

Pediatric Short Cuts

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

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Editor: Matthew D. Smyth, MD, FAANS

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Mark D. Krieger, MD, FAANS

Welcome to the Spring 2021 edition of Shortcuts!

It certainly has been a year like no other. The personal tragedies of the pandemic, the need for us to continue to take care of our patients under the most trying conditions; our confrontations with racial injustice and inequities; and the obligations of us as leaders in supporting our teams and our families have all taken a toll. The uncertainty of it all has been difficult.

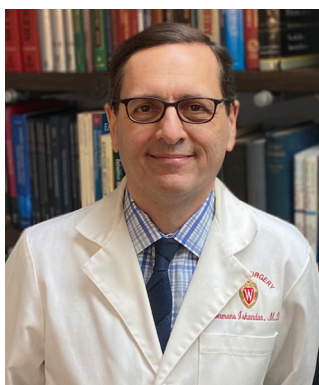
And yet, spring seems to be bringing with it the hope of better days ahead. Case counts seem to be receding and life seems to be reopening. Throughout all this, I've found strength and sustenance in the mission of my work and in our community of pediatric neurosurgery. I hope you have too.

The 2020 Pediatric Section meeting was a highpoint of the year for me. A record number of people registered for the meeting, reflecting the vitality of our field. There was broad and deep engagement from senior neurosurgery leaders, junior faculty members, fellows, residents, students and, importantly, advanced practitioners. The presented research showcased the strength of the academic work in our field, and the session on racial equity and our responses to the pandemic reflected our humanism. Current fellows were highlighted, and the first Molly Hubbard Prize for Fellow Presentation was awarded to Jignesh Kishor Tailor, MD, PhD, the current fellow in pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University Hospital. There's no doubt that our specialty has been growing and thriving, and our community has been strengthening. I hope you all feel this. I am looking forward to seeing you all in person in Salt Lake City December 8-10 for our annual meeting; the lessons from 2020 will surely make this meeting our best ever.

"Chair's Message" Continued on Page 3

RE-FOCUS AND MOVE ONWARD: A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR-ELECT

Bermans J. Iskandar, MD, FAANS, Pediatric Section Chair-Elect



Bermans J. Iskandar, MD, FAANS

On behalf of all the members of the Executive Committee (EC), I would like to thank Mark Krieger, MD, FAANS, for his service to the Pediatric Section and applaud his unwavering efforts to lead with fairness, tact and hard work. In effect, I've been privileged to serve under three Section chairs who've devoted vast portions of their time to promote the

Section's missions, each of whom also distinguished him/herself with special contributions: Sarah Gaskill, MD, FAANS(L), overhauled section finances – converting the annual meeting bottom lines from red to black, while simultaneously optimizing the relationship of the Section with the AANS meeting managers; Mark Proctor, MD, FAANS, re-organized the internal structure of the Section, which, among other initiatives, included developing processes and charters for the various committees, sub-committees and liaisons; and Dr. Krieger motivated the participation of trainees (students, residents and fellows) in the Pediatric Section, including the institution of an annual meeting fellow's abstract session, a fellow's bootcamp in conjunction with the ACPNF and the Molly Hubbard Award for best fellow abstract. Importantly, Dr. Krieger has deftly navigated the society through a once-in-a-century pandemic with astonishingly no financial damage and, in partnership with the AANS, a brilliantly organized virtual annual meeting.

With a solid organizational and financial structure in place, and with hopefully the worst part of COVID-19 behind us, we would now like to re-imagine the Section's short- and long-term future. Accordingly, we've already been busy building a new section committee structure that would revitalize and modernize our research, education and global missions, and allow more involvement from interested members. The new committee format includes the following specific initiatives:

- 1) A re-focus on **education, research and international priorities** by expanding the breadth and quantity of project-based initiatives and sub-committees. Examples include new **education** sub-committees that would provide organized interactions and partnerships with other pediatric specialties, advocacy

groups and the public; new **research** sub-committees that would engage with the clinical research networks (HCRN, Park-Reeves, etc.), provide grant writing and faculty development mentorships and incentivize quality improvement initiatives; and **International** program (now a separate committee) sub-committees that would interface effectively with international organizations to complement and enhance global education, collaboration and advocacy.

- 2) The establishment of the **Timothy George Committee on Diversity and Inclusion in Pediatric Neurosurgery**, a timely endeavor justly named in honor of a dear friend and colleague who left us too soon, with the blessing and endorsement of his family. This committee will receive a yearly financial stipend from the Section to kick start and help sustain its activities and will be composed of highly qualified individuals who have distinguished themselves in promoting diversity.
- 3) The creation of a **Chair's Committee on Planning and Development**. The role of this group of select experts will be to critically evaluate the functions of the Section in four areas: education, research, international relations and quality, and advise the EC on potential strategies to enhance and broaden the spectrum of its missions. This committee will engage with, but function separately from, the other Section committees and report directly to the EC.
- 4) The creation of a **Trainees Committee** led by our four Members-at-large, which will elevate the roles of students, residents and fellows, and an **APP Committee** that will allow advanced practice providers to meaningfully contribute to the Section, and in turn support the efforts of this pivotal segment of our membership to organize, educate and, most importantly, have a voice in pediatric neurosurgery.
- 5) The creation of a **Committee of Senior Advisors**, who will engage with the various section committees in an advisory capacity. The collective experience and wisdom that such a group could impart to the Section is incalculable. In turn, this would allow senior and retired members who feel that they still have much to contribute, the opportunity to do just that.

We were thrilled that, in response to a recent membership survey, upwards of 90 active members expressed interest

"Re-focus and Move Onward: A Message from the Chair-elect" Continued from Page 2

in serving on section committees, many of whom offered detailed information regarding their skills and experience. As part of a phased approach to committee reorganization, we chose to fill the chair and some of the committee positions, then permit the incoming chairs to select the remaining members.

Lastly, as we proceed through this exacting enterprise, we intend to team up with the **ASPN, ISPN and SONS** to strengthen our strategic connections. Coordinated efforts between our sister organizations would elevate the aspirations and productivity of each while minimizing overlap.

My partners Matt Smyth (Chair-elect); Rich Anderson (Secretary); Ruth Bristol (Treasurer); Mark Krieger (Past Chair), our four Members-at-large Brandon Rocque, Sandi Lam, Cormac Maher and Amy Lee, and I thank you for your trust, and look forward to a productive tenure on your Executive Committee.

"Chair's Message" Continued from Page 1

As is our custom and practice, the leadership of the Pediatric Section will transition in April. I've been honored to serve as your chair for the past two years. I'm grateful for the enthusiastic engagement of so many of you over the years – you've all made our Section an incredible community of support, scientific discovery, mentorship and service to patients, individually and collectively. I'm particularly grateful for the leadership and diligent work of your officers: Benny Iskandar, MD, FAANS, Chair-elect; Matt Smyth, MD, FAANS, Secretary; and Rich Anderson, MD, FAANS, Treasurer. They are true leaders and exemplary pediatric neurosurgeons; the Pediatric Section has a great future in their hands.

Sincerely,



Mark D. Krieger, MD, FAANS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Richard C. E. Anderson, MD, FAANS

Despite the COVID Pandemic, the Pediatric Section remains in good financial health. Total net assets as per the last (12/31/2020) financial statement totaled \$1,196,711. This is a slight decrease from the prior year (\$1,325,310) and continues to reflect a comfortable reserve to support an entire annual meeting, plus Section activities, for around two years without any revenue. Continued commitments to support research through Section grants and the NREF are planned for FY 2022 to prioritize the use of the extra reserves in a manner consistent with the Section's mission.

Annual Meeting

The recent virtual 2020 AANS/CNS Joint Section in Pediatric Neurological Surgery Annual Meeting is expected to have a net excess of around \$61,000. This is compared to a net excess of \$53,867 at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Phoenix. The budget for the upcoming 2021 meeting in Salt Lake City is in process. The net revenue for meetings has now been positive for six consecutive years as a result of continued efforts by Section officers to reduce costs in collaboration with local meeting hosts and AANS staff.

Long Term Investments

The Section's long-term investment account has done well this year and remains favorable at \$965,484. This is an increase from last year at \$876,226. 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 3/1/2021, the A. Leland Albright fund has accumulated \$54,077 and dispersed \$28,600 (February 2021), with a remaining balance of \$25,477. The Sanjiv Bhatia fund has accumulated \$42,544. The recently established Marion "Jack" Walker fund has accumulated \$18,590.

Specific Expenses and Financial Resolutions

Although the FY 2022 budget is still in process and has not yet been finalized, the Section plans to continue its commitment toward its educational and research missions, including the Section research awards, the Pediatric Neurosurgical Research & Education Foundation (NREF) Fellowship grant, domestic and international traveling fellowships and other endeavors.

Overall, there appear to be no concerns.



TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Andrew Jea, MD, FAANS

The Training Subcommittee notified the following applicants for traveling fellowships:

DOMESTIC

- **Shivani Rangwala, MD**, to be applied at Boston Children’s Hospital
- **Thomas Larrew, MD**, to be applied at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital

INTERNATIONAL

- **Lucia Darie, MD**, to be applied at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto
- **Mian Awais, MBBS**, to be applied at Rady Children’s Hospital in San Diego

Advertisements and calls for applications for next year’s traveling fellowships have been placed in the following journals:

- *World Neurosurgery*
- *The Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*
- *Child’s Nervous System*
- *Pediatric Neurosurgery*
- *Neurosurgery*

We have started the process of updating the list of participating institutions and contacts on the [AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery website](#). Our Subcommittee has also compiled and kept current a list of past winners of these traveling fellowships. Moving forward, winners of the traveling fellowships will be reminded to present their research at the upcoming AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery Annual Meeting.

Ed Ahn, MD, FAANS, will be taking over as chair of the Training Subcommittee at the conclusion of the Spring EC meeting. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Ahn on this accomplishment.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

2021 AANS/CNS PEDS Section Spring Membership Statistics, as of 3/19/2020

Pediatric Section Class Code	Subclass	2021 Dues	2021 Spring Members	2020 Fall Members	2020 Spring Members	2019 Fall Members
ACTIVE	01S	\$100.00	385	390	387	370
ADJUNCT/ASSOC	15D	\$50.00	31	32	26	27
LIFETIME	35S	\$0.00	89	87	86	85
INTERNATIONAL	40S	\$0.00	56	56	51	44
MED STUDENT	15M	\$50.00	12	13	15	11
RESIDENT/FELLOW	50R	\$0.00	121	135	126	85

EXAMINATION QUESTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Lance Governale, MD, FAANS

The Examination Questions Subcommittee continues to focus on the CNS SANS Pediatric exam. In 2021, the exam is shifting. Recently, the ABNS has decided to release all of the question stems and images that could be seen on the written board exam. SANS has been tasked with creating answer choices and educational narratives for all of the ABNS question stems. There will be four releases, two per year, with the first this spring. These question bundles will be very useful for residents, especially when preparing for the written board exam. Although the exam remains the product of the CNS SANS Committee, there is oversight by the Section.

The Subcommittee would like to thank the question writers listed below who have contributed!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| • Jason Blatt, MD, FAANS | University of Florida Shands Children's Hospital |
| • Markus Bookland, MD, FAANS | Connecticut Children's Hospital |
| • Annie Drapeau, MD, FAANS | Nationwide Children's Hospital |
| • Mari Groves, MD, FAANS | Johns Hopkins School of Medicine |
| • Joel Katz, DO | Akron Children's Hospital |
| • Ben Kennedy, MD, FAANS | Children's Hospital of Philadelphia |
| • Neena Marupudi, MD, FAANS | Children's Hospital of Michigan |
| • Jon Pindrik, MD, FAANS | Nationwide Children's Hospital |
| • Rabia Qaiser, MD | Baylor Scott & White Health |
| • Ammar Shaikhouni, MD, PhD | Nationwide Children's Hospital |
| • Eric Sribnick, MD, PhD, FAANS | Nationwide Children's Hospital |
| • Jesse Winer, MD, FAANS | Oregon Health & Science University |

NATIONAL MEETINGS UPDATE

Amy Lee, MD, FAANS; Raheel Ahmed, MD, FAANS; Rob Naftel, MD, FAANS; Todd Hankinson, 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. We follow recent changes in the field to try to improve the quality and maintain the relevance of lectures and abstracts. The goal is to promote discussions that address timely topics and updates as well as consensus management from experts in the field.

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

The 2021 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting has been moved from its usual time in April to August 21-25, in Orlando, Florida. This will be followed by the CNS Annual meeting October 16-20, in Austin, Texas. For the AANS, the scientific session content is scheduled to be available in an in-person format, although some peripheral sessions will not be held this year due to social distancing requirements. Due to the timing of the meeting, the program remains subject to some change.

The scheduled program for the Pediatric Scientific Sessions for the AANS Annual Meeting includes two sessions:

1. The Monday session will include The Matson Lecture, delivered by James Rutka, MD, PhD, FAANS. There will be a session regarding operative technique in epilepsy surgery; a debate regarding surgical approaches for optic pathway-hypothalamic gliomas; and an update on current approaches in molecular testing and tissue biobanking.

"National Meetings Update" Continued on Page 6

PEDIATRIC SECTION ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Douglas Brockmeyer, MD, FAANS

After a one-year in-person hiatus, the planning committee for the Pediatric Section Annual Meeting is busy preparing to host our guests December 7-10, 2021, at the Grand America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah. This year, our meeting theme is Healing with Precision. We look forward to seeing everyone, with the expectation of having another meeting full of outstanding scientific content.

Currently, our meeting highlights include:

- The Raimondi Lecture by world-famous geneticist Dr. Lynn Jorde.
- The AAP SONS Lecture: TBD
- All-day Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellow Boot Camp Dec. 7.
- A parallel afternoon of APP-only sessions Dec. 7.
- Continuation of the Memorial Molly Hubbard, MD Award for the best fellow abstract, along with a block of fellows-only scientific talks.

Other exciting events are in the works, with details released in the near future.

As the challenging times of the COVID pandemic begin to recede, we wish you and your family continued health and well-being. We will once again work to provide outstanding pediatric neurosurgical education and look forward to hosting you in Salt Lake City this coming year!

“National Meetings Update” Continued from Page 5

2. The Wednesday session will include a TED Talk-style presentation regarding neuroethics, as pertaining to the adoption of novel technologies. There will also be in-depth discussions of challenging cases, including suspected abusive head trauma and recalcitrant syringomyelia. The session will also include presentations of influential papers that were published within the last year.

Please refer to the AANS website for updates regarding whether some elements of this planned content will be made available in an online format

We want to thank everyone participating in the educational and scientific program.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Phil Aldana, MD, FAANS; Eylem Ocal, MD, FAANS; Chris Bonfield, MD,FAANS

Subcommittee on International Education Spring 2021 Report

Collaboration with InterSurgeon

We examined different methods to track Pediatric Section members’ international education efforts and decided that this would be best accomplished by leveraging the existing partnership that the AANS has with InterSurgeon, a website that fosters collaborative partnerships in the field of Global Surgery. Many members of the Pediatric Section are already registered in the InterSurgeon, where they have detailed their international education and service efforts.

To this end, we have worked with InterSurgeon to add “AANS/CNS Pediatric Section” as a new option for our members to choose when updating the profile. In addition to helping inform the Pediatric Section of the scope of its members’ international educational activities, it will allow our members to identify others with similar international education interests and promote collaboration.

We encourage all Section members that are registered on InterSurgeon to update their profile indicating Pediatric Section membership. In addition, we encourage those Section members engaged in international neurosurgical education and service that are not registered on InterSurgeon to do so. We hope to compile an annual report on this data on international education and service of section members.

SAVE THE DATE

50th Annual Meeting of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

HEALING WITH PRECISION

DECEMBER 7-10, 2021
SALT LAKE CITY

American Association of Neurological Surgeons
Jointly Provided by the AANS

COMMUNICATION REPORT

Benjamin Kennedy, MD, FAANS

The AANS/CNS Pediatric Section website has undergone recent improvements:

- Our website has begun to serve as a centralized way to volunteer for Section leadership roles and maintains a page for the Education Committee's Educational Lecture Series.
- The website is hosted by the AANS, but can still be reached at www.pedsneurosurgery.org. It is fully functional, with more features and content than before, a more contemporary design and mobile compatibility. Please, peruse the site!
- Maintenance is performed jointly between the Section and AANS in-house staff, and the Section is in control of all content. Maintenance costs with this relationship are low.
- Members are able to log in to the members-only section of the website using their AANS credentials. There are no longer separate Pediatrics Section credentials. The AANS will ensure accurate and updated user profiles through its mechanisms of paying dues.
- Keep in mind, 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.

The Section continues to have an active social media presence on Twitter ([@PedsSection](https://twitter.com/PedsSection)), managed primarily by Carrie Muh, MD, FAANS. [Check it out.](#)

Reach out to Ben Kennedy, MD, FAANS, (kennedybc@chop.edu) if the website can be modified to help section members in any way.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Cormac Maher, MD, FAANS

We were fortunate to receive a number of excellent proposals for the 2021 Pediatric Section Research Grant. The highest rated proposal was "The role of MAP4K4 in pediatric glioblastoma invasion," submitted by Laura Prolo, MD, PhD, an assistant professor of neurosurgery at Stanford University.

The 2020 Pediatric Section Research Grant was awarded to Winson Ho, MD, at the University of Texas for "Natural Killer Cells in Medulloblastoma Metastasis."

Finally, the 2020 Pediatric NREF Research Fellowship Grant went to Mohammed Alshareef, MD, at the Medical University of South Carolina for "The Role of Complement in Secondary Injury after Neonatal Germinal Matrix Hemorrhage."

Congratulations to each of the award winners.

GUIDELINES COMMITTEE REPORT

David F. Bauer, MD, MPH, FAANS

The Pediatric Section Guidelines Committee has participated in multiple projects over the last six months through zoom meetings and conference calls.

An update of the 2014 Hydrocephalus Guidelines was recently published in Neurosurgery (December 2020). Two significant updates were made to the prior guidelines. In chapter two, a level III recommendation was added, stating neuro-endoscopic lavage is a feasible and safe option for the removal of intraventricular clots in post hemorrhagic hydrocephalus in premature infants, and it may lower the rate of shunt placement. In chapter seven, the recommendation for the use of antibiotic impregnated shunt systems was strengthened to level I, based on the recently published prospective, single-blinded, randomized BASICS trial from the U.K. The update can be found on the CNS website.

In February (2021) we began the process to create Guidelines for the Management of Chiari I Malformation. Three chapters are planned, which will provide guidance on pre-operative work-up, surgical intervention and treatment of cranio-cervical junction pathology. We hope to have the final product by the end of 2021.

The Pediatric Section is working with the AANS/CNS Stereotactic and Functional Section, the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) and American Epilepsy Society (AES) to create Guidelines for the Surgical Treatment of Epilepsy. Currently, we are in the middle of the process, with a goal of producing final manuscripts by the end of 2021.

"Guidelines Committee Report" Continued from Page 7

The Pediatric Section is represented in an update of the Guidelines for the Diagnosis of Brain Death. The update will unify the adult and pediatric guidelines into one document. A final draft was recently available through the AAN for public comment. After revisions, the plan is to publish the guidelines in mid-2021.

Finally, the Pediatric Section is represented in an upcoming guideline on platelet and plasma transfusion in children through the TAXI-CAB initiative through BloodNet and the American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology (ASPHO). The multi-disciplinary group is composed of pediatric intensivists, hematologists and surgeons. The working group has finished the manuscripts, which include grade-based recommendations and expert opinion-based best practice statements. The document was just sent to the Joint Guideline Review Committee (JGRC) of the AANS/CNS for evaluation and endorsement. The final document covers many topics relevant to our society, including the transfusion of platelets and plasma in critically ill pediatric trauma patients and pediatric patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery.

Please email David Bauer, MD, MPH, FAANS, with any questions, if you are interested in joining future project, or if you would like resources to learn more about the guideline methodology process. (dfbauer@texaschildrens.org)

AAP/SONS REPORT

Andrew Jea, MD, FAANS

We now refocus on the bright future of SONS. Over the next year, we will renew our discussion with the Washington Offices of our parent organizations and undertake a project to create a digital library of pediatric neurosurgical talks for pediatricians. This will offer an opportunity not only to add to the knowledge base our pediatric colleagues, but also allow SONS membership the privilege to create enduring educational materials.

We will continue to concentrate on ways to demonstrate value to members and prospective members to increase our numbers within SONS. There are new subcommittees in the works, including a database subcommittee and an APP subcommittee. Pediatric neurosurgical APPs are a segment of the market we would like to cater to. With educating APPs in pediatric neurosurgery as its nucleus, an APP subcommittee could align with a major mission of SONS.

Over the next few months, SONS will discuss repurposing the time allotted for its business meeting at the AANS/

CNS Pediatric Section Annual Meeting. Perhaps, there would be interest in creating a "mini scientific session" for SONS membership to discuss abstracts centered on health outcomes research, quality and patient safety, health economics and advocacy for pediatric neurosurgical patients.

Spring elections for the SONS EC will be held for the vice-chair and EC member-at-large positions. For more information or to nominate a worthy candidate, please contact Section Manager Jennifer Gorlewski, MHA (jgorlewski@aap.org).

ACPNF REPORT

The ACPNF continues on its mission to supervise and accredit pediatric neurosurgery fellowships throughout the U.S. and Canada. Currently, there are 31 accredited fellowships who are eligible to match prospective fellows.

Several new fellowship directors were approved in 2020.

Here they are ... we congratulate all of them!

- Hasan Syed, MD, FAANS — Children's National Medical Center
- Stephanie Greene, MD, FAANS — University of Pittsburgh
- William Whitehead, MD, MPH, FAANS — Texas Children's Hospital
- Jeff Raskin, MS, MD, FAANS — Riley Children's Hospital
- Robert Naftel, MD, FAANS — Vanderbilt
- Jesse Winer, MD, FAANS — OHSU

The 2020 fellowship match included 21 applicants, 19 of whom matched. The two applicants who did not match were foreign medical graduates.

The CAST/ACGME committee has removed the ADS requirement for neurosurgery fellowships in 2021, thus reducing the burden on fellowship directors. For further details or questions regarding pediatric neurosurgery fellowship training, please refer to our website at <http://www.acpnf.org/>.

ABPNS REPORT

James Drake, MD, FAANS (ABPNS Chair); Bermans J. Iskandar, MD, FAANS (ABPNS Secretary-Treasurer)

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

ABNS Oral Exam

- Five of the 11 ABPNS directors will serve as examiners at the Spring 2021 virtual ABNS Oral Examination.
- The ABPNS holds occasional oral exam sessions for those who are seeking the pediatric RFP, but did not take the pediatric focused ABNS oral exam. This mainly affects RCPSC diplomates seeking the RCPSC-ABPNS RFP, as well as the few ABNS diplomates who did not take the pediatric focused ABNS oral examination. The next ABPNS oral exam will be held virtually in December of 2021.

ABPNS Recertification

- All ABPNS diplomates who plan to recertify (at the end of 10 years) are required to participate in the ABNS Continuous Certification program (CC). This includes Canadian diplomates (who have now been authorized to take the annual pediatric adaptive learning modules on the ABNS website), and both time limited and non-time limited ABNS diplomates. Lifetime ABNS Diplomates who do not intend to recertify (i.e., they intend to seek Certified-Retired status) at the end of their 10 years do not need to participate in CC.
- The Board of Directors (BOD) will review ABPNS recertification applicants at its June 2021 meeting. The deadline for ABPNS recertification application submission is April 1, 2021. For those recertification applicants unable to submit application by April 1, 2021, there is a second deadline of October 1, 2021, for December review.

Officers and New ABPNS Director

- The current ABPNS Officers of the ABPNS are: James Drake, MD, FAANS – Chair; Ian Pollack, MD, FAANS – Vice Chair; and Bermans Iskandar, MD, FAANS – Secretary-Treasurer.
- The ABPNS Board is happy to welcome its new director, Karin Muraszko, MD, FAANS.

ABPNS Written Examination

- The ABPNS BOD requests that all those seeking the pediatric ABNS/ABPNS credential take the written examination within one year of their fellowship, and preferably in their fellowship year. This year's exam is scheduled for May 14, 2021. The ABPNS is currently collecting applications from those who qualify. Of the 31 ACPNF accredited programs, 20 programs have an ACPNF fellow.

On the Horizon

- **Website:** In the spirit of continually refining the collaboration between the ABNS and ABPNS, we are currently working on merging the ABPNS and ABNS websites. Moving the ABPNS website under ABNS management is a natural progression of our efforts and offers distinct advantages to the ABPNS, including a more robust operating system, smoother coordination of activities between the ABNS and ABPNS (e.g., CC, collection of dues) and access to ABNS' continuously updated personal diplomate database.
- **Application process:** The ABPNS and ABNS are working on optimizing the ABPNS application and case log submission system by potentially gaining access to a modified version of POST.
- **Canadian ABPNS diplomates:** As stated above, Canadian diplomates now have access to the ABNS CC modules. More to come on ways to streamline Canadian certification.

For any additional information, please contact our Administrator Kari Bollerman (kbollerman@abns.org) or Secretary Dr. Bermans Iskandar (Iskandar@neurosurgery.wisc.edu).

THE NREF A. LELAND ALBRIGHT FUND HONORS A GREAT MENTOR

Catherine A. Mazzola, MD, FAANS

The Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (NREF) has committed over \$30 million towards the support of 257 Young Clinician and Investigator Awards, 256 Medical student fellowships, 129 grants and 88 resident and fellow educational courses. While the NREF has many ways to donate, one of the most meaningful ways to donate is through the Honor Your Mentor Funds.

Honor Your Mentor 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. Several of the Members of the AANS/ CNS Section in Pediatric Neurological Surgery started the A. Leland Albright Fund a few years ago, in honor of Leland and his work in Kenya.

A. Leland Albright, MD, FAANS, graduated from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 1965 and the LSU School of Medicine in 1969. He pursued an internship in internal medicine at Vanderbilt University Hospital and a year of general surgery residency at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Albright then served for three years in the U.S. Public Health Service as a clinical associate in neurosurgery at the National Institutes of Health. In 1978, he completed his neurosurgical residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) under the chairmanship of Peter Jannetta, MD, DSc, FAANS(L). After serving on the faculty of the University of Louisville for two years, Dr. Albright returned to UPMC and the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) in 1981.

He became chief of pediatric

neurosurgery in 1992 and professor of neurosurgery in 1993. His clinical research interests in the initial years at CHP involved clinical trials for pediatric brain tumors through the Children's Cancer Group. Dr. Albright then developed the use of intrathecal baclofen to treat children with spasticity and secondary dystonia and established a multi-disciplinary spasticity and movement disorders center that drew referrals of children from throughout the United States. An endowed chair in pediatric neurosurgery was established in his honor in 2002.

He moved to the University of Wisconsin Health Center in 2006, where he developed a spasticity and movement disorders clinic. Leaving U.S. academic practice in 2010, he moved to Kijabe, Kenya, as a medical missionary to do and to teach pediatric neurosurgery. In Kenya, he taught two pediatric neurosurgery fellows and 15 neurosurgery residents from the University of Nairobi. Dr. Albright and his colleagues performed more than 5,000 operations before he returned to the United States in 2015.

Dr. Albright was the senior editor of the first and subsequent editions of the textbook "Principles and Practice of Pediatric Neurosurgery," which has become the standard resource for the subspecialty worldwide. He has been a visiting professor at 30 academic centers in the United States and abroad. He was active in the AANS/ CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological

Surgery and the American Board of Pediatric Neurosurgery. In 2012, he received the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Humanitarian Award.



In February 2021, the NREF announced that at the direction of Dr. Albright, the Honor Your Mentor Fund has distributed to:

1. Dr. Martin Muthinja Kariinya: \$3,600 from the Honor your Mentor fund in 2021 and in each of the three remaining years of his residency thereafter, a total of \$14,400 for 2021-2024 at Kijabe Hospital designated to "Martin Education Fund."
2. Dr. Emmanuel Wafula, who will begin his neurosurgical training with Dr. Will Copeland at Tenwek Hospital in Bomet Kenya in a new neurosurgical residency program under the auspices of the College of Surgeons of East and Central Africa (COSECSA, the regional surgical credentialing body) and the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS). The first year of his residency has been provided by donors, including Dr. Albright. \$25,000 is being used to pay for the second year of his residency.

The Pediatric Section congratulates Dr. A Leland Albright and the donors to his fund for their commitment to the education and training of Kenyan Neurosurgical Residents.

AANS/CNS SECTION ON PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

OFFICERS

Chair

Mark Krieger (2019-2021)

Immediate Past Chair

Mark Proctor (2019-2021)

Chair-Elect

Benny Iskandar (2019-2021)

Secretary

Matt Smyth (2019-2021)

Treasurer

Richard Anderson (2019-2021)

Members at Large

Elias Rizk (2019-2021)

Ruth Bristol (2019-2021)

Sandi Lam (2020-2022)

Brandon Rocque (2020-2022)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Nominating Committee (6-year term after Section Chair)

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

Sarah Gaskill (2017-2023)

Bruce Kaufman (2015-2021)

Rules & Regulations Committee (2-year term)

Brent O’Neill – Chair (2019-2021)

Heather McCrae (2019-2021)

Jen Strahle (2019-2021)

Membership Committee (2-year term)

Robert Bollo – Chair (2019-2021)

Caitlin Hoffman (2019-2021)

Krystal Tomei (2019-2021)

Education Committee (2-year term)

Susan Durham – Chair (2019-2021)

William Whitehead – Chair-elect (2019-2021)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES (ad hoc)

Pediatric Section Annual Meeting Subcommittee

Doug Brockmeyer – Chair (2020 - Salt Lake City)

John Kestle (2020- Salt Lake City)

Robert Bollo (2020 - Salt Lake City)

Samuel Cheshier (2020 - Salt Lake City)

David Adelson (2019 - Phoenix)

Ruth Bristol (2019 - Phoenix)

Mark Krieger ex-officio – Section Chair

Benny Iskandar ex-officio – Section Chair-elect

Richard Anderson ex-officio – Section Treasurer

Matthew D. Smyth

National Meetings Subcommittee (2-year term)

Todd Hankinson, co-chair (2019-2021)

Amy Lee, co-chair (2019-2021)

Raheel Ahmed (2019-2021)

Rob Naftel (2019-2021)

Communications Subcommittee (2-year term)

Benjamin Kennedy – Chair (2019-2021)

Carrie Muh, social media (2019-2021)

Tracy Flanders – Resident (2019-2021)

Peter Madsen – Resident (2019-2021)

Training Subcommittee (Traveling Fellowships)

(2-year term)

Andrew Jea - Chair (2019-2021)

Edward Ahn - Vice Chair (2019-2021)

Nathan Ranalli (2019-2021)

Stephanie Greene (2019-2021)

International Education Subcommittee (2-year term)

Phil Aldana - Chair (2019-2021)

Christopher Bonfield (2019-2021)

Eylem Ocal (2019-2021)

Examination Questions Subcommittee (2-year term)

Lance Governale – Chair (2018-2021)

Rabia Qaiser (2018-2021)

“Officers and Committee Members” Continued on Page 12

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AD HOC COMMITTEES

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

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

Lifetime Achievement Award: Immediate Past Chair

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

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

Industry Relations Committee

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

REPRESENTATIVES AND LIAISONS

Liaison to the AANS Executive Committee

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

Benny Iskandar – Section Chair-elect	(2019-2021)
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Liaison to the ABPNS

John Kestle	Current Chair of ABPNS
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Liaison with ACPNF (Accreditation Council of Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowships)

Cormac Maher	Current Chair of ACPNF
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Liaison with ISPN

Eylen Ocal	(2019-2021)
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Liaison with ASPN

John Ragheb	Current President of ASPN
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Liaison with AAP Section of Neurological Surgery (SONS)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Benjamin C. Kennedy	(2019-2021)
Alt: Michael McDowell (resident)	

Liaison to Quality/Outcomes groups

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

Liaison to the NREF (2-year term)

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

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

Francesco Mangano, DO	(2017-2019) (second term)
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Liaison to Tumor Section (2-year term) - New

Amanda Saratsis, MD	(2018-2021)
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