

# Pediatric Short Cuts

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



I am honored and grateful to serve as chair of the Pediatric Section for the next two years. I see this as an opportunity to serve and give back to the national organization that has been such a large part of my own career. Reflecting on my own involvement with the section, I vividly recall my first section meeting 25 years ago,

in Indianapolis in 1998. I was a senior resident, with a strong interest in pediatric neurosurgery at the time but had not yet made a decision about sub-specialization. I was exposed to the world of pediatric neurosurgery: the science, the people and the training opportunities, and this cemented my interest in pediatric neurosurgery and my commitment to pursuing fellowship training.

My next meeting was in San Diego, in 2000, and I remember taking advantage of networking opportunities to meet fellowship directors in some of the prominent fellowship programs of the time: Jack Walker, Michael Scott, Dave McLone, Leland Albright, Jerry Oakes and others. In the ensuing years, I regularly attended the section meetings and became more involved in committee roles and ultimately a position as an officer.

Looking back, this year has seen the loss of four great members of our organization, Dr. David Jimenez, Dr. David Frim, Dr. Michael Scott and Dr Mark O'Brien. Each of them has influenced many of us in so many ways: clinically, academically, as mentors, colleagues and friends. As for me, each of them had a direct personal impact on my career, and I will be indebted to them. We have included their obituaries in this issue of Shortcuts for those of you who didn't have the opportunity to know them.

"I see this as an opportunity to serve and give back to the national organization that has been such a large part of my own career."

The Executive Committee is working hard on your behalf throughout the year to implement previously established initiatives, whilst also creating and fostering new opportunities and collaborations within pediatric neurosurgery societies, such as the ISPN, other sections and our parent organizations, AANS and CNS, industry partners and non-profit organizations that are aligned with us in helping children with neurosurgical disorders. Our Executive Committee meets monthly with representatives from our various committees and subcommittees to enhance and support their efforts in education, research, teaching, outreach and innovation. I am

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**Richard Anderson (Editor)**

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

**CHAIR’S MESSAGE** *continued from page 1*

grateful to the CNS in helping with our meeting management, AANS with our organization and finances, the Executive Council (Rich Anderson, your chair-elect, Ruth Bristol, your secretary, and David Limbrick your treasurer). I also want to take a moment to express my gratitude for our patients and families, whose strength and trust in us make our jobs so worthwhile, as well as our bedside, clinic and OR nurses, APPs, trainees, students and mentors.

Looking forward, Andrew Jea and his team in Oklahoma City have been working hard behind the scenes all year, putting together an exciting meeting to take place at the Omni Oklahoma City Hotel, Wednesday, November 29, through Saturday December 2. Together, we will explore the New Frontiers in pediatric neurosurgery, with dynamic keynote speakers and sessions outlined below in Dr. Jea’s meeting announcement. I am excited to see all of you in Oklahoma City!

**Matthew Smyth**  
**Section Chair 2023–2025**



## ANNUAL MEETING

By Andrew Jea

Our colleagues in Oklahoma City have been working hard behind the scenes all year, putting together an exciting meeting to take place at the Omni Oklahoma City Hotel, Wednesday, November 29, through Saturday, December 2. Together, we will explore the New Frontiers in pediatric neurosurgery, with keynote speakers—Patty Gasso, head coach of the seven-time national champion University of Oklahoma softball team, who will share her thoughts about team building and growth mindset and Dr. Peter Hotez, pediatrician, health advocate, and dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, who will discuss the issue of global health and vaccination programs in LMICs. On Wednesday, an all-day APP course will be held. That afternoon, there is a comprehensive practical spine course planned, and the annual Fellows Boot Camp has been organized. That evening, we will hold our traditional opening reception; a great time to see old friends and make new connections. Thursday and Friday morning and afternoon scientific sessions will be separated by luncheon seminars, also known as Point-Counterpoint “Fast-Draws” here on the wind-swept plains of Oklahoma, that include topics such as DBS vs. RNS for generalized epilepsy, VCR for tethered cord, LITT for deep brain lesions and prophylactic surgery for asymptomatic lipomyelomeningocele. The number of abstract awards has substantially increased over the past few years, with many opportunities for the highest-ranked presentations to be honored contemporaneously during various scientific sessions. Active Section members are eligible for several awards, including the AAP/SONS award, Global Neurosurgery, the Bobby Jones Chiari and Syringomyelia Foundation, the Hydrocephalus Association, Meghan Rose Bradley award, Molly Hubbard fellows award, the esteemed Schulman award, Timothy George Inclusion and Diversity awards for best presentation and best digital poster. We look forward to seeing you in Oklahoma City!

## TREASURER’S REPORT

By David Limbrick

The AANS/CNS Joint Section in Pediatric Neurological Surgery remains in good financial health. Total net assets as per the financial statement dated 6/30/2023 totaled \$1,098,665. This reflects a slight increase from the prior year (\$1,081,354) and continues to present a comfortable reserve to support an entire annual meeting, plus section activities for around two years without any revenue.

### Annual Meeting

The 2022 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, produced a modest surplus of \$7,314 for the section. The expense for the forthcoming 2023 meeting in Oklahoma City is estimated at \$426,945, comparable to 2022, but increased over prior years, in part due to meeting management fees. When meeting revenue, dues payments and financial support and staff time is included, a robust net budget excess of \$56,707 is expected for the year.

### Long Term Investments

The section’s long-term investment account continues to trend the markets, with a modest loss of \$21,201 to \$890,998. Short-term investments are stable at \$179,781. 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 8/1/2023, the A. Leland Albright fund has accumulated \$55,055, with \$11,097 in investment earnings, and has disbursed \$32,200. The Sanjiv Bhatia fund has accumulated \$58,400. With collective support from the section and the ASPN, the Bhatia fund made its first disbursement this year and anticipates making a second at the section meeting in December. The Marion “Jack” Walker fund has accumulated \$25,290, without disbursement. The Jerry Oakes HYM fund was established in May, 2022, and has accumulated \$10,300 with a total of \$16,300 pledged to date.

### Specific Expenses and Financial Resolutions

The section has expanded its commitment to its educational and research missions. In addition to the section research awards, the Pediatric NREF Fellowship grant and domestic and international traveling fellowships and private foundation donations, the section now offers 10 different awards. Investments with the CNS and AANS of \$250K each also represent opportunities. The Committee on Innovation and Technology and the Industry Relations Committee are exploring opportunities to partner with industry for longstanding support.

### Section Administrative Support

In the last year, the section named Lauren Saenz administrative coordinator. She provides the section with year-round administrative support and facilitates meeting planning.

## AANS / CNS SECTION ON PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY MEMBERSHIP REPORT—SPRING 2023

By Jennifer Ronecker

Membership Class	2023 Dues	2023 Fall Members	2023 Spring Members	2022 Fall Members	2022 Spring Members	2021 Fall Members	2021 Spring Members
Active	\$150	359	368	375	359	383	388
International	\$50	34	39	44	28	63	62
Adjunct/Associate	\$75	33	33	31	35	35	29
Lifetime	\$0	93	95	90	98	97	92
Med Student	\$0	45	38	15	26	12	15
Resident/Fellow	\$0	159	161	128	143	129	125
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>723</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>711</b>

### Membership Retention

Category	Unpaid	Total	% Paid	% Unpaid
Active	140	359	61	39
International	20	34	41	59
Adjunct/Associate	17	33	48	52

### Membership Recruitment

New application system is now active and simplifies the process of applying online through the [www.myaans.org](http://www.myaans.org) website.

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.



## IN MEMORIAM



### David Frim, MD, PhD, FAANS

By Bakhtiar Yamini

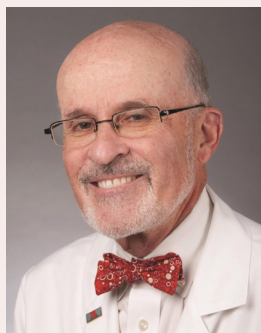
We are saddened to convey that Dr. David Frim, former section chief and professor of neurosurgery at the University of Chicago, passed away on August 22, 2023. Dr. Frim, a preeminent pediatric and congenital neurosurgeon, served as section

chief of neurosurgery for 13 years (2007–2020). In that time, he built a strong foundation and team in all aspects of academic neurosurgery—clinical, educational and research. Dr. Frim also served as program director of the Margret Hackett Family Program in CNS congenital anomalies and as a leader in the

development of pediatric neuroscience services at the University of Chicago Medicine.

Dr. Frim graduated from Harvard Medical School, where he also completed his doctorate in neurobiology. He then completed his neurosurgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and after finishing his pediatric neurosurgery fellowship at Boston's Children's Hospital, he was recruited to the University of Chicago in 1996. During his many years in Chicago, Dr. Frim built a large clinical practice and was known for being a compassionate pediatric neurosurgeon, scientist and mentor. He trained many students and neurosurgeons throughout his career. He is survived by his wife, Tammy and three sons.

[Obituary](#)



### Michael Scott, MD, FAANS(L)

By Mark Proctor

On August 4, 2023, we all lost a wonderful friend and colleague with the passing of R. Michael Scott. We often talk about surgeons as legends or masters, but Dr. Scott truly was an unparalleled figure in pediatric neurosurgery. He was

nationally and internationally respected as a leader in the field, and he himself led every major organization within the field of pediatric neurosurgery, including being chair of the Pediatric Section. He was a respected surgeon and we all listened attentively to the talks he gave and the questions he asked at our section meetings.

I had the privilege to work alongside Dr. Scott for 26 years and the honor of calling him my mentor. Dr. Scott was indeed a surgical maestro, but also a humble man, and it was never "about him." He was a down-to-earth individual dedicated to his patients and to advancing everyone around him. He was the heart and soul of the Department of Neurosurgery at Boston Children's Hospital and the visionary who built the foundation of the department based on sub-specialization, a model that all programs now emulate. Beyond that, he was the nicest, most caring individual one could imagine, and a loyal friend to all of us.

Dr. Scott fought a brave battle with brain cancer and remained true to his core values and beliefs until the end. He died peacefully at home with his amazing wife, Susan, at his side. He taught all of us the value of balance in one's life, and despite his dedication to neurosurgery, his family was always the most important part of his life.

There has been an outpouring of sympathies over the past two days, for which we are grateful. Thanks for your caring and support. [Obituary](#)



### David Jimenez, MD, FAANS

By Matthew D. Smyth

I was deeply saddened in May of this year to hear of the passing of our fellow section member, my friend and mentor, Dr. David Jimenez. He was a kind, friendly and generous man. His colleagues, patients and families admired and adored him. As

most of you already know, he was best known for introducing the novel technique of minimally invasive endoscopic-assisted

craniosynostosis surgery to our field 25 years ago. He was a masterful surgeon and educator who spent his career tirelessly and humbly advocating for less invasive techniques to reduce morbidity and improve outcomes in infants with synostosis. Most neurosurgeons impact thousands of patients during their career, but in Dr. Jimenez' career, the effect was exponential. His pioneering and advocacy for these techniques, despite early resistance, led to a true paradigm shift in how most craniofacial centers manage synostosis in this century. By offering an alternative to larger vault reconstructions, his contributions have impacted the care of countless patients and families with synostosis in the US and around the world. He was a giant in our field and I will miss his friendship and advice. [Obituary](#)



### Mark O'Brien, MD, FAANS(L)

By Dr. Gregory Albert

It is with a heavy heart that I report the passing of Dr. Mark O'Brien on October 20, 2023. A graduate of St. Louis University School of Medicine, Dr. O'Brien completed his neurosurgical training at the University of Cincinnati under

Dr. Frank Mayfield and Dr. Robert McLaurin. Inspired by his work with Dr. McLaurin, Dr. O'Brien pursued pediatric neurosurgery as his chosen subspecialty. He began his faculty career at Emory University, being named chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery at that institution in 1971. After spending much of his career in Atlanta, Dr. O'Brien was recruited to Arkansas Children's Hospital and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in 2005 where he served as chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery until his retirement in 2015. Throughout his career spanning nearly 50 years, Dr. O'Brien cared for countless patients with all types of neurosurgical conditions and mentored numerous residents in the art and practice of pediatric neurosurgery. He was a founding member of the ASPN and ISPN and served on the boards of this section and the ABPNS. Always soft spoken, he led by example with a calm demeanor and surgical finesse. Following his retirement, Dr. O'Brien remained involved in resident education and recruitment at UAMS.

He is survived by his wife, seven children and eight grandchildren. He was beloved by patients and colleagues. I am honored to have worked with him and he will be missed. [Obituary](#)



## 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 for pediatric neurosurgeons by submitting ideas to the CNS Guidelines Committee, and then create a working group to produce the guidelines through a process supported by the CNS. 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 often serves as ad hoc peer review for publication in Neurosurgery. Finally, we serve as an internal pediatric section review committee for any pediatric-specific practice parameter, guideline or practice statement that might be submitted from external sources to the section. Overall, the committee provides many services to the section, all of which revolve around the goodwill of section membership donating time to these efforts. The defining attribute of a committee member is either a knowledge of methodology or a desire to learn the methodology through CNS-sponsored methodology educational courses.

We just published Guidelines for the Surgical Treatment of Chiari I Malformation on August 30, 2023. Please see the final documents on the CNS website. We are in the process of completing an update to the Guidelines for Positional Plagiocephaly. We are also in the process of creating guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of tethered spinal cord. We are working in conjunction with AHRQ and the patient advocacy organization Spina Bifida Association to make this a high-quality, patient-centered resource. Section committee members are currently helping with the SFNS Surgical Treatment of Epilepsy guidelines with AANS/AES/CNS. This process is being expedited through outsourcing the systematic literature review. I am hopeful we will begin manuscript preparation early next year. Section committee members are also involved with an update of the diagnosis of brain death guidelines with AANS. This manuscript should be in publication by September 2023. Use this as a resource when your hospital updates its internal guidelines for diagnosis of non-cardiac death.

As chair of the guideline committee, I truly appreciate the many hours committee members have donated to producing and reviewing guidelines, and I look forward to continuing this work for the section. Future endeavors for our committee include an update of the spina bifida guidelines.

I would like to thank the following members for serving on the Joint Guideline Review Committee in 2022/2023: Jonathan Pindrik, Brandon Rocque, Alex Beier, Laurie Ackerman, Howard Silberstein, Eric Jackson, Daniel Donoho and Tina Sayama. I am excited to bring on three new members this fall: Carolyn Quinsey, Jennifer Strahle and Mari Groves.

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

I would like to thank 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 Brent O'Neil for volunteering for the AES Epilepsy Guideline project.

If anyone is interested in helping with future projects, or if you would like to learn more about the development of guidelines, please reach out to me at any time.

Sincerely,

David F. Bauer

[dfbauer@texaschildrens.org](mailto:dfbauer@texaschildrens.org)

# AMERICAN BOARD OF PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY (ABPNS) REPORT

By Bermans Iskandar, Chair and Bruce Kaufman, Secretary-Treasurer

## ABPNS Officers and Directors

**ABPNS Officers:** Bermans Iskandar (chair) and Bruce Kaufman (secretary-treasurer and vice-chair).

**ABPNS Directors:** Ruth Bristol, David Gruber, Bermans Iskandar, Bruce Kaufman, Mark Krieger (ABNS Liaison), Abhaya Kulkarni, Karin Muraszko, Jeffrey Ojemann, Mark Proctor, Shenandoah Robinson and Jodi Smith.

## ABPNS Certification

The ABPNS is currently only recognizing pediatric neurosurgeons by awarding a certificate of focused practice in pediatric neurosurgery in conjunction with primary certification from the American Board of Neurological Surgery (ABNS) or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). One of the main advantages of the joint ABNS/ABPNS certificate (known as Recognition of Focused Practice, or RFP) is that it is recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). Both the ABNS and RCPSC certificates require the neurosurgeon to remain up-to-date with the requirements of ABNS Continuous Certification, regardless of whether the original ABNS board certification is time-limited or non-time-limited.

The process for obtaining ABPNS certification starts with the completion of a fellowship in pediatric neurosurgery approved by the American Council of Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowships (ACPNF). All candidates are required to pass a written examination in pediatric neurosurgery (also known as the RFP examination). The ABPNS suggests that all those seeking pediatric credentialing take the written examination in the latter part of their fellowship or within one year of fellowship graduation. The ABPNS RFP written examination is currently offered once per year in May.

The final requirement for obtaining an ABPNS certification is taking and passing an oral examination in pediatric neurosurgery. The pediatric oral examination can be requested as part of the ABNS oral examination. RCPSC candidates and ABNS diplomates who have not taken the pediatric-focused version of the ABNS oral examination would need to apply to take the pediatric oral examination through the ABPNS.

For those who have not completed an ACPNF-approved fellowship, or who have been practicing primarily pediatric neurosurgery for 10 or more years, alternative ABPNS certification pathways exist (refer to ABPNS website <https://abns.org/abpns/> for details).

The ABPNS office is always willing to assist all potential applicants with the certification process. We understand that the process can be confusing, and there can be unique situations.

The ABPNS continues to work to streamline the written and oral examination process for all our candidates. We strive to maintain identical requirements for all applicants and diplomates regardless of their original certification.

A tight partnership with the ABNS via various memoranda of understanding (MOUs) has allowed the ABPNS to use the infrastructure of the ABNS to streamline its processes and improve its efficiency in the past five years. Current efforts are underway between the ABNS and ABPNS leaderships to further enhance this partnership.

## ABPNS Recertification

The ABPNS certificate is limited to 10 years for both the ABNS and RCPSC diplomates and requires yearly completion of ABNS "Continuous Certification."

Continuous Certification requires yearly attestation by the chief of staff (for the primary hospital of practice) of the diplomate's standing and participation in education and medical review, as well as completion of yearly education modules in general and pediatric neurosurgical topics.

In addition, the ABPNS certificate requires diplomates to maintain a continuous focused practice in pediatric neurosurgery. Accordingly, starting in 2024, the Continuous Certification program will include a yearly attestation of focused practice by the applicant, and consequently, the submission of a 10-year case log for recertification will no longer be required.

Please continue to follow the dynamic developments in certification and recertification requirements on the ABPNS website. The ABPNS Board meets twice a year (June and December) to complete these reviews, with application deadlines of April 1 and October 1, respectively.

For any additional information, please contact our credentialing administrator, Kari Bollerman, [kbollerman@abns.org](mailto:kbollerman@abns.org) or secretary, Bruce Kaufman [bkaufman@mcw.edu](mailto:bkaufman@mcw.edu).

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Robert Naftel and Edward Ahn, Co-Chairs

The National Meetings Committee, led by Hal Meltzer and Jeff Campbell, is looking forward to curating outstanding pediatric content for the AANS and CNS national meetings over the next two years. At the CNS meeting in Washington DC, the Endoscopic Applications in Pediatric Neurosurgery Practical Course will be on Saturday, September 9th. The course directors, Carolina Sandoval-Garcia and Catherine McClurg Smith, have designed didactic presentations on Epilepsy, Craniofacial, Hydrocephalus and Tumor, with two speakers per topic. These sessions will be followed by six rotating, hands-on stations where participants will spend approximately 15 minutes each. Monday morning, there will be a few pediatric abstracts included in the Sunrise-Late Breaking Abstracts Session. Concurrently, there will be 15 pediatric abstracts presented at the pediatric specific Sunrise Session. The luncheon seminar that day on ABPNS Board Certification is a great opportunity for fellows and residents who are interested in pediatric neurosurgery. Anyone interested can still sign up and attend. The Monday afternoon Pediatric Section Session will include a seminar on the contemporary management of craniopharyngiomas followed by concurrent seminars on pediatric functional and vascular neurosurgery. Tuesday's Pediatric Section afternoon content will include a seminar on fellowship training followed by a complications in Pediatric Neurosurgery discussion. That evening, we will be involved with the interactive poster presentations

The AANS Scientific Committee is crafting content for the annual meeting in May. This meeting is continuing to evolve based on prior meeting attendance data and current theories of optimal learning. The theme of What Matters will likely guide the overall scientific program. An emphasis on education, advocacy, professionalism and subspecialty integration may supersede a more traditional emphasis on the routine presentation of scientific abstracts. We will be partnering with adult neurosurgeons to craft a half-day practical course on minimally invasive surgical techniques. Sandi Lam will be taking lead as course director for the pediatric content and has already begun working with her adult side co-director. Next steps for the Committee will be to set up a likely integrative topic-based afternoon session approach.

The podcast committee is now led by Jim Johnston, Vijay Ravindra, and Arian Barkley with Heather Spader remaining from the previous committee as an advisor. The committee plans to increase the podcast output up to 4-6 new podcasts per year.

The Hands-on Workshop Committee, led by Peter Morgenstern and Joanna Gernsback, has been planning for practical workshops at upcoming section meetings. On preliminary discussions about the New York meeting, there have been some logistical challenges to hosting a workshop, but discussions are ongoing. The Oklahoma City meeting will have a spine course and boot camp.

The Traveling Fellowship Committee is collecting applications for the domestic and international fellowship. The committee is co-chaired by Jason Blatt and Eric Thompson. They have fully migrated all of the committee's documents and work products to a new Google account that can be handed off from chairs to the next chairs which should ease the transition between teams every cycle. They are actively updating our long list of prior fellows in anticipation of a project to survey them after the current fellowship award cycle is finished (ie, our project for the spring semester). They are working to update our subcommittee charter and to ensure no conflict with the Sanjiv Bhatia fellowship. There have been multiple international applicants but so far only one domestic applicant. They encourage anyone with an interested resident to send them the fellowship information.

The Examinations Questions Committee, led by Lance Governale and Patrick McDonald, 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 to 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 the ABNS question stems. Lastly, they plan to keep apprised of updates in the subspecialty of pediatric neurosurgery to ensure that questions encompass new developments and practices in the field.



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

By Smruti K. Patel and Kurtis Auguste, Co-Chairs

The Timothy George Committee on Diversity and Inclusion in Pediatric Neurosurgery was created in 2021 to address the deficiencies in our profession in the representation of persons of color, gender and members of the LGBTQ+ community. The committee is named in honor of a dear colleague whose work in this area in his community and the health care community, in general, was exemplary and appropriately worthy of this recognition. The primary responsibility of the committee in the coming years will be to continue the conversation about the importance and value of a diverse and all-inclusive workforce in Pediatric Neurosurgery. We have divided our mission and goals into the following four pillars that we hope to address as part of our DEI work:

## 1. The “People”

We hope to work toward better understanding the current landscape of our section membership and in our pediatric neurosurgery community and diversifying our membership. We plan to work with our Survey Subcommittee to better understand the diversity within our membership, as well as implement both mentorship and sponsorship efforts throughout our two-year term, particularly during the annual meetings. These efforts will be geared towards engaging our student body, as well as trainees to include residents and fellows. Subcommittees will be formed to focus on each of these groups (faculty, trainee and student engagement). We would also like to gather personal stories from our faculty to highlight the diversity within our membership and work with the Communications Committee to disperse this information. We hope to make the outreach project in the host city of the annual meeting an annual project that we are able to execute and provide to young students (high school, college, medical school). Last year, we hosted 10 students in Washington, DC, and received wonderful feedback.

## 2. Cultural Competence

We hope to work toward educating our membership and community and defining what it truly means to incorporate DEI into our daily lives. The committee will develop organizational learning experiences and educational tools to increase the cultural competence and intelligence of the AANS and CNS members, our trainees and medical students. We would like to work with our Communications Committee via a quarterly cultural competence series in which we present and discuss pertinent DEI definitions and provide our membership guidance on how to appropriately evaluate and assess certain patient groups.

## 3. Equity and Health Excellence

We plan to continue to evaluate and encourage research related to closing health disparity gaps that exist within our health care systems that care for our patients and working with our CNS, AANS, ASPN partners in promoting these efforts. The Timothy George Committee on Diversity and Inclusion will also be dedicated to evaluating the candidates for the “Timothy George Award” for best oral abstract and poster at the annual meeting, valued at \$1,000 and \$500, respectively.

## 4. Community and Neighbors

Finally, we hope to work with our other organized neurosurgery governing bodies to be part of the larger work outside of our section. This would include in particular our governing bodies and partners at the ASPN, AANS, CNS, ABNS/ABPNS, SNS and specific groups to include but not limited to the ASBN (American Society of Black Neurosurgeons), WINS (Women in Neurosurgery), and AASAN (American Association of South Asian Neurosurgeons).

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 this year’s annual meeting. If you are interested, please reach out to Smruti Patel or Kurtis Auguste at [smruti.patel@cchmc.org](mailto:smruti.patel@cchmc.org) or [kurtis.auguste@ucsf.edu](mailto:kurtis.auguste@ucsf.edu). We are very excited for the years ahead and to see our fellow colleagues, trainees and students at the annual meeting in Oklahoma City!

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

By Heather Spader and Rebecca Reynolds, Co-Chairs

The International Relations Committee consists of the International Education and International Clinical Collaboration Subcommittees, as well as International Liaison positions and a coordinator for the Sanjiv Bhatia Fellowship.

### International Education Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Ariana Barkley and Aaron Robison

The long-term goal of this committee is to provide neurosurgical education platforms that are free and accessible to English and non-English speakers including journal clubs and an open-access video library. The first journal club will be held in November and will be facilitated by Dr. Tola Roberts and will focus on a topic of interest to the African region. Please watch social media for the date and time.

### International Clinical Collaboration Subcommittee

Chair: Eisha Christian

The purpose of this subcommittee is to provide a leadership role in centralizing and promoting clinical collaborations on a global basis to provide bi-directional partnerships in pediatric neurosurgery. The first goal of this subcommittee is to send a survey out to the section membership to compile a repository of current ongoing international clinical collaborations. Please watch for this survey in your email and respond if you are involved in global projects.

### International Liaisons

International Liaisons form relationships with neurosurgical societies in appointed areas, encourage participation of these members in the AANS/CNS Pediatric Section, facilitate educational and research exchanges and work with education and clinical collaboration subcommittees to help achieve their goals. A full list of liaisons will be placed on the IR committee webpage.

### Sanjiv Bhatia Pediatric Neurosurgery Global Fellowship

Coordinator: Tola Roberts

This fellowship was established in honor of Sanjiv Bhatia and awarded annually. The purpose of this fellowship is to enrich the training experience of a resident or fellow in an ACGME accredited neurosurgery residency or pediatric neurosurgery fellowship by gaining experience and learning about the practice of neurosurgery in a global setting. The fellowship is also intended to foster research collaborations between centers in North America and the centers hosting a fellowship. Preference will be given to applicants going to a Low- and Middle-Income Country (LMIC) training program. We are looking for mentors for this fellowship as well as applicants. More details can be found at: <https://pedsneurosurgery.org/sanjiv-bhatia-pediatric-neurosurgery-global-fellowship/>

## COMMITTEE ON HISTORY

Andrew Kobets

The Committee on History for the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery has been busy compiling interviews of the founding surgeons in the field of pediatric neurosurgery to obtain an account of the early days of the section and its formation. The interviews shed light on the first years of the subspecialty, as well as the considerations taken into account when branching off from our larger national organizations. Stories of the struggles encountered and the successes achieved will be condensed into a documentary chronicling this early time in the formation of our organization, as well as the role it has played in changing the field of neurosurgery ever since.

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

By Annie Drapeau and Carolina Sandoval Garcia, Co-Chairs

The Quality Improvement (QI) Committee was created in 2021 to evaluate the current status and role of QI within the section and support and promote the development of infrastructure, metrics and collaborative initiatives as QI methods and tools continue to gain popularity and demonstrate their importance in the healthcare landscape.

Our roles as inaugural co-chairs have been renewed for the period of 2023-2025 and with the help of our senior advisors Dr. Joseph Piatt (Quality officer of the Chair's Committee on Planning and Development) and Dr. Bruce Kaufman (QI Senior Advisory Committee) we continue to make progress towards the goals stated in our charter. During our inaugural period, we surveyed the community and published our findings on the current landscape of QI in pediatric neurosurgery, completed an initial re-design of the website and with the help of very engaged committee members we developed an educational session on the science of improvement and safety specifically targeted to the pediatric neurosurgery community. This educational content will be available to all members by Winter 2023.

For the upcoming period, two subcommittees have been planned. The first one will focus on website promotion and dissemination of institutional projects and collaboration. Our form is now available at <https://pedsneurosurgery.org/case-studies-project/quality-improvement-initiatives/> for anyone to showcase ongoing or previous QI work on our website (see instructions below). We also encourage the members to contact us if they have questions regarding the online form, or prefer to share their QI work directly via email [adrapeau@hsc.mb.ca](mailto:adrapeau@hsc.mb.ca), or [csandova@umn.edu](mailto:csandova@umn.edu).

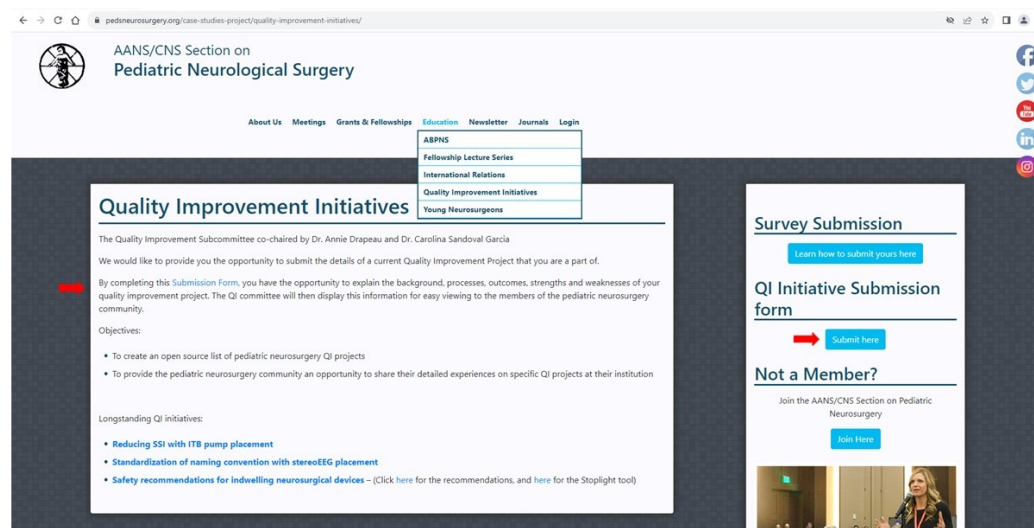
The second subcommittee will focus on better integrating QI into the annual section meeting. The members of this subcommittee will work proactively with the organizers of future annual section meetings to track the quantity and quality of QI-related abstracts submitted and to increase the dissemination of QI work. This subcommittee will also foster potential mentoring opportunities so that people interested in engaging in QI projects may find colleagues across the country willing to provide advice and expertise.

We are thankful for the strong work of our prior cohort of members and welcome the following colleagues who have volunteered to work on our exciting upcoming initiatives: Karl Balsara, Virenda Desai, Katrina Ducis, Tracy Flanders, Andrew Foy, Alexandra Giantini Larsen, Amanda Kwasnicki, Greg Olavarria, Jonathan Pindrik, Andy Stadler, Rachana Tyagi and Marike Zwienenberg.

### Instructions for submitting a QI initiative submission form:

1. Access the Quality Improvement Initiatives page on the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery website listed in the "Education" dropdown list: <https://pedsneurosurgery.org/case-studies-project/quality-improvement-initiatives/>
2. Click the highlighted link "submission form" or the "submit here" button (see red arrows in Figure 1)
3. A Google form will appear where you will be instructed to provide as much information as possible. This will allow us to prepare a PDF document that can be shared with those interested and made accessible via a link on the website. This will help disseminate initiatives in a way that can be replicated. If the information is unavailable, please write "n/a".

Figure 1



## ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY FELLOWSHIPS REPORT

Several important changes occurred in 2023 for the ACPNF and the 33 accredited pediatric neurosurgery fellowships. The following changes are an abbreviated list. If you would like to review the entire document, please request a copy from our secretary, Jodi Smith, MD, at [Jodi.smith@ascension-external.org](mailto:Jodi.smith@ascension-external.org).

### 1. Updating of the match timing, rules and regulations:

#### a. Timeline:

- i. June 1: Applicant registration with SFMatch begins.
- ii. July 1: Applicants may begin interviewing.
- iii. The last Monday in October: Program rank lists are due to the SFMatch.
- iv. Match Day will occur seven days after the last Monday in October.

#### b. Rules and regulations (abbreviated):

- i. All interviews must be conducted in a virtual format.
- ii. Programs shall not initiate communication with the applicant after the interview to discuss the applicant's position on the program's match list or to require a verbal commitment to rank the program in a specific spot on the applicant's match list.

- iii. Applicants are not to inquire about their position in the rank list from any member of the training program faculty or staff or their agent; are not to request any personnel of their training program to contact program(s) to determine the applicant's position on any particular program's match list. And agree not to seek simultaneous fellowship training in another neurosurgical subspecialty.

### 2. New Fellowship Directors:

- a. Riley Children's Hospital at IU Health—Dr. Rabia Qaiser.
- b. Colorado Children's Hospital—Dr. Michael Handler.
- c. Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital—S. Hassan Akbari, MD, MSCI, added as assistant PD.
- d. Oklahoma Fellowship Program—Virendra R. Desai, MD, added as assistant PD.
- e. Lucille Packard Children's Hospital—Cormac O. Maher, MD, added as co-PD with Dr. Kelly Mahaney.
- f. Children's Atlanta Hospital—Dr. Barunashish Brahma.

### 3. Please review your program's profile on the ACPNF website and submit updates to Jodi Smith at [Jodi.smith@ascension-external.org](mailto:Jodi.smith@ascension-external.org) as soon as possible.

### 4. The annual Peds Fellow Bootcamp is being planned for November 28, 2023, at the Pediatric Section meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Sincerely, the ACPNF Board of Directors

## SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By Mark Proctor

The Senior Advisory Committee is a group of experienced members of the Pediatric Section that have agreed to serve as mentors to various committees of the section, so as not to lose the benefit of past experience. The committee was newly formed under the leadership of Dr. Iskandar, with Al Cohen and Tina Duhaime serving as the inaugural chairs. The committee has had a somewhat passive role, being available to assist whenever asked, but not having senior members embedded in the various committees and imparting their knowledge on a regular basis. We are currently rethinking the structure of the committee, with the perspective that there could be a Senior Advisory Committee structure with the individuals embedded in the various section committees, so that they are more active participants. A survey to the senior membership will be sent out shortly to determine the level of interest for participation in this format.

## ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS (APP) COMMITTEE

By E. Haley Vance

The APP Committee is excited to enter our second term with expectations of continued growth and engagement of APPs within the Pediatric Section. Committee members include Haley Vance, DNP, CPNP-AC (chair), Mandy Breedt CPNP (co-chair), Lisa McLennan, DNP, CPNP and Patti Batchelder, CPNP. As a committee, we remain dedicated to promoting APP practice within the field of pediatric neurosurgery. We are excited to expand our work with the introduction of three new subcommittees—Membership/Engagement, Education and Annual Conference Planning.

### Membership and Engagement Subcommittee

The Membership and Engagement Subcommittee is working to develop a brief “How-To-Guide” for APPs to help provide clarity and direction through the membership process to the Peds Section. This resource will provide information on what is required of APPs for membership, sample reference letters and benefits of membership. As opportunities arise for APPs to participate in other committees within the section, this subcommittee will work to recruit and engage APPs who are interested in serving.

### Education Subcommittee

The Education Subcommittee hosted the first-ever APP journal club in June 2023. Thank you to all who were in attendance! Please mark your calendar for the upcoming APP journal clubs:

Tuesday, October 3, 2023–5:30 pm (CST)  
 Tuesday, February 20, 2024–5:30 pm (CST)  
 Tuesday, April 30, 2024–5:30 pm (CST)

The first APP newsletter was emailed out in August 2023. This highlighted important announcements regarding the upcoming meeting, upcoming APP journal clubs and educational opportunities from both AANS/CNS, as well as other APP organizations to help promote practice and clinical care within pediatric neurosurgery. Please be on the lookout for additional newsletters throughout the year.

### Annual Conference Planning Subcommittee

Conference planning is in the home stretch with an exciting program in store for this year’s meeting in Oklahoma City. The APP session will be held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, from 8:00 am–4:00 pm. Registration is now open. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. This year’s course will include lectures, interactive round table discussions led by your fellow APPs and hands-on skills demonstrations.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the APP committee, please email [haley.vance@vumc.org](mailto:haley.vance@vumc.org).

## AWARDS & LECTURES COMMITTEE

By Esther Dupepe and Smruti Patel, Co-Chairs

Over the years, the awards and named lectureships given during the Pediatric Section Meeting have increased substantially and with it, the need for administrative and organizational manpower to keep track of the awards and awardees has grown. The awards given during the section meeting now include: Best Oral Presentation Regarding Global Surgery, Schulman Award, Molly Hubbard Award, Hydrocephalus Association Award, Bobby Jones Chiari & Syringomyelia Foundation Award, Meghan Rose Bradley Foundation Award, Tim George: Best Oral Presentation Regarding Inclusion and Diversity, Tim George: Best Poster Presentation Regarding Inclusion and Diversity, Best Clinical Research Abstract Award and the Best Basic Science Abstract Award in addition to the named lectureships.

The Awards & Lectures Committee will formalize the processes for the selection of judges and for scoring the various awards given at the Pediatric Section Annual Meeting and will maintain records of past and current awards and named lectureships. Additionally, we will work to simplify the process for both the identification and verification of eligibility for abstracts to be considered for each award and to protocolize a system for the objective scoring of presentations during the meeting.

We are excited to implement our plans for the 2023 Pediatric Section Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City and we welcome any suggestions to further improve and streamline the process for the selection of judges prior to and during the Pediatric Section Annual Meeting.

# COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

By Carrie Muh and Ben Kennedy, Co-Chairs





## The Communications Committee has a number of active subcommittees.

### Social Media Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Carrie Muh and Nathan Shlobin

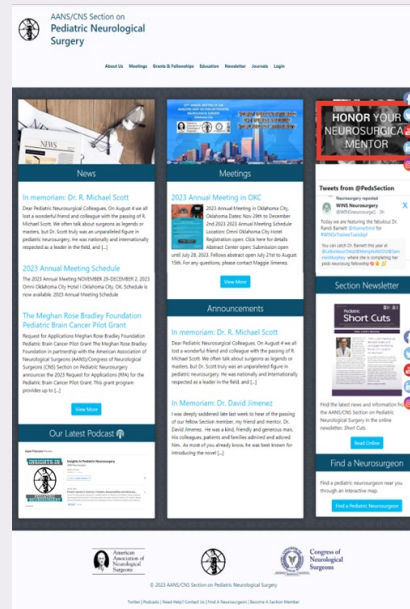
The Social Media Subcommittee has continued to manage and expand the social media footprint of the Pediatric Section. Our goal is to encourage communication and engagement among and between our members and the wider community. Our purpose is to represent our section in a professional manner; spread awareness of neurosurgical-related conferences, webinars, news and research; keep members aware and updated on educational opportunities, meetings and pediatric neurosurgery job openings and present regular, pertinent content to increase engagement.

## Follow us at our social media accounts:

-  **Instagram:** @aanscns\_pedssection
-  **Twitter:** @PedsSection
-  **Facebook:** AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery
-  **LinkedIn:** AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery

## Website Subcommittee

Chair: Ben Kennedy, MD



all the current ACPNF-accredited fellows across all platforms. Our X/Twitter account has more than 4,580 followers and has achieved between 2,000 and 34,000 tweet impressions every month. Our Instagram account has more than 1,255 followers. We have had good overlap and feedback with other AANS and CNS-related accounts with the sharing of content and stories to promote our mission and increase visibility. We have brought medical students and residents onto the social media subcommittee to ensure that our content is relevant to members in each phase of training and practice. We have regular weekly content including highlighting upcoming meetings, current pediatric neurosurgery fellows, pioneers in our field and the section educational lecture series. Our subcommittee live tweets and posts on each of the platforms during neurosurgical conferences to increase interaction among current and future members. The subcommittee will continue to post and share information regarding research and innovation in our field, as well as award and scholarship opportunities available through the Pediatric Section or our parent organizations.

The Social Media subcommittee manages accounts on the X/Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram platforms. We have a successful “Feature Fellow Spotlight” series which regularly showcases

The website continues to be a great home site for the Pediatric Section, as it provides a centralized location for current information and activities. The site is regularly updated with news and meeting information for our members. Interested medical students, residents, fellows and attendings can complete the volunteer form to become involved in the section,

and the site contains information on pediatric neurosurgery fellowships and research awards. There are links to multiple neurosurgery journals, as well our social media accounts. The Education Lecture Series has a YouTube channel link on our website where anyone can access recordings of the bimonthly events, and our Twitter feed is continuously running on the website’s side panel. We look forward to continuing to bring everyone the latest updates and more.

Check out the updated page at: <https://pedsneurosurgery.org>

### Survey Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Patrick McDonald and Shelly Wang

The Survey Subcommittee reviews submitted surveys to determine which ones should be distributed directly to our membership via email eblasts. The subcommittee has established a formal process for submitting survey study proposals. They evaluated multiple surveys and accepted four for distribution to the full membership last year. They will continue to evaluate and select appropriate surveys for distribution each quarter. Expectations are that data from distributed surveys will result in a publication and/or presentation at a section meeting.

Surveys that members wish to have distributed to the full membership should be submitted to [PedsSectionSurveys@gmail.com](mailto:PedsSectionSurveys@gmail.com) along with information about the purpose and aims of the survey.

### Logo Redesign Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Andrew Kobets and Jessica Lessing

A team of section members including US and international neurosurgeons, trainees and APPs have been evaluating submitted designs for a new, updated section Logo. They have evaluated numerous terrific designs and are working to find options that reflect the Pediatric Section and our diverse patient population, with a newer, more modern look than our current logo.

### Listserv Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Nir Shimony and Jennifer Ronecker

The Listserv Subcommittee has restarted the Pediatric Section listserv. This will be a tool for professional communications; a place to connect members, raise questions, look for clinical advice and share knowledge and experience. The subcommittee team will be serving as moderators to manage posts and help promote discussion of cases, sharing of ideas and even research collaborations. Their Guidelines request that the Listserv not be for social and personal posts, but to be geared to professional interaction with cases and approved surveys or announcements. Look for an eblast announcement for the official reactivation of the Listserv soon!

## TRANSITION OF CARE COMMITTEE (TOCC)

By Brandon Rocque and Bermans Iskandar

The purpose of the TOCC is to develop strategies, processes and templates that would assist neurosurgical programs in instituting transition of care initiatives. The committee will focus its early efforts on transitioning patients with hydrocephalus and/or spina bifida. The committee will brainstorm solutions at the level of the patient, health care provider, infrastructure and reimbursement. The short-term tasks include recruiting committee volunteers, identifying patient and provider priorities, building a list of existing TOC protocols and obtain funding commitments. Our subcommittees will include:

- **A Patient Subcommittee** aimed to develop transition templates for patients aged 12-21 that individual neurosurgical programs can use.
- **A Health Care Provider Subcommittee** aimed at determining who can provide operative and non-operative neurosurgical care for adults with hydrocephalus and/or spina bifida.
- **A Programs Subcommittee** aimed at instituting pilot programs to test different initiatives, and assist institutions in developing local programs.
- **A Young Pediatric Neurosurgeons Subcommittee** aimed at establishing an educational program for ACPNF fellows and young pediatric neurosurgery faculty.
- **A Business Plan Subcommittee** aimed at adapting or developing business plans and reimbursement models.

We encourage anyone who's interested in volunteering on any of these subcommittees to contact one of the co-chairs Benny Iskandar ([iskandar@neurosurgery.wisc.edu](mailto:iskandar@neurosurgery.wisc.edu)) and Brandon Rocque ([Brandon.Rocque@childrensal.org](mailto:Brandon.Rocque@childrensal.org)). Some background information about prior work in this area, or skills that support one or more of the committee goals would be useful. We welcome pediatric neurosurgery faculty, APPs, fellows, residents and students.

## RESEARCH COMMITTEE

By Amanda Saratsis and David Hersh, Co-Chairs

### The Pediatric Section Research Committee is divided into four subcommittees:

#### Grants Subcommittee

Heather McCrea and Taylor Abel, Co-Chairs

The Grants Subcommittee is involved with reviewing proposals for three grants. 1) The annual Pediatric Section Grant provides funding to support research collaborations between fellows/new faculty and senior faculty. Dr. H. Westley Phillips (Fellow, U Pittsburgh Children's) was awarded the 2023 Pediatric Section Grant for his proposal entitled, "Identifying Somatic Mosaicism Across Epileptic Networks," which will support his new laboratory as he begins his faculty position at Stanford University. 2) The annual NREF Pediatric Grant has an application deadline of November 1, and proposals should be submitted through the NREF website. 3) The Grants Subcommittee is now also assisting the Meghan Rose Bradley (MRB) Foundation with reviewing proposals for its inaugural Pediatric Brain Cancer Pilot Grant. The MRB Foundation will provide \$50,000 funding support for researchers working in the pediatric neuro-oncology space.

#### Faculty Development and Mentoring Subcommittee

Manish Shah and Laura Prolo, Co-Chairs

**Subcommittee members:** Allyson Alexander, Shih-Shan Chen, Winson Ho, Brandon Miller, Christina Sarris and Eric Sribnick

The Faculty Development and Mentoring Subcommittee recently developed a manual designed to provide introductory information and guidance for those who are interested in developing a basic or translational research focus. Current goals include publicizing and distributing this manual. This subcommittee is also continuing to develop a mechanism for pairing senior mentors with students/residents and junior faculty who are interested in research. Future goals will include developing a panel-based webinar to provide guidance for those seeking a first/new faculty position, and establishing additional collaborations with the Basic Science and Genetics Networks Subcommittee.

#### Clinical Networks Subcommittee

Jonathan Pindrik and Heather Spader, Co-Chairs

**Subcommittee members:** Marian Michael Bercu, Samuel (Trey) McClugage, Monique Gomes, Jason Hauptman, Ioannis Mavridis, Daxa Patel, Jared Pisapia and Leonard Verhey

The Clinical Networks Subcommittee is continuing to facilitate multi-center research among members of the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery. A comprehensive list of 17 North American and/or international clinical research networks and registries with representation in or affiliation with the Pediatric Section has been compiled, and liaisons have been selected for each network and registry. Upcoming initiatives will include the development of a more robust subcommittee webpage highlighting the following: networks that incorporate pediatric neurosurgery research, possible funding sources and guidelines for proposing a multi-center project through the Pediatric Section. Future goals include developing a process for submitting and vetting multi-center proposals.

#### Basic Science and Genetics Networks Subcommittee

Jennifer Strahle and Brandon Miller, Co-Chairs

**Subcommittee members:** Moise Danielpour, Michael DeCuypere, Brian Dlouhy, Winson Ho, Alfred See, Sudhakar Vadivelu and Anthony Wang

The BSGN is organizing the first (hopefully annual) Pediatric Neurosurgery Basic Science Collaboration/Networking Session. This event will be held on the opening day of the upcoming Pediatric Section Annual Meeting and is open to faculty and trainees. It will feature short talks from faculty who are directing basic science research programs and is specifically designed to establish collaborations between pediatric neurosurgeons. We hope to make this an annual event that will lead to more successful grant applications and basic science publications from pediatric neurosurgeons. Anyone interested in attending should email the subcommittee chairs. It has been generously sponsored by the Hydrocephalus Association but is not exclusive to hydrocephalus researchers.



## PEDIATRIC CODING AND REIMBURSEMENT COMMITTEE (PCRC)

By Viren Desai and Meena Vessell, Co-Chairs

2023 marks the inaugural year of the Pediatric Coding and Reimbursement Committee (PCRC), which was formerly an individual liaison position. Eric Jackson, MD, served as the last liaison and is credited with transforming the position into a full committee at the 2022 section meeting. In May 2023, the Section Executive Committee selected co-chairs and assembled members for the 2023-2025 term. 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.

Member survey data from 2023 indicate the PCRC's foremost priority is to change CPT codes to reflect the true complexity of pediatric neurosurgical procedures. As a corollary, current reimbursement practices as measured by RVUs and insurance pay-outs, may not reflect the specialty expertise, time and technology required of each case. The PCRC thus aims to liaise between the pediatric neurosurgical community and various organizational bodies responsible for national coding and reimbursement structure, such as the AANS/CNS and AMA RUC (American Medical Association/Specialty Society Relative Value Scale Update Committee). This committee's advocacy efforts center on better-defining codes to reflect pediatric neurosurgical work and value.

As a newly formed body, the PCRC functions as a specialized forum for coding-related inquiry for pediatric neurosurgery (as differentiated from other neurosurgical subspecialty organizations). Should a coding or reimbursement question or concern affect your practice, please reach out to the committee. We work with billing and coding experts to provide advisement.

Advocacy efforts should be guided by coding and reimbursement-related research which can be further encouraged by this committee.

PCRC also aims to educate practicing pediatric neurosurgeons to code appropriately. This educational need has been identified by organized neurosurgery and has resulted in the creation of an AANS pediatric neurosurgery coding course, as well as a Pediatric Section online teaching lectures.

PCRC's hope is for members to become informed and actionable with regard to coding and reimbursement for the betterment of pediatric neurosurgeons nationwide. Please consider joining if these sentiments resonate with you. The committee looks forward to reporting back on further work in the next edition of *Shortcuts*.

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## INDUSTRY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

By Michael McDowell and Brian Hanak, Co-Chairs

We are pleased to announce the opening of the first annual KLS Martin Innovations Challenge Award. The award amount is \$20,000. The goal of this award is to support early work toward developing innovations that could one day be adopted by industry partners or result in new companies. Eligible work should be at an early enough level where this amount of funding could significantly help with moving work to the next stage. Applicants must be registered members of the AANS/CNS Pediatric Section. Progress reports will be requested for granted projects at one year, and two years post fund distribution. Criteria for selection will include potential for meaningful impact on the field of pediatric neurosurgery, uniqueness of concept, feasibility, potential for higher-level funding and evidence of a clear trajectory towards market-ready technology. Progress reports will be shared with the

sponsor industry, barring any identified intellectual property conflict of interest, except with appropriate non-disclosure agreements in place. Funding cannot be used for travel, salaries, meetings or publication fees. Submission details will be forthcoming. Applicants should prepare an up-to-date CV, a one to two page proposal and a one page budget justification. The award winner will be announced during the upcoming section meeting in Oklahoma City. Further inquiries may be directed to Drs. Brian Hanak and Michael McDowell, [bhanak@llu.edu](mailto:bhanak@llu.edu) and [mcdowellmm2@upmc.edu](mailto:mcdowellmm2@upmc.edu).

The Industry Relations Committee is also in the process of developing another funding opportunity dedicated to supporting early start-ups with neurosurgeon co-founders as part of an initiative to increase the presence of physician-leaders within the industry as a whole.

## 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

Todd Hankinson (2022–2024)

Carrie Muh (2022–2024)

Krystal Tomei (2023–2025)

Ben Kennedy (2023–2025)

#### Resident Member of Executive Committee

George Koutsouras

### 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)

#### 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 (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

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES (ad hoc)

#### Pediatric Section Annual Meeting Subcommittee

Andrew Jea—Chair 2023 – Oklahoma City

Bob Keating 2022 – Washington DC

Hasan Syed 2022 - Washington DC

Haley Vance Co-Chair APP

Elisha Peregino 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**

Carrie Muh—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  
 Mark Proctor  
 Katie Klas  
 Tony Macalindong  
 John Schroeder

**Logo Design Subcommittee**

Andrew Kobets—Co-chair  
 Jessica Lessing—Co-chair  
 Neil Feldstein—Advisor  
 Hassan Akbari  
 Carrie Muh  
 Samantha Spellicy  
 Lauren Schwartz  
 Louis Carius  
 Juan Miguel Aleman Iniguez

**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 O'Brien

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

ESPN

WFNS

AAP SOICH/ GICS

South America

Central America and Caribbean

Brazil

Australia and New Zealand

Middle East

Africa

India

Pakistan

China

Japan

Southeast Asia

Zulma Tovar-Spinoza

TBD

Albert TU

Eylem Ocal

Zulma Tovar Spinoza

Louis Valery Carius

Bruno Braga

TBD

Kaveh Asadi

Tola Roberts

Aaron Mohanty

Hasan Raza Syed

Phil Aldana

Kaveh Asadi

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)

**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 DeCuyper

Brian Dlouhy

Winson Ho

Alfred See

Sudhakar Vadivelu

Anthony Wang

**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)**Virenda 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

**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)

**Lifetime Achievement Award: Immediate Past Chair**

Bermans Iskandar

**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—Co-Chair**  
**Smruti Patel—Co-Chair**

**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**

Benny Iskandar—Current Chair of ABPNS (2023–2025)

**Liaison with ACPNF**

Doug Brockmeyer—Current Chair of ACPNF (2023–2025)

**Liaison with ASPN**

Gerry Grant—Current President of ASPN (2023–2024)

**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**

Brian Hanak (2023–2025)  
 Elizabeth Tyler Kabara

**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**

Vijay Ravindra (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)

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