal dysraphism, which would be a potential joint effort with the American Association of Pediatric Urology to evaluate the literature on the diagnosis and treatment of occult spinal dysraphism with tethered spinal cord. The second topic is the surgical treatment of Chiari I malformation. These topics will be reviewed at the April CNS guidelines meeting held prior to the 2019 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting. When these topics are (hopefully) funded, we will begin the process to review the literature and produce guidelines on both topics.

The Pediatric Guidelines Committee will be meeting Sunday, April 14, before the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting, tentatively 8-9:30 a.m. The agenda focuses on strategic planning for future guidelines. Please, email Dr. David Bauer (David.F.Bauer@hitchcock.org) with any questions or for more information.
MEMORIAL:
DONALD REIGEL, MD, FAANS(L)
Marion (Jack) Walker, MD, FAANS(L)

Sadly, we report the passing of Donald Reigel, MD, FAANS. Dr. Reigel died suddenly while at dinner with friends on November 5, 2018. He was a founding member of the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons (ASPN) and the driving force behind the founding of the society. He was convinced that the road to certification had to begin with organizing those that dedicated their practice to children. It was Dr. Reigel’s idea to form the ASPN. He convinced Dave McLone, MD, PhD, FAANS, to convince Tony Raimondi, MD, to agree to the idea. The ASPN was founded in Pittsburgh, November 1978. He is a past president of the ASPN and past chairman of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery. While Dr. Reigel worked mostly in the background, his leadership was vital to our success. He was one of the drivers behind the achievement of the prominent status that pediatric neurosurgery enjoys today.

Early in his career, Dr. Reigel developed a camp for spina bifida patients. This was the first such camp exclusively for those with spina bifida. Initially, it was a place for the kids to have fun with each other, but subsequently morphed into a camp devoted to helping these children gain transition skills.

Dr. Reigel was a quiet leader and a man with a vision of the future beyond his time. He was a great friend to many of us who had the privilege to be involved during these important early years of pediatric neurosurgery.

HONOR YOUR MENTOR FUNDS

According to the Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation (NREF) website, “Honor Your Mentor (HYM) Funds recognize the incredible people who have advanced neurosurgery. Each mentor fund has a specific purpose. Your gift will fund a chosen research or educational endeavor in their name.”

There are currently two pediatric neurosurgery-specific HYM funds:

A. Leland Albright Fund
Purpose: To support neurosurgery resident and fellow education in Africa.
Established: 2015
Balance (12/31/2018): $39,657

Sanjiv Bhatia Fund
Purpose: To fund an international pediatric neurosurgery and/or pediatric epilepsy surgery traveling fellowship, a Bhatia lectureship, and pediatric neurosurgery medical missions.
Established: 2018
Balance (12/31/2018): $38,820

The balance on the pediatric HYM funds needs to reach $50,000 within five years of fund initiation before the money can be used. We challenge the Section membership to help reach/exceed that goal this year for both funds using tax-deductible donations.

Visit the Honor Your Mentor page for more.
The AANS/CNS Pediatric Section website (www.pedsneurosurgery.org) is functioning well. A few updates and reminders:

1. After eight years, the Section website is undergoing an extreme makeover. A more contemporary design with a mobile-based platform is being developed and maintenance and hosting responsibilities are being transitioned to the AANS in-house website team. This transition will provide several benefits:
   - The need for separate usernames and passwords on the pedsneurosurgery.org website will no longer be necessary. Members will be able to log in to 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.
   - The Section will still be able to maintain complete control over the content, updates and the ability to communicate to the membership through e-blasts.
   - Low yearly maintenance costs.

2. The Section website posts the most current information for the upcoming Section meeting at Hyatt Gainey Ranch, Scottsdale/Phoenix, Thursday, December 5, through Sunday, December 8, 2019.

3. 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, send me the posting with contact information to place on the site.

Please reach out to me (rca24@columbia.edu) if the website can be modified to help Section members in any way.
AANS/CNS SECTIONS ON TUMORS AND PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY REPORT

Amanda M. Saratsis, MD

This fall, a liaison position was developed by section leadership between the AANS/CNS Sections on Tumors and Pediatric Neurological Surgery. The intent in creating this position is to facilitate communication between and develop the shared interests of these sections as pertains to pediatric surgical neuro-oncology. A similar role was recently developed between the Tumor and Spine Sections, resulting in a number of new research, funding, education and clinical initiatives. As the first liaison in this position, it is my goal to bring together the pediatric surgical neuro-oncology community to promote our visibility within AANS and CNS to ultimately facilitate pursuits that will further our understanding and clinical care of pediatric brain tumors.

Currently, our ideas include:

• Establish shared pediatric brain tumor-focused funding mechanisms supported by the sections;
• Promote pediatric brain tumor guidelines development;
• Increase pediatric neurosurgeon involvement in organized neuro-oncology;
• Leverage existing publications and social media platforms to brand and elevate outreach to professional and lay communities; and
• Collaborate with colleagues to develop tissue-based translational research and surgical pediatric brain tumor clinical trials.

I look forward to representing the pediatric neurosurgical community in this capacity and encourage anyone with ideas or interest in partnering on these or other initiatives to contact Amanda M. Saratsis, MD (asaratsis@luriechildrens.org).

In turn, I represented the Pediatric Section at the Tumor Section Executive Committee Meeting during the 2018 CNS Annual Meeting in Houston, where the following issues and initiatives were discussed:

Social Media Outreach – There is a strong interest by the Congress in increasing social media presence around adult and pediatric brain tumors. Please consider sharing your publications, news, interesting images or unique cases with Edjah Nduom, MD, (dreknduom@gmail.com), who can parse these into lay terms for posting on social media outlets in a HIPPA compliant fashion.

Clinical Guidelines – CNS Guidelines for management of brain metastases were recently published (Neurosurgery, Volume 84, Issue 3, March 2019). Guidelines for GBM and spinal metastases are currently in development, while management of convexity meningioma and tumor-related epilepsy are under consideration. A summary of existing guidelines, as well as information regarding development of future guidelines, can be found on the CNS website: https://www.cns.org/guidelines. Anyone interested in developing these or other guidelines is encouraged to contact the CNS Guidelines Office/Committee.

CNS Newsletter – The Congress publishes a newsletter twice yearly, and encouraged contribution from the pediatric neurosurgery community (not limited to tumors).

Academic Community Involvement – Scientific officers are needed for the 2020 Society of Neuro-Oncology meeting - contact Galareh Zadeh, MD, PhD, FAANS, (gelareh.zadeh@uhn.ca) if interested.

New members for the editorial board of the Journal of Neuro Oncology are needed – contact Linda Greer (linda@soc-neuro-onc.org) if interested.
ABPNS REPORT
Frederick Boop, MD, FAANS, ABPNS Chair
Bermans J. Iskandar, MD, FAANS, ABPNS Secretary

The Boards of Directors of the American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery (ABPNS) and the American Board of Neurological Surgery (ABNS) have been working 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 received a Recognition of Focused Practice in Pediatric Neurosurgery in collaboration with the ABNS and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (RCPS) in Canada. 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:

New Online Pediatric Written Examination
• As of March 8, 2019, the pediatric written examination is given online. All Accreditation Council for Neurosurgery Fellowship (ACPNF) graduates are requested to take it upon completion of their fellowship.

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. This is accessed through the ABNS website and includes CME credit for the adaptive learning tool, which will update annually.
• Since all pediatric neurosurgeons will hold an ABNS certificate plus 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.

New Case Volume Requirements for Pediatric Certification
• ABNS certification requirements have changed, in that the chronological minimum surgical case log required is now 125 (instead of 150) consecutive, major surgical cases within an 18-month 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 diplomats and candidates of ABPNS certification that does not follow the standard ABNS pathway, refer to the ABPNS website.

Annual Dues
• Please note that the annual dues now go to the ABNS, rather than ABPNS office, and can be paid online through the ABNS website.
# AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery

## Officers and Committees

### Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair (2017-2019)</td>
<td>Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immediate Past Chair (2017-2019)</td>
<td>Sarah Gaskill, MD, FAANS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair-elect (2017-2019)</td>
<td>Mark Krieger, MD, FAANS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary (2017-2019)</td>
<td>Benny Iskandar, MD, FAANS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer (2017-2019)</td>
<td>Matt Smyth, MD, FAANS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer-elect (2019-2021)</td>
<td>Richard Anderson, MD, FAANS</td>
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### Members At-Large

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Ritter, MD, FAANS</td>
<td>(2017-2019)</td>
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<td>Greg Albert, MD, FAANS</td>
<td>(2017-2019)</td>
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<td>Eric Jackson, MD, FAANS</td>
<td>(2018-2020)</td>
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<td>Jim Johnston, MD, FAANS</td>
<td>(2018-2020)</td>
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<td>Elias Rizk, MD, FAANS</td>
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<td>Ruth Bristol, MD, FAANS</td>
<td>(2019-2021)</td>
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### Standing Committees

#### Nominating Committee
(2-year Term)
- Sarah Gaskill, MD, FAANS - Chair (2017-2019)
- Bruce Kaufman, MD, FAANS (2015-2021)

#### Rules & Regulations Committee
(2-year Term)
- Nick Wetjen, MD, FAANS - Chair (2017-2019)
- Dean Hertzler, MD FAANS (2017-2019)
- Ruth Bristol, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)

#### Membership Committee
(2-year Term)
- Toba Niazi, MD, FAANS - Chair (2017-2019)
- Brent O’Neill, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)
- Rob Bollo, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)

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

### Ad Hoc Committees

#### Pediatric Section Annual Meeting Subcommittee
- Howard Weiner, MD, FAANS (2017-Houston)
- David Sandberg, MD, FAANS (2017-Houston)
- Jay Wellons, MD, FAANS
- Upcoming Meeting Chair
  - Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS - ex-officio – Section Chair
  - Mark Krieger, MD, FAANS - ex-officio – Chair-elect
  - Matt Smyth, MD, FAANS - ex-officio – Section Treasurer
- Chevis Shannon, MBA, MPH, DrPH (2018-Nashville)
- Rob Naftei, MD, FAANS (2018-Nashville)
- Chris Bonfield, MD, FAANS (2018-Nashville)
- Haley Vance, DNP, CPNP (2018-Nashville)

#### National Meetings Subcommittee
(2-year Term)
- Lissa Baird, MD, FAANS - co-chair (2017-2019)
- Elias Rizk, MD, FAANS - co-chair (2017-2019)
- Todd Hankinson, MD, MBA, FAANS (2017-2019)
- Amy Lee, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)
- Sandi Lam, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)

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

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

### International Education Subcommittee
(2-year Term)
- James Johnston, MD, FAANS - Chair (2017-2019)
- Phil Aldana, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)

### Examination Questions Subcommittee
(2-year Term)
- Lance Governale, MD, FAANS
- Rabia Qaiser, MD

### Pediatric Section Guidelines Committee
(3-year Term, Changed at CNS Meeting)
- David Bauer, MD, FAANS - Chair (2017-2019)
- Mandeep Tamber, MD, PhD, FAANS (2015-2018)
- Rachana Tyagi, MD, FAANS (2015-2018)
- Catherine McClung-Smith, MD (2017-2019)
- Demetrios Nikas, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)
- Brandon Rocque, MD, MS, FAANS (2017-2020)
- Rob Naftei, MD, FAANS (2017-2020)
- Scellig Stone, MD, PhD, FAANS (2017-2020)
AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery Officers and Committees

Lifetime Achievement Award: Immediate Past Chair
Sarah Gaskill, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)

Research Committee
(2-year Term)
Cormac Maher, MD, FAANS (2015-2019)
Eric M. Thompson, MD, FAANS (2015-2019)
David Daniels, MD, PhD (2017-2019)

Representatives and Liaisons
Liaison to the AANS Executive Committee - Current Chair
Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)

Liaison to the CNS Executive Committee - Chair-elect
Mark Krieger, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)

Liaison to the Washington Committee
AANS/CNS - Past Chair
Sarah Gaskill, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)

Liaison to the ABPNS
Rick Boop, MD, FAANS
Current Chair of ABPNS

Liaison with ISPN
Eylen Ocal, MD, FAANS
(2017-2019)

Liaison with ASPN
Jim Drake, MD, FAANS
Current President of ASPN

Liaison with AAP Section of Neurological Surgery (SONS)
Andrew Jea, MD, FAANS
Current Chair of SONS

Liaison to the Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies
(2-year Term)
Curtis Rozzelle, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)

Liaison to the Coding and Reimbursement Committee, AANS
(2-year Term)
Lance Governale, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)
Curtis Rozzelle, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)

Liaison to the American College of Osteopathic Surgery
(2-year Term)
Francesco Mangano, DO (2017-2019)

Liaison to the Young Neurosurgeons Committee
Luke Tomyecz, MD (2017-2021)
Alt: Benjamin C. Kennedy, MD

Liaison to Quality/Outcomes Groups
(2-year Term)
Sandi Lam, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)

Liaison to the NREF
(2-year Term)
Ed Smith, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)
David Gruber, MD, FAANS (2017-2019)

Liaison to the Tumor Section
(2-year Term)
Amanda Saratsis, MD (2018-2020)

Liaison to the Drugs and Devices Committee, AANS location-specific
(2-year Term)
Joseph Madsen, MD (2017-2019)
Sam Browd, MD, PhD, FAANS (2017-2019)

Liaison with ACPNF
(Accreditation Council of Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowships)
Cormac Maher, MD, FAANS
Current Chair of ACPNF