From the Chair

Service: An Honor and a Privilege

Thomas G. Luerssen, MD

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the chair of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery. In addition, it has been a marvelous experience for me. First, I have been fortunate to work alongside a bright and energetic group of individuals on the Executive Committee, without whom nothing could have been accomplished. Second, I have had the chance to meet and work with most of the staff and leadership of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) and with the officers of many of the other subspecialty sections. People in leadership positions at every level donate enormous amounts of time away from their own practices and their personal time, as well, in order to fulfill the responsibilities to their offices. Needless to say, there is a strong feeling of community among those working in all of the areas of neurosurgical leadership. This kind of support makes all of our jobs much easier. It has been a great ride and I would not have missed a minute.

Meeting Your Needs

I hope the membership feels that the Pediatric Section leadership has responded to its needs. I can assure you, the officers view this as the most important role we can play. As you know, the major mission of the Pediatric Section, in concert with our parent organizations, the AANS and the CNS, is education. We accomplish most of our educational mission through our annual meetings, most notably the winter meeting. If attendance is any indication, it appears that we have succeeded in our efforts.

The lion’s share of the credit for this goes to the meeting chairs, Rick Abbott, MD (2001), and Hal Rekate, MD (2002), along with the Meeting Services department of the AANS. No one could ask to work with better people. Financially, these meetings were all that we expected, within the budget. If the scientific programs met your needs, we have succeeded. However (and I have said this in every one of these columns), we can’t know your concerns if you don’t communicate them to us. We need to hear from the membership. We will do everything we can to respond to your concerns.

I need to add a few words to acknowledge the contributions of Dr. Abbott to the Pediatric Section, especially over the past two years. The office of secretary is probably the hardest and arguably the most thankless job on the Executive Committee. Keeping volunteer neurosurgeons organized and on task is tantamount to herding cats (and not just regular cats, but cats with an attitude). Furthermore, the secretary has represented the chair at several important meetings when I could not get there. Add in all of the paperwork, phone calls, e-mails and the responsibility of publishing the newsletters and other membership information, and one can see that a person could easily make a second career out of the time invested in this office. Throughout the past two years, Dr. Abbott has done all of this and more.

continued on page 7
Pediatric Section Highlights at the 2003 AANS Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 26, 2003

8:00 AM–5:00 PM
Practical Clinic 011. Update on Pediatric Neurosurgery
DIRECTOR: A. Leland Albright
FACULTY: P. David Adelson, Paul A. Grabb, W. Jerry Oakes
Fee: $475

Monday, April 28, 2003

7:30–9:30 AM
Breakfast Seminar 109. Advances in the Management of Pediatric Brain Tumors
MODERATOR: Corey Raffel
PANELISTS: Frederick A. Boop, Mark M. Souweidane, Jeffrey H. Wisoff

SCIENTIFIC SESSION II
MODERATORS: Gene H. Barnett and James T. Rutka

2:45–3:00 PM
717. Primary Bony Tumors of the Spine in a Pediatric Population
DISCUSSANT: Christopher I. Shaffrey

SCIENTIFIC SESSION IV
MODERATORS: Paul C. McCormick and Fredrick D. Todd III

2:45–3:00 PM
732. Management of Infantile Chiari Type I Malformation: A Less Invasive Surgical Technique
Theodore J. Spinks, Marcelo Galarza, Tooraj Gravori, Jorge A. Lazareff
DISCUSSANT: J. Gordon McComb

3:00–3:15 PM
733. Endoscopy Versus Shunt for the Treatment of Hydrocephalus or CSF Space Loculation in Infants Less Than One Year Old—A Comparison of Complications and Revision Rate
Michael J. Fritsch, Maximilian H. Meldorn, Tobias Ankermann, Sven Kienke, Thomas Eichmann, Stephan Ulmer, Ulrich R. Stiller
DISCUSSANT: John R. W. Kestle

3:15–3:30 PM
734. Understanding the Flow Dynamics of the Foramen Magnum in Chiari I Children Using MRI
Bermans J. Iskandar, Mark Quigley, Victor Haughton
DISCUSSANT: Thomas H. Milhorat

3:30–3:45 PM
735. Effect of Endoscopic Third Ventriculostomy on Neuropsychological Outcome in Late Onset Idiopathic Aqueductal Stenosis
Johannes Burtscher, Lisa Bartha, Klaus Twerdy, Wilhelm Eisner, Thomas Benke
DISCUSSANT: Michael R. Gaab

3:45–4:00 PM
736. Hemispherectomy: Outcome in Young Children
Jorge Gonzalez-Martinez, Elaine Wyllie, William Bingaman
DISCUSSANT: Jean-Guy Villemure

INVITED LECTURE
4:00–4:30 PM
Craniopharyngioma
SPEAKER: Maurice Choux

Don’t Forget to Place Your Bid!

Fifth Annual Silent Auction
April 28–30, 2003
San Diego, Calif.

Presented by the Young Neurosurgeons Committee, with proceeds benefiting the Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation

Electronics, medical equipment, medical books, and educational courses are just a few of the wide variety of items that will be auctioned off at the Fifth Annual Silent Auction during the AANS Annual Meeting. Preview the items on Saturday, April 26, at the NREF Booth located in the registration area and place your bids beginning Monday, April 28, in the AANS Resource Center, Booth #1315.

For more information, contact Laurie Singer at (847) 378-0526 or lms@aans.org.

Kenneth Shulman Award

The Kenneth Shulman Award is the award given yearly for the best research paper delivered by a resident at the winter meeting of the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery. This year's award was granted to David Adamson, MD, for his paper, “Mechanisms of Reclosure in the Surgical Model of Myelomeningocele: Implications for Fetal Surgery.” He will redeliver his talk during the Pediatric Section's session at the 2003 AANS Annual Meeting.
4:30–4:45 PM
737. Filium Terminale Sectioning for the Treatment of Bladder Dysfunction in the Pediatric Population  
Jeffrey E. Catrambone, Thomas G. Luerssen, Rajnik W. Raab, Peter W. Carmel  
DISCUSSANT: Cheryl A. Muszynski

4:45–5:00 PM
738. Phosphorus-32 Intracavitary Irradiation for Patients With Cystic Cranioopharyngiomas  
Constantinos G. Hadjipanayis, Tosihori Hasegawa, Douglas S. Kondziolka, L. Dade Lunsford  
DISCUSSANT: M. Gazi Yasargil

5:00–5:15 PM
739. The Prognostic Factors of Childhood Moyamoya Disease  
Young-Shin Ra, Yong-Su Kim, Byung Duk Kwun, Jung Kyo Lee  
DISCUSSANT: R. Michael Scott

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

PEDIATRIC POSTERS
2:00–2:45 PM

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery
2:45–5:30 PM  
MODERATOR: Ann Marie Flannery

Special Award
2:45–3:00 PM  
Kenneth Shulman Award  
RECIPIENT: David C. Adamson

Special Lecture
3:00–3:45 PM  
Donald D. Matson Memorial Lecture  
SPEAKER: Robin P. Humphreys

Special Events
Sunday, April 27, 2003

OPENING RECEPTION
6:30–8:30 PM  
Visit with colleagues and friends and enjoy the enticing flavors of many exotic ports of call in the Sails Pavilion at the San Diego Convention Center. The location highlights the views and splendor of San Diego Bay while the internationally flavored party features food from around the world. Funded in part by Codman & DePuy AcroMed, a Johnson & Johnson Company.

NREF “FUN”draiser
8:30–11:00 PM  
The Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation (NREF) is putting the “fun” back in fundraiser! Rock the night away during NREF’s second annual fundraiser with music of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s performed by Roz and the Wrecking Crew. Dance or relax and enjoy light hors d’oeuvres, desserts and an open bar. The NREF Fundraiser will be held at the San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina, immediately following the Opening Reception. Funded in part by Guilford Pharmaceuticals.

A reception honoring Robin P. Humphreys will be held at 6:30 p.m.

Scientific Session
4:00–5:30 PM

841. A Cost-effective Moulding Helmet: An Adjunct in the Management of Plagiocephaly and Scaphocephaly  
Emad Shenouda, Richard J. Edwards, Kevin Page, Arpad Konyves, Nigel Mercer, Ian K. Pople

842. Incidence and Outcome of Postmeningitic Hydrocephalus  
Richard J. Edwards, Kayal Vijaykumar, Ponnudas Prabhakar, Ian K. Pople, Peta M. Sharples

843. Endoscopic Treatment of Isolated Fourth Ventricle in Children  
Michael J. Fritsch, Maximilian H. Mehdorn, Kim H. Manwaring

844. Endoscopic Third Ventriculostomy: Long-term Survival Analysis  
David Kadrian, Marianne Vonau, Danielle Florida, Robert Jones, James VanGelder, Warwick Stening, Bernard Kwok, Charles Teo, Ralph Mobbs

845. Use of Intraoperative Ultrasound During Posterior Fossa Decompression for Chiari I Malformation  
David D. Yeh, Kerry R. Crone

846. Recovery of Neurodevelopment After a Prenatal Insult in Rats  
Shenandoah Robinson, Kathryn O’Keefe, Qing Li, Robert H Miller

Business Meeting
5:30–6:30 PM

A reception honoring Robin P. Humphreys will be held at 6:30 p.m.
Two Recipients Chosen for 2002 Resident's Prize
Promoting research and leadership in hydrocephalus is the goal of the Hydrocephalus Association's Resident's Prize, which is awarded each year to the best paper on hydrocephalus written by a physician completing a residency in neurosurgery.

The goal of the Resident's Prize, which was established in 1989 by Cynthia Solomon, a founding member of the Hydrocephalus Association, in memory of Henry Werdegar, MD, is to encourage neurosurgical residents to pursue the challenge of advancing research on and treatment of hydrocephalus. Our hope is that the neurosurgeons and researchers of tomorrow will have an impact on better outcomes for individuals living with hydrocephalus.

The Executive Committee of the Pediatric Section of the AANS/CNS reviews the submitted papers and determines the winner. This year, two papers considered to be exceptional were chosen. “Quick Brain’ MRI versus CT Scan for Evaluating Shunted Hydrocephalus” by Joshua E. Medow, MD, of the University of Wisconsin in Madison, reports a new magnetic resonance imaging sequence that shows substantial promise in evaluating the shunted hydrocephalic patient while minimizing many of the disadvantages seen with computed tomography. “Aberrant Neuronal Development in Hydrocephalus” by Jonathan P. Miller, MD, of Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio, shows that congenital hydrocephalus is associated with increased apoptotic activity as well as disruption of neuronal migration, which may explain the depletion of cortical neurons in hydrocephalus.

Better Data > Better Future: Database Project
On Feb. 6, 2003, the Hydrocephalus Database Project went live at www.hydrocephalusdatabase.org. The goal of the project is to create a national registry that will enable the Hydrocephalus Association to collect, store and synthesize information on the diagnosis, treatment and incidence of hydrocephalus, as well as its impact on the lives of people who have hydrocephalus.

The project’s goal is a database of at least 5,000 people with hydrocephalus. Doctors, research scientists and other professionals wishing to receive information from the database must apply to the Hydrocephalus Association for access.

It is hoped that all members of the neurosurgical community will encourage their patients, young and old, to participate in this project. The survey can be viewed at the demonstration site, www.hydrocephalusdatabase.org/demo.html.

Brochures explaining the project (and a display stand) for your office are available free from the Hydrocephalus Association by calling (415) 732-7040.
Pediatric neurosurgeons are discovering how to leverage the resources and energies of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to improve the provision of neurosurgical care for children.

As of the October 2002 National Conference and Exhibition in Boston, the Section on Neurological Surgery had 58 members (including one “Emeritus Fellow,” Martin Johnson, MD), and the applications of three new Specialty Fellows were approved: Bermans Iskandar, MD, Howard Weiner, MD, and Daniel Won, MD. Later this spring the section will elect three new members to the Executive Committee, as well, to join Jack Walker, MD (chair), Hector James, MD (secretary), Joseph Piatt, MD (chair-elect), and Gordon McComb, MD.

AAP Works Nationally

On a national level the work of the AAP focuses on the ongoing education of pediatricians through continuing medical education programs and publications of various kinds; development of policy statements, clinical guidelines, technical reports, and reports of sections and committees; and creation of patient education and advocacy programs. Neurosurgeons are now contributing to that work: At the 2002 National Conference and Exhibition, David McLone, MD, represented the section at the “CNS Malformations” seminar that was co-sponsored with the Section on Genetics and Birth Defects. Similar educational programs are planned for 2003 and 2004.

The Guidelines for Referral to Pediatric Surgical Specialists is an important policy statement developed with participation of the section. This powerful endorsement of pediatric surgical sub-specialists and regional children’s medical centers was published in the July 2002 issue of *Pediatrics* and is available online at [www.aap.org/policy/s090155.html](http://www.aap.org/policy/s090155.html). Under the leadership of David Adelson, MD, who also represents the Think First/National Injury Prevention Foundation, the section is cooperating with the Section on Injury, Violence, and Poisoning Prevention in the development of safety curricula for school-age children and educational programs for pediatricians.

AAP Connects Locally

On a local level the work of the AAP is conducted through regional districts and state chapters. The section has designated liaisons to each of the regional districts, but state chapters welcome specialty liaisons also. Liaison with state chapters is a great way to connect with the local pediatric community and an important opportunity to provide neurosurgical perspectives on the issues that it faces, as well. Interested AAP members are invited to contact the section chair, Jack Walker, MD, or the section manager, Chelsea Kirk (ckirk@aap.org).


Neurosurgeons interested in Specialty Fellowship in the American Academy of Pediatrics can learn more about the application process at the AAP Web site, [www.aap.org/member/](http://www.aap.org/member/)

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**Moved? New E-mail?**

Notify AANS, CNS and ABNS of changes to your contact information online. Go to [www.neurosurgery.org/directory](http://www.neurosurgery.org/directory), locate your record by searching on your name, click the “update your listing” button, and follow the instructions to quickly and easily update your listing for all three organizations at once.

**Short Cuts Becomes an Electronic Newsletter**

**Rick Abbott, MD**

After much discussion over the past year it was decided at the executive meeting in Phoenix to cease sending *Short Cuts* by mail and instead make it available exclusively online. This will result in a significant cost savings to the section. Consequently, this will be the last copy of *Short Cuts* you will receive via mail. Please make sure that our Membership Committee chair is aware of any changes in your e-mail address so that you will receive your e-mail notification linking you to the *Short Cuts* online.
Dec. 5, 2002
Ballroom A
Hyatt at the Gainey Ranch, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Call to Order
Thomas G. Luerssen, MD, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes
There was a motion that the minutes of the previous business meetings in April 2002 and September 2002 be accepted. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved by acclamation.

Financial Report
Fiscal 2002 ended with a net profit of $12,824. The net revenue for the Pediatric Section’s Annual Meeting in New York amounted to $23,977. However, there was a net loss of $11,152 for administrative expenses, which included a shortfall of $1,009 in the investment account budget of $10,000. There was a net loss of $3,051 for fiscal 2001 and fiscal 2002.

To improve long-term fiscal viability without depending on investment income to offset administrative expenses, it was decided that the section’s annual dues will increase to $100, and that Pediatric Short Cuts will become an exclusively online publication for a savings of approximately $2,000 each year.

The budget for fiscal 2003 will balance if there is a $6,000 profit beyond what is budgeted for the annual meeting and no loss in the budgeted investment portfolio. Annual meeting expenses are projected at $187,300, and revenue at $187,175. Other revenue streams include $25,000 in dues; $8,912 from the American Association of Neurological Surgeons; and investment income, although in this area projections currently are uncertain.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee
Arthur Marlin, MD, presented the following applicants for consideration for membership in the section:

Active
David H. Harter, MD, Valhalla
Moise Danielpour, MD, Los Angeles
Catherine Anne Ruebenacker-Mazzola, MD, Hackensack
Mahmoud Rashi, MD, Shreveport
Joseph F. Dilastro, MD, Norfolk
Camal K. Kalia, MD, Springfield
Roberta P. Glick, MD, Chicago
Jodi L. Smith, MD, PhD Indianapolis
Joseph V. Queenan, MD, Wilmington
Bradley E. Weprin, MD, Dallas

Active (Foreign)
Oguz Cataltepe, MD, Ankara

It was moved, seconded and passed to accept all candidates for membership in their respective categories.

Rules and Regulations Committee
No report.

Nominating Committee
Marion L. Walker, MD, gave the report from the nominating committee in the absence of John P. Laurent, MD. The following list of candidates was recommended.

Chair: Andrew D. Parent, MD
Chair-Elect: Rick Abbott, MD
Secretary: Jeffrey H. Wisoff, MD
Treasurer: Ann-Christine Duhaime, MD
Members-at-Large: Fredrick A. Boop III, MD (2-year term)
Bruce A. Kaufman, MD (2-year term)
Ian F. Pollack, MD (1-year term)

Election of Officers
The candidates were offered by office. Dr. Luerssen requested any nominations from the floor. There were none. Nominations were closed. Voting was by show of hands. All nominated officers were elected unanimously.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports
No reports.

Annual Meeting Report
Dr. Luerssen reported that the Grand Hotel in Salt Lake City will be the site of the section’s 32nd Annual Meeting, scheduled Tuesday, Dec. 2, through mid-day on Friday, Dec. 5, 2003.

New Business
The section has been asked to supply two editors and topics for Neurosurgical Focus. Volunteers for these positions are requested.

Volunteers to serve as liaisons to the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery (ISPN) also are being sought. This is a very important society for our specialty outside of the United States and the section’s Executive Committee feels that we should have a closer relationship. Appointees to this position would be expected to attend the yearly meetings of the ISPN and represent the section at the ISPN executive meeting. These annual meetings are typically held every September or October, and are usually outside of North America. Upcoming meetings are:

2003 Monaco
2004 Buenos Aires
2005 Vancouver
2006 Taipei

Adjournment
No further business was brought from the floor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Abbott, MD
Secretary
Meeting the 9/11 Challenge
Dr. Abbott also played a major role in what turned out to be the most challenging aspect of my term. He was the chair for our winter 2001 meeting, and we were all looking forward to this meeting in New York City in December. Then came Sept. 11. For a week or two, no one, including me, had a clue about what to do. Needless to say, we did not have any contingency plans that even remotely approached responding to an event like this. Throughout all of the subsequent emergency conferences, conference calls, and messaging, Dr. Abbott continued to advocate having the meeting as planned. The amount of extra effort that he and his staff put into getting this meeting together after Sept. 11 can only be described as heroic.

The Rest of the Story
You already know the rest of the story. This was one of the most successful winter meetings the section has ever had. We set a record for attendance and for foreign attendance at one of our meetings. The Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery was the first neurosurgical organization and one of the very first medical organizations to bring a convention back to New York after the terrorist attacks. And, through a unique and generous arrangement with Medtronic, the section members who attended the meeting donated $15,000 to the New York Police and Fire Widows and Children Benefit Fund. To be sure, countless people worked incredibly hard to pull this off, but I doubt that anyone worked harder and with more determination than Rick and Lainy Abbott.

This spring we change officers. Andrew Parent, MD, will assume the responsibilities of the chair. Dr. Parent has served the Pediatric Section at almost every level for many years and will bring all of this experience along with the temperament of a true southern gentleman. Dr. Abbott moves up to become the first ever chair-elect. I suspect that you will see some new names on the Executive Committee and some new committees and committee chairs. Throughout this transition, I am confident that your Pediatric Section will continue to meet every challenge and continue to serve the membership well. I will move on to the Washington Committee and will do my best to help represent the Pediatric Section in the important work of this committee.

Short Cuts: Exclusively Online This Fall
Finally, if the plans we have made unfold correctly, this will also be the last newsletter that is printed and mailed to you. From now on, we will send each member of the Pediatric Section an e-mail notifying him or her that the new newsletter is on the section’s Web page at www.neurosurgery.org/pediatric/newsletter. Other sections are already doing this. It is another way to save money and it continues to bring us more fully into the modern age of communications.

Thanks again to everyone for your advice, suggestions, and support.
### AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery

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#### Future Annual Meeting Chair
TBA

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