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Chairman’s Message

A Vibrant Organization with a Bright Future

Ronald E. Warnick, MD

Mayfield Clinic & Spine Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio

The AANS/CNS Section on Tumors has just completed a successful two-year term under the outstanding leadership of Dr. Raymond Sawaya supported by a highly productive Executive Committee. Some of the most important accomplishments included:

1. Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Section on Tumors (including the 20th Anniversary Brochure),
2. Special Issue of the Journal of Neuro-Oncology distributed in CD format to all section members,
3. Formation of the Integra Foundation Award for the best clinical research paper focusing on benign tumors of the central nervous system,
4. A publication in Neurosurgical Focus recounting the history of the Section on Tumors, and
5. A national survey documenting current patterns of resident training in neuro-oncology.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Sawaya and the previous Executive Committee for leaving the Section on Tumors in such great standing.

Leadership Transition

As I assume the Chairman position of the Section on Tumors, I would like to briefly outline some new initiatives:

1. The Section on Tumors has sometimes been viewed as an organization comprised primarily of academic neurosurgeons specializing in glioma surgery. I would like to make the Section on Tumors more relevant to community brain tumor neurosurgeons and thereby encourage their membership in our section. To this end, Dr. Anthony Asher will chair the new Community Collaborative Initiatives Subcommittee and will develop a strategic plan to accomplish these goals.
2. The Section on Tumors is a strong, vibrant organization that needs to continue strengthening its relationships with other national neuro-oncology organizations. For this reason, I have formed two new subcommittees: Medical Neuro-Oncology led by Dr. Susan Chang and Skull Base Surgery led by Dr. Franco DeMonte. These chairs will function as liaisons between the Section on Tumors and their respective organizations (The Society of Neuro-Oncology and the North American Skull Base Society) with regards to joint activities such as publications and meetings.
3. The Section on Tumors needs to broaden its international representation in order to strengthen relationships with worldwide neuro-oncology organizations. To this end, I have expanded the International Subcommittee to a total of seven members representing Latin America, Europe, Australia and the Far East.
4. The Section on Tumors Executive Committee must ensure the future success of our Section by developing the future leaders of our organization. Therefore, I have appointed thirteen new members to the Executive Committee and paired the younger members with a more senior neurosurgeon from the Advisory Board to establish a one-to-one mentorship program.

Dedicated Volunteers

The members of the Section on Tumors are fortunate to have a strong Executive Committee comprised of 46 highly motivated volunteers who are committed to ensuring the success of our organization. Although it is not possible to mention each and every member, I would be continued on page 2
It is my pleasure to assume the role of Editor of Tumor News. I feel privileged to work in this capacity over the next two years, under the Section on Tumors leadership of Drs. Ronald Warnick and Michael McDermott. Tumor News is the semi-annual official newsletter of the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors. The success and usefulness of this publication depends on the input from the section membership, so we welcome submissions for potential future publications as well as “letters to the editor” commenting on previous articles. We encourage contributions related to specific tumor-related topics or of general interest to the neurosurgical oncology community.

In the coming year, in addition to feature articles, each issue will present a “Chairman’s Message,” as well as reports from some of the various Section on Tumors subcommittees. Tumor News will continue to update neurosurgeons on the activities of the Section on Tumors, including Annual Meeting highlights, changes in the Section on Tumors bylaws, and Membership services.

In this issue of the newsletter, Dr. Ronald Warnick greets us with his “Chairman’s Message,” and Dr. Michael McDermott summarizes the financial aspects of the Section in the “Treasurer’s Report.” Dr. McDermott also provides a description of the recent Section on Tumors awards at the AANS 2005 Annual Meeting in New Orleans this past spring. Dr. Kevin Lillehei reports on the First Annual Aspen Symposium on Brain Tumor Immunotherapy, and Dr. Roberta Glick summarizes the past and future activities of the Immunotherapy Task Force. Dr. Randy Jensen reports on the results of a recent survey of neurosurgical oncology training, and Drs. Fred Barker and McDermott highlight a recently published article in Neurosurgical Focus on the history of the Section on Tumors awards. For the International Report, Dr. Fumio Yamaguchi provides a summary of recent neuro-oncology activities in Japan and other parts of Asia.

In addition, under Dr. Ronald Warnick’s leadership, three new subcommittees have been added to the Section on Tumors: 1) Community Collaborative Initiatives, headed by Dr. Anthony Asher; 2) Medical Neuro-Oncoology subcommittee, chaired by Dr. Susan Chang; and 3) Skull Base Surgery Subcommittee, directed by Dr. Franco DeMonste. In this issue of the newsletter, Dr. Chang provides a report of the activities of the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) in conjunction with the Section on Tumors; and Dr. DeMonste updates us on the activities of the North American Skull Base Society.

If you have any suggestions for Tumor News or content to submit for publication in an upcoming issue, please contact me at:
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Associate Professor of Neurosurgery
UCLA Division of Neurosurgery
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
10833 Le Conte Avenue, CHS 74-145
Los Angeles, CA 90095-6901
Tel: (310) 267-2621; Fax: (310) 825-7245
E-mail: LLIAU@mednet.ucla.edu

Treasurer’s Report
Michael W. McDermott, MD
University of California, San Francisco, California

Total assets for the Section on Tumors for the current year ending June 30, 2005 were $260,246. Compared to the prior year, this is a decrease of 7.9 percent – reflecting additional costs for the Section on Tumors Satellite meetings and mailing of the 20th Anniversary publication CDs. These expenditures resulted in a decrease in our checking balance. On the other hand, short term investments were up 5 percent and long term investments were up 6 percent adding to stable long term reserves now totaling $169,000.

Under Dr. Ronald Warnick’s leadership, the section is working with the AANS Executive Office to control costs for annual meetings and to promote recruitment of new members. Outstanding amounts for activities at the New Orleans AANS Annual Meeting of 2005 have been addressed and we expect to collect these funds shortly. Currently, outstanding membership dues total $9,262 and efforts will be made to collect unpaid dues. Members with more than three years unpaid dues will have their membership status revoked.
The 2005 AANS Annual Meeting in New Orleans was another success for the Section on Tumors. Of course our thoughts and prayers now go out to the people of New Orleans as they try to rebuild and recover from Hurricane Katrina. There is no doubt our annual meeting will be held in New Orleans in future years.

The section was pleased to present for the first time the Integra Foundation Award to be given at each annual meeting of the AANS and CNS for the best research or clinical paper submitted investigating benign brain, spinal or peripheral nerve tumors. The monetary component of the award is $1,000—similar to our other major awards. Both residents and attending neurosurgeons are eligible to submit papers for consideration and the award will be given to a recipient only once. Dr. Bruce Pollock from Mayo Clinic was this year’s AANS recipient for his paper: A Prospective Study Comparing Patient Outcomes after Vestibular Schwannoma Resection and Stereotactic Radiosurgery. The Award certificate was presented to Dr. Pollock by Dr. Michael McDermott, left, chair of the Awards Committee (Figure 1).

Following the success of the Satellite Symposium in October 2004 in San Francisco, Drs. Frederick Barker and Michael McDermott prepared a historical review of the Section on Tumors and its awards published in Neurosurgical Focus at www.aans.org/education/journal/neurosurgical/. The article entitled Prizes, Lectures, and Awards of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Section on Tumors (Neurosurg Focus 18(4): E11, 2005) is available online and a must-read for new and established members of the section who would like to understand where we came from, the important figures in our past, and where we are today. Many thanks to Fred Barker for spearheading this effort.

The Awards Committee leadership has now changed hands and Dr. Jeffrey Bruce will oversee day-to-day, meeting-to-meeting operations. There is a new award to announce at the upcoming CNS meeting which will be awarded for the first time at the AANS and CNS Annual Meetings to a young scientist investigating brain tumors, within 10 years of training, who has submitted the best basic science research paper.

At the 2005 AANS Annual Meeting the winner was Dr. Cory Adamson, for his paper entitled, Identification of OTX2 as a Medulloblastoma Oncogene Whose Product Can Be Targeted by All-Trans Retinoic Acid. The award was presented to Dr. Adamson, left, by Dr. Donald O’Rourke, right (Figure 3).

Preuss Award

The Preuss Award, sponsored by the Preuss Foundation, is given at each of the AANS and CNS Annual Meetings to a young scientist investigating brain tumors, within 10 years of training, who has submitted the best basic science research paper.

At the 2005 AANS Annual Meeting the winner was Dr. Ajay Jawahar for his paper, Phase II Randomized Trial to Assess the Efficacy of Gamma Knife Radiosurgery with or without XRT for Brain Metastases. Named in memory of neurosurgeon Steven Mahaley, the Mahaley Award is given at each of the AANS and CNS Annual Meetings to a neurosurgery resident, fellow or attending, who submits the best clinical study in neuro-oncology. The applicant must be a member of the section and can receive the award only once. The award is sponsored by the National Brain Tumor Foundation. The award was presented to Dr. Jawahar, left, by Dr. Raymond Sawaya (Figure 4).

Farber Award

This year’s award was presented by Dr. Raymond Sawaya, right, Section on Tumors chair, to Dr. James Rutka (Figure 2). Dr. Rutka, past chair of the Section on Tumors and chairman of Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto, was recognized for his outstanding work on medulloblastoma and the outstanding researchers in neuro-oncology he has trained. Dr. Rutka holds the Dan Family Chair in Neurosurgery and is the director of the Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumor Research Center. His presentation entitled Medulloblastoma: From mice to men documented the history of basic science research as it relates to medulloblastoma and the implications and applications of this work for the clinical care of patients afflicted with this tumor.

Sponsored by the Farber Foundation, the Farber Award is presented at the annual meetings of the AANS and Society for Neuro-oncology on alternate years and the awardee speaks at both meetings the year the award is bestowed. The recipient is selected by the presidents of the two societies and the Section on Tumors Awards Chair based on nominees from the executive committees of both societies. The award recognizes the most promising investigators who are achieving significant results early in their careers and is given only once to a recipient.

Farber Award

This year’s recipient was Dr. Adamson, left, for his paper entitled, Identification of OTX2 as a Medulloblastoma Oncogene Whose Product Can Be Targeted by All-Trans Retinoic Acid. The award was presented to Dr. Adamson, left, by Dr. Donald O’Rourke, right (Figure 3).

Mahaley Award

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continued on page 4
Aspen Symposium on Brain Tumor Immunotherapy

Kevin O. Lillehei, MD, University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado

The Aspen Symposium on Brain Tumor Immunotherapy was held August 8 - 9, 2005 at the Given Institute in Aspen, Colorado. The symposium, chaired by Dr. Kevin Lillehei, was sponsored by the Immunotherapy Task Force of the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, and the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Colorado. Sixteen talks were presented over a two-day interval covering various aspects of basic neuro-immunology and immunotherapy, along with novel treatment strategies. The novel approaches to the treatment of high-grade gliomas included a variety of vaccine therapies, the use of antisense oligonucleotides to block intracranial inhibitory cytokine production, use of chimeric T-cell clones engineered for anti-tumor effect, and immuno-gene therapy. Participants included representatives from most of the major tumor centers in the United States, as well as a group from Regensburg, Germany. The symposium was enthusiastically received, providing a focused platform for the presentation and discussion of leading work on brain tumor immunotherapy. Because of the overwhelming support for this year’s symposium, plans are underway for the “2nd Annual Aspen Symposium on Brain Tumor Immunotherapy” scheduled for August 7 - 9, 2006. The format of the meeting will be changed to three half-day morning sessions, allowing for the afternoons and evenings to be free for family activities, exploring the mountains, and attending the Aspen music festival activities.

Young Investigator Award
Sponsored by the American Brain Tumor Association, the Young Investigator Award is given at each AANS and CNS Annual Meeting to a young faculty member involved in neuro-oncology research who has demonstrated outstanding potential for future basic science research. The applicant may only have been out of training and in practice for less than six years.

At the 2005 AANS Annual Meeting the winner was Dr. Carlo Benech, for his paper, *Effects of Antisense ODNs for VEGF Vehiculated by Colloidal Carriers (Solid Lipid Nanoparticles) in an Experimental Model of Glioma*. The award was presented to Dr. Benech, left, by Dr. Ronald Warnick (Figure 5).

Ronald L. Bittner Award
This year’s recipient was Dr. Manish Aghi who presented his paper, *Increased Ratio of T2-Bright MRI Volume to T1-Enhancing Volume in EGFR-Amplified Glioblastoma*.

The Bittner Award is presented annually at the AANS Annual Meeting to recognize excellence in clinical and basic science research in neuro-oncology. The award was presented to Dr. Aghi, right, by Dr. Rutka, past chair of the section (Figure 6).

Journal of Neuro-Oncology Award
Dr. Ronald Warnick presented the award to this year’s recipient Dr. Walter Stummer, left, for his paper, *Multicentric Phase III Study on Fluorescence-Guided Resection of Malignant Gliomas with 5-ALA: Preliminary Results on Interim Analysis of 270 Patients*.

Sponsored by Springer Publishing, this award is given to the highest ranked presentation on tumors during the Section on Tumors Annual Meeting (Figure 7).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Name</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>AANS Awardee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Farber Award</td>
<td>Farber Foundation</td>
<td>Dr. James Rutka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahaley Award</td>
<td>National Brain Tumor Foundation</td>
<td>Dr. Ajay Jawahar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preuss Award</td>
<td>Preuss Foundation</td>
<td>Dr. D. Cory Adamson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Investigator Award</td>
<td>American Brain Tumor Association</td>
<td>Dr. Carlo A. Benech</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integra Foundation Award</td>
<td>Integra Foundation</td>
<td>Dr. Bruce Pollock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Bittner Award</td>
<td>Ronald L. Bittner Foundation</td>
<td>Dr. Manish Aghi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Neuro-Oncology Award</td>
<td>Springer Publishing</td>
<td>Dr. Walter Stummer</td>
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In recent years, there has been an increased interest in the development of immunologic strategies for the treatment of brain tumors. It is evident by the many questions, inquiries and contacts from patients and physicians (including neurosurgeons) that there is an urgent need to coordinate and disseminate the current information and ongoing research in this field. Even within the scientific community, many do not know what current studies are underway, the results of ongoing clinical trials, what immune parameters should be monitored in these clinical trials, whether these studies should be multi-center trials, and what further pre-clinical work needs to be done.

Several researchers and clinicians involved in neuro-oncology thought this need could be met via a focused research group. To this end, we have organized a multi-disciplinary group (i.e., an “Immunotherapy Task Force”), a kind of “neural environment” as a means of facilitating communication among researchers, both basic science and clinical, and as a means of coordinating multi-center collaborative research efforts. Since the initiation of this group in 2001, we have grown to over 75 members.

We have organized this Immunotherapy Task Force in order to bring people in the field together for the purposes of education/research and to evaluate the need for an Immunotherapy Consortium. The meetings are organized into three parts: Invited Lecturer, Research Talks (oral presentations), and Round Table Discussions. Previous invited lecturers have included Dr. Darell Bigner and Dr. Edward Oldfield.

The goals of these meetings are threefold:
(1) First, to present and evaluate the novel and current laboratory and clinical research in the field of brain tumor immunotherapy in order to coordinate and disseminate current information and ongoing research in the field;
(2) Second, to achieve consensus regarding what clinical endpoints and immune system monitoring parameters should be evaluated in clinical studies; and
(3) Third, to evaluate the need and timing for an Immunotherapy Consortium for conducting multi-center clinical trials.

As a result of the growing interest and promising early results in this exciting and changing field, a special issue of the Journal of Neuro-Oncology (September 2003) had been dedicated to clinical and basic research in brain tumor immunotherapy. The articles in this issue represent work from many of the leading researchers in the field of brain tumor immunotherapy, most of whom are members of the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors Immunotherapy Task Force. This issue was dedicated to one of our great past teachers and proponent of immunotherapy, Dr. Stephen Mahaley.

The Section on Tumors recently commissioned a survey to investigate how neurosurgical residents are trained in the subspecialty of neurosurgical oncology. This is a subject of special interest to the Section on Tumors because of its specific involvement in the education of practitioners managing patients with tumors involving the nervous system. The full results of this survey have been submitted for publication in the Journal of Neuro-Oncology.

The survey organizers determined that faculty background; resident rotations, research opportunities, and caseload; and post-graduate neuro-oncology-related activities would all provide important information to evaluate the opportunities available to residents. Anonymous surveys were sent to 106 North American training centers and approximately 40 percent (n=44) of the programs responded to the survey.

The results of the survey were varied. More than 90 percent of the responding programs have a faculty member that specializes in neurosurgical oncology, which provides the basis for strong training. However, neurosurgical oncology fellowships or dedicated neuro-oncology resident rotations, which would provide more direct contact with neuro-oncology patients and faculty, are found only in a small number of responding programs. Nevertheless, most residency programs support resident research, including exposure

Table 1. Resident exposure to tumor cases during the final year of residency

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tumor type</th>
<th>Number of cases/year</th>
<th>Number of programs*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary brain tumors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;100</td>
<td>15 (34%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;100</td>
<td>29 (66%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skull base tumors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;50</td>
<td>20 (46%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;50</td>
<td>24 (54%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spine/peripheral nerve tumors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;50</td>
<td>30 (70%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;50</td>
<td>14 (30%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Forty-four of 106 neurosurgical resident training programs responded.
The 64th Annual Meeting of the Japan Neurosurgical Society
Oct. 5-7, 2005, Yokohama, Japan
http://www.congre.co.jp/jnss2005

The 23rd Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Neuro-Oncology
Oct. 31-Nov 1, 2005, Kagoshima, Japan
e-mail: mkeishi@kaiju.medic.kumamoto-u.ac.jp

The 4th Meeting of Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology
Nov. 4-6, 2005, Taipei, Taiwan

The 10th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Congress for Brain Tumor Surgery
Nov. 25-26, 2005, Saga, Japan

12th International Symposium on Pediatric Neuro-Oncology 2006
June 6-9, 2006, Nara, Japan

Prizes, Lectures, and Awards of the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors
Frederick G. Barker II, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts & Michael W. McDermott, MD, University of California, San Francisco, California

An important goal of the Section on Tumors, since its founding in 1985, has been to foster both education and research in the field of brain tumor treatment. As one means of achieving this, the section awards a number of prizes, research grants, and named lectures at the annual meetings of the AANS and CNS. After a brief examination of similar honors that were given in recognition of pioneering work by Knapp, Cushing, and other early brain tumor researchers, the authors describe the various awards given by the Section on Tumors since its founding, their philanthropic donors, and the recipients of the awards. The subsequent career of the recipients is briefly examined, in terms of the rate of full publication of award-winning abstracts and achievement of grant funding by awardees.

A full article of this historical perspective of the Section on Tumors can be found in the online journal Neurosurgical Focus (Barker FG II & McDermott MW, Neurosurg Focus, April 15, 2005).

International Report: Japan
Fumio Yamaguchi, MD, PhD, Nippon Medical School, Tokyo, Japan

The 6th Annual Meeting of the Japan Molecular Neurosurgery Society was held in September in Osaka, Japan. Cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL) induced by the WT1 peptide vaccine seem to have some efficacy as immunotherapy for recurrent malignant gliomas. A Phase I/II clinical trial of this peptide vaccine has been completed and resulted in partial responses and in some cases prolonged survival. Dendritic cell (DC) therapy and autologous natural killer (NK) cell therapy for malignant gliomas were also reported to be effective and safe in several clinical trials. Basic research currently undertaken in the field of brain tumors was also covered during the meeting. Factors that are currently studied in Japan include virus vectors expressing IL-12, Hsp90 inhibition, thermo-reversible gelatin polymers, survivin, BNIP3, CD44, neuroleukin/gp78 and JNK.

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association held on September 14-16, 2005 focused on translational research and custom-made medicine. Particularly, brain tumor research reported at this meeting included therapies targeting Bcl-2, JNK and HB-EGF; the analysis of IGFBP2, chromosome 19, TSG1, MET; and new advances in proteomics. With such research endeavors, we are actively working towards the eradication of brain tumors.

We expect to have several upcoming meetings focusing on tumors of the central nervous system. The upcoming meetings in Japan and other Asian countries include:
A new Medical Neuro-Oncology Subcommit-
tee was formed since the AANS 2005 Annual
Meeting in New Orleans. I will be the liaison
between the Section on Tumors and the Society
of Neuro-Oncology (SNO). In this role, I will
cover matters concerning joint activities such
as publications and meetings, and I will serve as a resource for the
Section on Tumors membership regarding updates in the field of
medical neuro-oncology.

The Society of Neuro-Oncology Executive Committee held a
planning meeting in Orlando in May 2005. The major goals for
SNO in the upcoming years are related to research, education and
support of the infrastructure of the society. While the annual meet-
ing is the primary meeting for SNO, other opportunities for ad-
ditional educational events were discussed. Particularly relevant to
the Section on Tumors was the partnering with this society to offer
a meeting more tailored to neurosurgeons. Preliminary discussions
have been very favorable in both societies about this joint meeting,
and planning is in its initial phase. Details regarding the scientific
program and support for the joint meeting will be reviewed by Drs.
Andrew Parsa and Frederick Lang.

In addition to the SNO/Section on Tumors meeting, another
proposed joint activity is the development of reporting guidelines
for surgically based neuro-oncology clinical trials. A manuscript
outlining the Guidelines for Neuro-Oncology Standards for Inves-
tigational Studies (GNOSIS statement) for the reporting of Phase I
and II drug trials in Neuro-Oncology has been published with the
collaboration of many members of SNO. (Chang et al., GNO-
SIS-Guidelines for Neuro-Oncology: standards for investigations
studies-reporting of phase I and II clinical trials. Neuro-Oncology
2005, Vol 7, Issue 4, online). The guidelines are intended to assist
with accurate interpretation of results, facilitate peer review, and
expedite the publication of important and accurate manuscripts.
The guidelines are summarized in a checklist format and can be
used to construct a trial.

Using a similar format and the involvement of members of the
Section on Tumors, the plan is to generate guidelines for reporting
surgically-based therapeutic trials in Neuro-Oncology. An initial
draft has been started, which I will review with several members of
the section for their input. Publication in the Journal of Neuro-On-
cology as well as Neuro-Oncology is being planned, and possibly
other neurosurgical journals as well.
to various brain tumor clinical trials, which offer residents critical exposure to the collection, analysis, and interpretation of clinical observations that will significantly improve the individual’s rational approach to the management of patients and the critical judgment of his or her own work and reports in the literature.

In addition to faculty mentoring, an appropriate caseload will expose a resident to a breadth and depth of neuro-oncology-related disease states. Resident caseload varies by program but most residency programs that responded to the survey offer more than 100 surgical cases of primary brain tumors (Table 1). Exposure to skull base tumors and spine and peripheral nerve cases is more limited, but is still generally available to residents (Table 1).

Overall, neuro-surgical oncology training at most residency programs appears to be strong at the programs that responded to our survey. Half of the responding programs indicated that graduates had taken faculty positions focusing on neurosurgical oncology, which must be one measure of success of neuro-oncology training. Nevertheless, resident training in neurosurgical oncology can be improved, and residents with interests in this subspecialty need support to further this field.

AANS/CNS Section on Tumors Seeking Feedback on Stereotactic Radiosurgery Coding Issues

Andrew E. Sloan, MD, University of South Florida

The AANS/CNS Task Force on Stereotactic Radiosurgery met in Chicago in late June to address the current clinical and administrative challenges in the field. The treatment of multiple lesions in a single session was addressed. Some centers are treating and billing for up to 30 lesions at a single session. After thorough review, the Task Force recommended that 61793 should be used to code for the first lesion in a session and 61793-59 or 61793-51 could be used for up to four additional lesions in the same session. However, it was agreed that 61793 should be used no more than five times in a single session. Under the auspices of the Washington Committee, the Task Force is currently addressing this coding issue. The Section on Tumors is seeking feedback on this. Please submit comments to SloanAE@Moffitt.usf.edu.

Membership in the AANS/CNS
Section on Tumors
Isabelle M. Germano, MD, FACS

Why join the Section on Tumors?
Consider the following benefits:

- Formal acknowledgement of your special interest in tumors
- Enhanced credibility with tumor patients and in medico-legal activities
- Semiannual newsletter
  - Latest news on section activities
  - Announcement of clinical trials
  - Interesting articles on advances in brain tumor management
- Journal of Neuro-Oncology 50 percent discount (the official journal of the Section on Tumors)
  - A multi-disciplinary journal encompassing basic, applied, and clinical investigations in all research areas as they relate to cancer and the central nervous system
- Reduced registration at the Section on Tumors Biennial Tumor Satellite Meeting
  - Up-to-date clinical and basic research on nervous system tumors presented by leaders in the field
- Access to colleagues with similar interests
  - Neurosurgeons with interest in peripheral, primary and metastatic CNS tumors, skull base and spinal tumors

Your membership also helps support the activities of the section, which serves as the official voice of AANS and CNS in matters related to tumors. The Section on Tumors deals with a myriad of tumor-related issues including new CPT codes, resident and fellowship education, research initiatives, and supports organized neurosurgery in areas pertinent to the scope of neurosurgical tumor practice and policy.

Active membership is available to members of the AANS and/or CNS with an interest in tumors. International and Adjunct (non-neurosurgeon) memberships are also available. An application and details on membership requirements are available at:


Send your complete application and recent CV to: Isabelle M. Germano, MD, FACS, Professor of Neurosurgery, Director-Stereotactic and Tumor Program, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, One Gustave Levy Place, Box 1136, New York, NY 10029, or e-mail to: isabelle.germano.mountsinai.org.
The Skull Base Surgery Subcommittee of the Section on Tumors is a newly formed subcommittee with the following charges:

1) To liaison with the North American Skull Base Society with regard to joint educational activities such as publications and meetings.

2) To serve as a resource for the Section on Tumors membership with regard to updates in the field of Skull Base Surgery.

3) To serve as a resource for the Scientific Committee of the section during the planning phases of the AANS/CNS Annual Meetings and Section on Tumors Satellite Symposia.

# AANS/CNS Joint Section on Tumors Leadership 2006-2007

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<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Ronald E. Warnick, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary-Treasurer</td>
<td>Michael W. McDermott, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past-Chairman</td>
<td>Raymond Sawaya, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisory Board</td>
<td>Ossama Al-Mefty, MD</td>
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<td>Mitchel S. Berger, MD</td>
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<td>Peter McL. Black, MD, PhD</td>
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<td>William T. Couldwell, MD, PhD</td>
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<td>Edward R. Laws Jr., MD</td>
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