



**AANS/CNS Joint Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves
Executive Committee Meeting**

**Loews Royal Pacific Resort, Universal Studios, Coral Sea Room, Orlando, Florida
Wednesday, March 16, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm**

AGENDA

ATTENDEES:

Officers:

Chair: Praveen Mummaneni, MD
Past Chair: John Hurlbert, MD
Chair-Elect: Jack Knightly, MD
Secretary: Marjorie Wang, MD
Treasurer: Michael Wang, MD

Voting Members:

Annual Meeting Chair: Zoher Ghogawala, MD
Scientific Program Chair: Adam Kanter, MD
Exhibits Chair: Daniel Hoh, MD
Media Chair: John Ratliff, MD

Non-Voting Members:

Member at Large 1: Eric Potts, MD
Member at Large 2: Frank Lamarca, MD,
Member at Large 3: Jean-Valery Coumans, MD
Ex-Officio: Langston Holly, MD

Standing Committee Chairs:

Annual Meeting Chair: Zo Ghogawala, MD
Education: Dom Coric, MD
Media Committee Chair: John Ratliff, MD
Nominating: R. John Hurlbert, MD; Michael Groff, MD; Joseph Cheng, MD
Payor Response: Charles Sansur, MD; Joseph Cheng, MD
Research and Awards: John Chi, MD
Rules and Regulations: W. Brad Jacobs, MD

Ad Hoc Committees:

CPT: Luis Tumialan, MD
D&D, ASTM/FDA: Jake Gologorsky, MD
Exhibits: Dan Hoh, MD/Michael Steinmetz, MD
Fellowship: Dan Sciubba, MD
Future Sites: Christopher Wolfla, MD
Guidelines: Sanjay Dhall, MD
Membership: Kurt Eichholz, MD; Aruna Ganju, MD, Co-Chair
NeuroPoint Alliance: Praveen Mummaneni, MD
NREF: Michael Groff, MD
Outcomes: Paul Park, MD
Peripheral Nerve TF: Lynda Yang, MD; Line Jacques, MD, Co-Chair
Publications: Justin Smith, MD
Public Relations: Michele Johnson, MD
Strategic Planning: Michael Groff, MD
Washington Committee: Scott Meyer, MD

YNC Committee: Laura Snyder, MD; Khoi Than, MD, Co-Chair

Liaisons: AANS Board Liaison: Susan Pannullo, MD
Intersociety Liaison: Michael Rosner, MD

Invited Guests: Regina Shupak, CNS; Jeremy Longhurst, Broadwater

Additional Guests: Daniel Lu, MD

Regrets: Susan Pannullo, MD, AANS Board Liaison

Absent: Ex Officio: Langston Holly, MD

AGENDA TOPICS

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSANT
1	Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 0800 hrs welcoming all attendees and opening comments.	Dr. Praveen Mummaneni
2	Approval of Minutes: available on Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A motion was raised to approve the previous EC Minutes from the CNS meeting, seconded and passed by attendees 	
	New Business: <p>A. Meeting Services Proposal Presentations by Broadwater (Jeremy Longhurst) and CNS (Regina Shupak)</p> <p>3.A Meeting Services BroadWater.pdf 3.A Meeting Services CNS.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Hurlbert discussed the meeting services proposals that were received from AANS, Broadwater, CNS and Association Management. Based on these proposals, two were selected for presentation – Broadwater and CNS. - A brief overview outlining what each company offered was presented followed by individual company proposal reviews <p>Broadwater Presentation – Mr. Jeremy Longhurst</p> <p>Mr. Longhurst reviewed the company history and experiences in addition to what they offer. With experience in meeting planning, education, and not bound by AANS or CNS criteria, they feel they are well equipped to offer the services required. Their estimate of \$105K on a three year contract includes the primary annual meeting as well as section EC meetings required at the parent AANS and CNS annual meetings. They are not adverse to partnering in a risk reward share and their proposal fee includes running the cadaver lab or other specialty sessions as required. Following his presentation, questions by attendees were raised including adequate staffing for meetings, possible conflicts with regards to vendor participation for competing concurrent meetings, CME accreditation, abstract services and potential additional hidden costs. Mr. Longhurst assured the committee that staffing would not be an issue; there would be no vendor conflict of interest as Broadwater sends all vendors a list of scheduled contracted meetings each Fall so they can select their meeting involvement for that calendar year; the fee proposed is a flat fee encompassing all services quoted including a cadaver course; CME accreditation is partnered with AANS and additional fees for this accreditation is included in their proposed fee structure; abstract services, if not continued with current service, can be replaced with an alternative without any issues; and access to staff prior to the annual meeting would be readily available without any difficulties to EC committee members.</p> <p>Following this discussion, Mr. Longhurst stated that he would be available for any further questions or clarifications as required. He was thanked for his participation and excused from the meeting.</p>	Dr. R. John Hurlbert

	<p>CNS Presentation: Ms Regina Shupak , Deanne Starr, and Michelle Lengerman</p> <p>As the current meeting contract holder, the CNS congratulated the section on a record-breaking attendance for this year's meeting.</p> <p>Based on the contract submission of \$100,000 plus 7% of gross with an estimated yearly cost of \$165,000 over a three year contract, the CNS would offer a \$15,000.00 per annum reduction. Ms. Shupak opened with a review of the CNS history and mission statement. As the CNS has been involved with the Spine Section since 2007, she briefly reviewed staffing, meeting scope, services, differences, ACCME accreditation with assurances of no industry bias, budgetary controls, expertise in meeting management, and corporate/exhibitor services. Since their involvement, the Section has seen consistent growth, and the CNS is committed to provide ongoing success.</p> <p>Following the presentation, questions were raised how the CNS would handle unforeseeable events or problems that might require cancellation of pending meetings and the associated monetary risks; how hotel rebates are handled; and the option of risk sharing. In response, CNS provides meeting cancellation insurance within their contract and will provide a risk assessment report to explain how cancellation or rescheduling issues and costs involved are handled. Hotel (10%) commission/rebates were generally used to offset invited guests and Section funded complementary hotel rooms. A more detailed budget report which shows these rebate funds as a credit can be provided.</p> <p>With respect to the risk sharing on the net rather than gross, it was explained that expenses are variable and that some decisions made by the annual meeting committee may not be felt by the CNS to be in the best interest of the section but after discussion, it was agreed that the meeting committee could liaise with the CNS personnel to review any new session ideas for their input before making a firm decision.</p> <p>Following this presentation, the CNS team was thanked and excused from the meeting.</p> <p>Considerable internal discussion reviewing the pros and cons of each presentation was undertaken by meeting members following which Dr. Mummaneni tabled this matter pending further investigation and allowing the CSN the right of first refusal to see if they can align themselves to the more competitive bid after ensuring the bids are equalized.</p>	
--	--	--

4	<p>Treasurer's Report:</p> <p>Dr. Wang reviewed the following submissions as follows:</p> <p>A. Portfolio Review 4.1 Treasurer4786_001MW.pdf</p> <p>There is just over \$4 Million dollars in the current portfolio with revenue generated each year through industry sponsorship and annual meeting income.</p> <p>B. Stmt of Financial Position 4.2 SP Financial Statements 12.31.15.pdf</p> <p>Assets, revenues, and expenses were reviewed including funds currently held in the Honor Your Mentors funds.</p> <p>C. Notes to Financial Statements 4.3 Spinenotes 12-31-15.pdf</p> <p>This report reviews the current and accrued liabilities, revenues involving contributions for operating expenses, and expenses related to bank fees, volunteer travel expense budget, and staff coordination.</p> <p>D. NREF Conference Call Spine Funds 4.4 email.PNG</p> <p>It was reported that funds provided for previous fellowships and grants of up to \$210,000 were not sustainable so this has been discontinued. The current NREF funds will be evenly distributed between the five Honor your Mentor funds which will be managed by individual assigned fund managers who will oversee disbursements and use.</p> <p>E. Honor Your Mentor Summary 4.5 HYM Action plan 1.6.16.xlsx</p> <p>As indicated above, these funds are set up through NREF like trust accounts established by various section leaders with donations by members. Each fund can act separately and independently. The previous total of over \$480,000 was split between the five HYM funds (Dunsker, Haid, Kuntz, Larson and Sonntag) of which \$50,000 each can be allocated each year for various awards at the discretion of the Spine Section.</p> <p>F. NREF Plan 16/01/12 4.6 DSPN NREF plan January 2016.docx</p> <p>A draft document has been submitted to the AANS for review with the Spine Section initiating this model role. It was suggested that there should be complete section control rather than an advisory role that was previously done.</p> <p>Action Plan DSPN-NREF partnership 4.7 Action plan for DSPN.docx</p> <p>- It is proposed that the Section invest \$100,000 per year for</p>	Dr. Michael Wang
---	--	------------------

	<p>5-7 years (12.5% of the current assets) to these NREF funds with equal distribution between the five HYM funds in addition to potential donations as the goal will be to become independent of industry funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The goal of the Section would be to have total control of the funds in NREF although there is no guaranteed interest accrued compared to previous funds held in annuities. - Discussions with respect to principal fund accessibility risks, annuity options, management fees and other potential monetary risks were raised. Following these discussions, it was elected to further review the option of reinvesting \$1.5 Million into an annuity program – Dr. Wang will undertake further discussions with UBS and report back at the next EC meeting for voting. - Following considerable review, it was proposed to proceed with the plan of providing \$100,000 per year for the next five years into the NREF Honor Your Mentor funds which replaces the previous \$40,000 annual NREF contributions. This proposal was seconded by Dr. Groff and passed unanimously. <p>G. Joint Section Awards/Educational Grants/Fellowships 4.8 SP Jt. Sections Awards.Educational Grants.Fellowships-FY17.pdf</p> <p>This year, there were 30 Kuntz awards for residents, 10 Larson awards to support international registrants, 9 Sonntag awards for international recipients, 1 resident Jane award, and 1 Kline research award – this latter award is sponsored by Integra.</p>	
	<p>New Business: (continued)</p> <p>C. CSRS/Joint Section Study – Dr. R. Heary 3.C CSRS-Joint Section Study.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As the current president of CSRS, Dr. Heary is proposing partnering with the spine section on a clinical trial to evaluate the morbidity of iliac crest autograft versus allograft sponsored by Medtronic. Criteria would involve centers that are currently doing cases using iliac crest bone grafts. Criteria would involve sites where at least ten cervical spine cases using tricortical/structural iliac crest bone grafts are done per year. Questions from members included budget available, as well as radiological follow-up requirements and costs. Dr Heary stated that the budget would not allow for hiring a research coordinator and did admit that the study would likely require a study coordinator to manage the paperwork required. In addition, there would be no additional budget available for post-op CT or MR imaging should routine flex/ex studies demonstrate any issues. On a quick poll, most members indicated they do not use iliac crest bone grafts for their cervical instrumented fusion cases but after additional comments and discussion, it was decided to defer a decision until further 	

review. Dr. Heary invited all members to the next CSRS meeting which is scheduled to take place in Toronto in early December.

D. SCI Research funding US Dept. Defense – Dr. R. McCafferty

[3.D DOD SCI Research Funding.pdf](#)

- Dr. McCafferty, an Air Force neurosurgeon was invited to present to EC members that the Department of Defense provides \$30 million to the spinal cord injury research program (SCIRP) for injured veterans. The application process was briefly discussed and brochures distributed to members. Dr. McCafferty is looking to expand opportunities for spinal colleagues who are looking for external and alternative funding sources. Following a brief discussion, Dr. Dan Lu will liaise with Dr. McCafferty and interested section members.

E. CNS update – Dr. M. Steinmetz

[3.E CNS Update.pptx](#)

Dr. Steinmetz reviewed:

- The ongoing collaboration between the Spine Section and CNS with respect to the Getch Scholar K12, journal support, 2016 annual meeting highlights, EC meeting reciprocal reporting, SPC representation, meeting management, SANS MOC courses and educational initiatives.
- A proposal had been made for more section representation on CNS EC bi-annual meetings and this was passed to have the section chair attend both the Winter and Fall CNS EC meeting for spine input and ongoing collaborations including the CNS education division and annual meeting SPC.
- There is a new collaboration with the CNS foundation and FNIH/NNDS to create the Getch Scholar K12 award for a mentor fellowship in clinical research. This two year award grants \$100,000 per year to a young neurosurgeon within two years of completing residency or fellowship and will be awarded every other year with a goal to award every year.
- The Spine Section donated \$10,000 in 2016 to this award and the foundation is hoping for ongoing annual support which would be publically recognized – it was mentioned that the NIH has pledged to match donated funds (dollar for dollar). CNS recently provided a total of \$2500 to offset an international meeting Dr. Mummaneni was invited to.
- There will be changes to the Neurosurgery journal with an increase in spinal quality and content. The quarterly Operative Neurosurgery Journal has separated to become it's own stand-alone publication put out quarterly with a 37% increase in spine submissions since 2014.
- The CNS annual meeting will take place from September 24 – 28 in San Diego. The international partner will be the Continental Association of African Neurosurgical Societies. The honored guest is Dr. Edward Oldfield. Special guests include Mr. Steve Wozniak, Mr. Billy Bean, Mr. Daniel Brown, and Mr. Viktor Mayer-Schonberger. There is a large amount of related spinal content scheduled for the meeting.

	<p>This issue now arises after an invitation for Dr. Mummaneni to attend as a speaker at an AO conference to be held in Dubai. Discussion and comments by EC members concluded that an annual budget of \$10,000 with consideration for additional funding to be considered on a case-by-case basis with the EC.</p> <p>Dr. Marjorie Wang proposed and moved that a annual stipend of \$10,000 be earmarked for the Section Chair to attend meetings as an unfunded invited guest with additional funding requests reviewed by the EC on a case-by-case basis. Seconded by Dr. Wolfla with no opposition. Motion carried.</p> <p>CNS Funding Request:</p> <p>As previously briefly discussed in the CNS report, they are again requesting a \$10,000 donation from the Spine Section for the Getch scholarship. Dr. Steinmetz reported this award is a clinical not basic award that is not necessarily spine related. After discussion, it was reiterated that the Section is happy to contribute to spine related research however this would not be the case if the funds were not used in this regard. Dr. Steinmetz was asked to communicate these concerns with the CNS.</p> <p>B. Education Committee:</p> <p>5.B AANS Spine Section Session Draft 2016.docx</p> <p>Following review of the submitted report, there were no additional comments.</p> <p>C. Exhibits Committee:</p> <p>i) Committee Report 5.C 2016 Exhibits Report.pdf</p> <p>Dr. Hoh reviewed his submitted report and thanked all involved for their co-efforts in making this year's meeting a great success and to those who participated in the Globus site visit. These efforts have resulted in additional vendor support and members were encouraged to attend as many of the vendor sponsored events as possible which encompasses over \$250,000 which totals approximately 1/3 of the industry sponsorship and about ¼ of the annual meeting revenue. Members were advised that Zimmer and Biomet had merged and despite not renewing Zimmer's annual \$50,000 grant, he was able to make up those funds through other sponsors. Dr. Mummaneni reminded members attend the opening reception where the CEO's of Medtronic and Depuy will be given awards for the top two sponsors and will give a brief talk. As well awards will be given to Nuvasive and Globus for the third and fourth top sponsors.</p> <p>Dr. Hoh proposed a motion to have Dr. Steinmetz take over as Exhibits Chair, seconded by Dr. Mummaneni and passed by members. Dr. Mummaneni thanked Dr. Hoh for all of his past efforts and achievements in helping to make the meeting a success.</p> <p>Industry partnership meeting letters/responses 5.C i 15.11.20 Globus DSPN Visit.docx 5.C.ii Zimmer Biomet Agenda 5-13-16-1.docx</p>	<p>Dr. Dom Coric</p> <p>Dr. Dan Hoh</p>
--	--	---

	<p>D. Media Committee: Media/Newsletter Report - Website Review and Analysis discussion 5.D Media and Newsletter DSPN EC 2016.pdf</p> <p>Following review of the submitted report, there were no additional comments.</p> <p>E. Nominating Committee: (contract mgmt discussed in New Business therefore no verbal report)</p> <p>CNS Executive Committee Nominations 5.E Nominations CNS.pdf</p> <p>As the contract management proposals have been previously discussed, there were no further items for review.</p> <p>F. Payor Response Committee:</p> <p>i) Report 5.F.i Rapid Response Update.docx</p> <p>ii) AANS Letter 5.F.ii Rapid Response letter.pdf</p> <p>Dr. Cheng reviewed the submitted reports including that updates had been sent out in the recent quarterly newsletter encompassing the Washington State Anthems policy debate issues, policy responses, payment policies, and other concerns as listed in the report. Dr. Sansur is looking for volunteers to join this committee to ensure that all pertinent issues are managed appropriately.</p> <p>G. Research and Awards Committee:</p> <p>i) Fellowship & Awards Transitions 5.G Research & Awards.pdf</p> <p>ii) Committee Update 5.G.ii Awards Committee Update 2016.docx</p> <p>Dr. Chi reported there have been considerable transitions this year in conjunction with the NREF named awards resulting in no research awards. As previously discussed, the inaugural Kuntz awards were given to 30 recipients but going forward, the amount awarded will be reduced to \$10,000 however if resident research interest and participation remains high, another \$10,000 in discretionary funds could be utilized. This will likely enhance ongoing future resident attendance.</p> <p>Dr. Knightly would like to report at the upcoming EC meeting how this Committee and NREF funds will be blended and managed.</p> <p>Action: Dr. Chi/Dr. Lu to discuss with Dr. Michael Wang on how to implement and administer.</p> <p>Discussion then moved to previous research funding grants that have yet to be paid out.</p> <p>1. The first pertains to funds provided for a study at Duke University but the recipient transferred to Rush University – this had been discussed</p>	<p>Dr. John Ratliff</p> <p>Dr. R. John Hurlbert</p> <p>Dr. Charles Sansur/ Dr. Joe Cheng</p> <p>Dr. John Chi</p>
--	--	--

	<p>at a prior meeting and appropriate letters of support by supervisory staff were provided. Significant discussion involving who the remaining funds should actually go to, if IRB requirements have been met and if the funds should even be dispensed. After further review by members, it was determined that 50% accrual has been completed however the recipient's talk at a previous meeting only provided preliminary results. In addition it was stated not only did this recipient change institutions, but was also granted two extensions. Following this, it was proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Letters are to be sent to both Duke and Rush Universities asking for written verification confirming permission for the funds to go to the recipient's current location. b) Half of the funds will be awarded now with the remaining on completion of the project. <p>- Proposal was seconded by Dr. Wolfla and passed with no opposition.</p> <p>2. The last outstanding research award that has not yet been dispensed relates to a clinical trial and was initially awarded three years ago. At the present time, the trial is completed and it was proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The recipient is to submit an abstract (which will be prioritized) for next year's meeting presenting the completed outcome data. b) Half of the funds can be awarded at the present time with the other half following his completed presentation. <p>- Proposal was seconded by Dr. Wolfla and passed with no opposition.</p> <p>H. Rules and Regulations Committee:</p> <p>i) Annual Report 5.H.i Rules and Regs Report March 2016.docx</p> <p>Dr. Jacobs reviewed the submitted report relating to membership amendments. After discussion, it was suggested that the wording should be more realistic in how to become a member and must be a member in good standing with either the AANS or CNS. If, for some reason, the applicant has been "excommunicated" from either of these parent societies, membership in the Section will either not be granted or revoked. Spine orthopaedic colleagues can become adjunct members again maintaining good standing within their governing body organizations. New members to be vetted by the Membership Chair who will then bring their names forward to the EC for vote.</p> <p>A suggestion was made that verifications of member applications can be undertaken by CNS or other governing bodies – Dr. Jacobs will make inquiries.</p> <p>ii) Section 3.04 and 3.06 Revisions 5.H.ii Sections 3.04 and 3.06 Revisions.doc</p> <p>In a recent conference call, these sections related to membership dues were revised to reflect current practices and align with AANS/CNS bylaws.</p> <p><i>"Applications for all membership categories are assessed by the Membership</i></p>	Dr. W. Brad Jacobs
--	--	--------------------

Committee on a monthly basis. The Membership Chair shall present to the Executive Committee, at each of its meetings, the list of applicants approved and disapproved by the Membership Committee, and in the case of each disapproval, the reasons for such disapproval. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to act on the recommendations of the Membership Committee with respect to applications for membership. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final."

It was proposed to correlate paying membership dues at the time of the Annual meeting (from January to March) and that members will be terminated for nonpayment of dues after a two year interval.

It was proposed to move the Peripheral Nerve Committee from Ad Hoc into Standing Committees.

Following this proposal, it was moved to approve all changes and submit for ratification by CNS and AANS and seconded by Dr. Ghogawala.

ACTION: Dr. Jacobs will make the appropriate discussed changes for submission and ratification by the CNS and AANS.

iii) International Medical student attendance:

[5.H.i.b Haiti Student request.doc](#)

Members were advised that a request had been made for a number of International medical students to attend the annual meeting. This lead to a recommendation to draft an amendment stating medical students wishing to attend Joint Section meetings must be accompanied by a registered attending member in good standing in the Section.

This revision was proposed as a policy by Dr. Mummaneni, seconded by Dr. Kanter and passed with no opposition.

6.	<p>AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:</p> <p>A. CPT: 6.A CPT Exec Comm Report 2016.docx</p> <p>Dr. Tumialan reviewed the submitted report encompassing the RCU Surgical Global Workshop, CMS driven RAND requests for physician interviews, AANS/CNS comments on the 2016 MPFS 3% cut, CPT Editorial Panel meeting code proposals, CCI edits, and the Washington State HTA.</p> <p>With all of the changes, there is obvious member concern with respect to coding ramifications, coverage and patient care issues. Significant discussions with respect to coding, ASC lumbar interbody fusion issues, and what the stance will be from a Section perspective.</p> <p>Dr. Tumialan will be formulating a survey to stratify these issues via Survey Monkey which will be sent out prior to next EC meeting at the AANS annual meeting. It was stressed to all members to take the time to complete these surveys.</p> <p>B. D&D (ASTM/FDA Drug and Devices Committee):</p> <p>Report : 6.B ASTM EC update.docx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In addition to his submitted report, Dr. Gologorsky reported that he had attended a D & D meeting in Tampa. One of the items discussed were recent surgical incidents related to the use of Mayfield clamp and that new standards were being established to prevent further morbidity issues. - A standard guideline for clinical trial design for lumbar spine surgery is being developed. - Recently, the FDA has proposed to reclassify posterior screw systems as class 2 devices. <p>C. Fellowship Committee:</p> <p>CAST Spine Fellowship requirements 6.C CAST fellowship letter 11-18-2015 cis edits.pdf</p> <p>i) AO Spine Curriculum – Deformity - 6.C.i AOSpine Curriculum-Deformity.pdf</p> <p>Dr. Sciubba reviewed that a request had been submitted to CAST for approval to ensure that all potential spine Fellows are to be post-grads and this has been accepted.</p> <p>AO spine curriculum-deformity is involved in re-stratification of patient outcomes through the SRS with involvement by Drs. Mummaneni and Sciubba. Anyone interested may contact them for further information.</p> <p>D. Future Sites Committee:</p>	<p>Dr. Lou Tumialan</p> <p>Dr. Jake Gologorsky</p> <p>Dr. Dan Sciubba</p> <p>Dr. Chris Wolf</p>
----	--	---

	<p>The Section currently has the following dates and locations contracted for the Annual Meeting:</p> <p>2016: March 16-19 – Loews Royal Pacific Resort Universal Studios, Orlando</p> <p>2017: March 8-11 – JW Marriott, Las Vegas, NV (\$179/night)</p> <p>2018: March 14-17 – Loews Royal Pacific Resort Universal Studios, Orlando</p> <p>Fall, 2019, the JW Marriott Las Vegas is currently holding the dates for the Section meeting and will notify us if there are any other inquiries. We will make a decision regarding this venue after we have seen how it works for us in 2017. Other potential sites for 2019 and the future that we have discussed include Los Angeles, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami, Dallas, and Denver.</p> <p>Slides 6.D.i Spring 2016 Spine Future Sites.pptx</p> <p>E. Guidelines Committee:</p> <p>Thoracolumbar spine trauma guidelines are well underway. We have initiated the Cervical Degenerative guidelines update being led by Dr. Dhall and Dr. John O'Toole. Dr. Dhall has starting working with a website for guidelines but a budget for an app would be better. He has tried through CNS education committee but it did not materialize. He will liaise with Drs. Resnick and Chi about the guidelines training award.</p> <p>6.E NSQIPresponse dhall draft.docx</p> <p>i) March, 2015 quarterly update report: - 6.E.i Quarterly Update.doc</p> <p>F. Membership Committee:</p> <p>i) Committee Report 6.F.i Membership Cmte Report - Mar 16, 2016.pdf</p> <p>Current memberships remain flat compared to 2015. Membership dues remain at \$100/yr and are waived with attendance at the annual meeting. New meeting registrants who have applied for membership will have their dues waived. Dr. Eichholz then briefly reviewed the submitted reports.</p> <p>ii) Summary of DSPN conference call 2/05/2016 6.F.ii Membership Summary DSPN conf call.docx</p> <p>iii) Summary of DSPN conference call 2/26/2016 6.F.iii DSPN phone conference 2.26.16.docx</p> <p>iv) Membership Flyer 6.F.iv Spine membership flyer 2016.docx</p> <p>G. NeuroPoint Alliance (AANS)/N2QOD:</p>	<p>Dr. Sanjay Dhall</p> <p>Dr. Aruna Ganju/Dr. Kurt Eichholz</p> <p>Dr. Praveen Mummaneni</p>
--	--	---

	<p>Dr. Mummaneni reported a proposal through NREF using the Haid fund for support study groups on N2QOD topics.</p> <p>Dr. Knightly reported that the N2QOD lumbar module is now up to approximately 20,000 and the numbers on site participation are increasing. There were difficulties due to the CMS changing the rules.</p> <p>Have committed 20 metrix patient outcome measures last year and another 20 metrix this year that were repurposed to include nonsurgical treatment for back pain submitted at end of May. Outcome measures are also being utilized and added to by PM&R spine colleagues. The number of papers coming out are increasing.</p> <p>H. NREF: (discussion by Dr. Mike Wang) (discussed in new business)</p> <p>i) A proposal was made to NREF for spine section awards to be chosen by spine section leadership and presented at the annual meeting.</p> <p>Those proposed include: Dr. Praveen Mummaneni, Dr. Mike Wang, Dr. Zo Ghogawala, and Dr. Daniel Lu (next awards cmte_chair)</p> <p>DSPN voting members approved: Dr. Mummaneni, Dr. Hurlbert, Dr. Marjorie Wang, Dr. Ratliff, Dr. Hoh and Dr. Ghogawala</p> <p>ii) NREF Plan – 2016/01/12 (discussed in new Business)</p> <p>I. Outcomes Committee:</p> <p>Report - 6.I Outcomes Committee Update.docx</p> <p>Following review of the report submitted, Dr. Park indicated that there would be more input at the next Executive Committee meeting.</p> <p>J. Peripheral Nerve Task Force:</p> <p>Report - 6.J Peripheral Nerve Division.docx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Yang reported that Dr. Holly Gilmer-Hill will be taking over as Chair. - As reported, the Kline symposium and award continue to be funded by industry support. It was queried if this award could be added to the Section NREF funds and further discussions will be undertaken with Dr. Michael Wang. This will also be discussed at the Peripheral Nerve annual meeting. - Acknowledgements were given to Dr. Ratliff and Chi for their assistance website, newsletter and research award endeavors - It is believed that the Carpal tunnel guidelines have been endorsed. Katie Orrico will review and report back. <p>K. Public Relations:</p> <p>Twitter and Facebook pages are up and running although she is looking for volunteers who have more expertise in these social networks. She is also working with the Membership committee to</p>	<p>Dr. Michael Groff</p> <p>Dr. Paul Park</p> <p>Dr. Lynda Yang, Dr. L. Jacques</p> <p>Dr. Michele Thompson</p>
--	---	---

	<p>increase membership. Various committee members offered the support of affiliated staff, residents or Fellows. Members were also encouraged to use Twitter or FaceBook to promote courses and talks/highlights at the annual meeting.</p> <p>Propose using Twitter during the meeting to send highlights.</p> <p>Dr. Mummaneni has volunteered his fellow to assist Dr. Thompson.</p> <p>L. Publications:</p> <p>Report - 6.L Publications Committee Report.docx</p> <p>i) Publications Plan - 6.L.ii Publications plan.doc</p> <p>Dr. Smith reported that letters will be sent out to the top 34 abstract recipients reminding them to submit their abstracts for publication consideration in the JNS Spine or NS. The journals will give these submissions an expedited review although there is no guarantee they will be accepted for publication and Dr. Smith will ensure that all recipients are aware of this fact. Deadline for submission has been established as June 1st.</p> <p>It was suggested that Dr. Smith coordinate with Dr. Kanter to confirm which recipients that were eligible for the \$1000 awards have submitted their manuscripts with the abstract before receiving those funds. 30 of the 34 recipients have already provided manuscripts. Abstracts only will be awarded \$500.</p> <p>M. Strategic Planning:</p> <p>As most related items including NREF were previously discussed, Dr. Groff took this opportunity to thank members for their efforts.</p> <p>N. Washington Committee:</p> <p>i) Washington Committee Report by Dr. Meyer 6.N Washington Committee.docx</p> <p>i) WA committee activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sign on letter to improve Washington States HTA's process 6.N.i Sign-On Letter to Improve WA State HTA's process.pdf <p>Dr. Meyer reported on submitted report including MACRA; Neurosurgical education and training related to resident duty hours; Concurrent or overlapping surgery which may represent a possible actionable item for the DSPN; Coding and reimbursement update (as previously discussed); and Quality improvement involving PQRS reporting requirements, VM modifiers, RFC, and AFP's with imminent bundled payments for spinal fusions.</p> <p>At this point, Dr. Knightly reiterated the significance that bundled payments will have on spine when instituted in 2018. Spine is currently well represented on the Washington Committee to help ensure concerns are voiced.</p>	<p>Dr. Justin Smith</p> <p>Dr. Michael Groff</p> <p>Dr. Jack Knightly/Dr. Scott Meyer</p>
--	---	---

	<p>O. Young Neurosurgeons Committee:</p> <p>The AANS Medical Student Neurosurgery Interest Groups continue to grow in number as a way to build mentorship in the field. Assistance in forming these groups has been extended to both M.D. and D.O schools.</p> <p>DO program chairs were contacted and invited to join the Spine Section but not sure if this has translated to increased membership. We had discussed bundling the membership this year with meeting registration but may not have those numbers until the meeting registration numbers are reviewed. There was interest from the DO's talked with on a personal level but not sure if this actually translated to them signing up and paying dues.</p> <p>DO members are full CNS members so are eligible to join the Section. It was suggested that the online membership application process should be less onerous to navigate.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to have their residents attend the Young Neurosurgeons dinner on Friday evening.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Membership Committee could send a letter to all attending residents thanking them for their participation at the meeting co-signed by Dr. Mummaneni.</p>	Dr. Laura Snyder/Dr. Khoi Than
7	<p>A. AANS Board Liaison:</p> <p>AANS Board of Directors Nov. 2015 mtg notes – Dr. Knightly 7.A AANS BOD Nov 2015.doc</p> <p>Dr. Knightly reviewed that the AANS passed the changes to the Section's rules and regulations without discussion. In addition, he attended a meeting with the various Section heads and Spine was recognized as an example with respect to our annual meeting as well as NREF proposal.</p> <p>B. Inter-Society Liaison:</p> <p>Neurosurgery representation within all spine societies continues to expand on all aspects. There does not appear to be a single spine society that lacks neurosurgery representation on some level.</p> <p>Research collaborative efforts remain a common thread in all societies. All volunteer research committees are commonly tasked with reviewing grant proposals and recommending funding decisions for each society. Advice is being solicited from all societies by the SRS research committee regarding training/education options to reviewers for providing professional grant reviews. Any recommendations from the Spine Section EC are appreciated.</p> <p>An open invite for all to attend the 23rd annual IMAST 2016 meeting in Washington, DC July 13-16, 2016.</p>	<p>Dr. Susan Panullo/Dr. Jack Knightly</p> <p>Dr. Michael Rosner</p>

8	Old Business: A. Meeting Services 2016 CNS Agreement - 8.A Meeting Management Agreement final.pdf B. Meeting Services – 2017 information AANS & Association Mgmt Services proposals were reviewed and thank you letters for the submissions were sent	
9	Telephone conferences – log only: - phone conf 2015/05/26 - phone conf 2015/06/03 - phone conf 2015/06/18 - phone conf 2015/07/02 - phone conf 2015/10/04 - phone conf 2015/10/15 - phone conf 2015/12/03 - phone conf 2016/01/11 - phone conf 2016/02/05 - phone conf 2016/02/26	
	Following completion of the agenda items, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Mummaneni at 1250 hrs.	