Message from the Chairman

Welcome to your Section on Neurological Surgery (SONS) Winter newsletter! Your SONS members have been busy working with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and its 67,000 plus members to improve the care of children through education, advocacy, policy and outreach. In this edition of your newsletter, you will see how we are achieving this through our Committees and our individual member’s efforts. This is an exciting time for the AAP SONS as it goes through its development as the leading advocate for neurosurgical health in organized pediatrics.

Since SONS is regularly consulted by the AAP when formulating policies or guidelines related to neurosurgical issues in kids, we formed the Advocacy and Policy Committee to be able to readily and thoroughly review and comment on any AAP material or issues that need pediatric neurosurgery’s input. The important issues that the SONS weighed in on are summarized in the Advocacy and Policy Committee’s report. The SONS will be sending out a survey to its members to identify issues to advocate for related to neurosurgical disease in children. Watch for the survey notification via email in the coming months.

The Education Committee changed their name to the Education, Newsletter and Publication Committee to reflect the many activities throughout the year they engage in besides developing the education programming for the AAP’s national annual meeting. Drs. Greg Albert and Francesco Mangano wrote a wonderful article on Management of Patients with Myelomeningocele published in the July issue of AAP News. An integral function of SONS is education, not only of pediatricians and families on neurological diseases, but also of neurosurgeons regarding organized pediatrics. The annual SONS Lecture at the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery continues to be very well-received and appreciated by the neurosurgery community.

The SONS Membership Committee is working with the Surgical Advisory Panel (SAP) to increase the value of the AAP to its surgeon members and looking at options such as reducing benefits that are not as useful to surgeons along with a reduction in dues. This year, we heard fantastic news at the AAP! Thanks in part to the SAP’s efforts, the Board chose to reserve a surgical specialist spot on the Board of Directors. This sends a powerful message to the surgical members of AAP that they value them and realize their expertise is vital to their multidisciplinary partnership in the quest for high quality children’s healthcare. Surgeons now have a seat at the pediatrics table. Surgeon appointments to AAP editorial boards, such as Dr. Andrew Jea’s appointment to the editorial board of Pediatrics, shows that the AAP values their surgeon members.

During recent months, catalyzed by the SONS’ activities at the 2017 Pediatric Section Annual Meeting in Houston, there has been renewed interest by pediatric neurosurgeons in the SONS and its activities. Read about our newest members and the benefits of membership at our membership report.

I really hope that you take the time to read how the SONS has been working hard to advocate for the health of children and hope that you will be moved to become more involved with your SONS.
At the 2017 AANS/CNS Section of Pediatric Neurological Surgery in Houston, Texas, Dr. Jacob Greenberg received the 4th annual AAP SONS award for the Best Oral Presentation to exemplify a broad and significant impact on health care for children with pediatric neurosurgical diseases. Dr. Greenberg is a neurosurgery resident at Washington University in St. Louis and worked with the neurosurgery faculty at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. His presentation was entitled "Development of the CIDSS2 Score for Children with Mild Head Trauma without Intracranial Injury". In addition to a modest stipend, Dr. Greenberg will receive a complimentary AAP membership.

The SONS lecturer for the Pediatric Section Meeting was Dr. Mark W. Kline. Dr. Kline is Physician-In-Chief of Texas Children’s Hospital and Ralph D. Feigin Chair and J.S. Ambercrombie Professor and Chair of Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Kline is an internationally respected leader in pediatric HIV/AIDS and gave a lecture entitled, “Global Pediatric HIV/AIDS: LesSONs from the Field” which received a standing ovation. His message demonstrated how global involvement of physicians can have a dramatically positive impact on the children of those countries.

The SONS lecturer is supported by KLS Martin.
SONS would like to welcome our newest members:

- Daniel Curry, MD, FAAP
- Samer Elbabaa, MD, FAAP
- Elias Gryzk, MD, FAAP
- Amee Moreno, CNCP
- Toba Niazi, MD, FAAP
- Brandon Rocque, MD, FAAP
- Garrett Zoeller, MD, FAAP

SONS is also offering complimentary memberships to pediatric neurosurgical fellows-in-training with Fellowship Program Directors who are also AAP members. Discounted memberships are also available to pediatric neurosurgical advanced practice providers (NPs and PAs). For more information, please contact Dr. Ann Christine Duhaime, SONS Membership Committee Chair (aduhaime@partners.org).

A strong word-of-mouth marketing campaign is an important way to promote the continued growth of SONS and the AAP. As an active member, you not only know the value that your membership provides in advancing your career and strengthening your profession, but you are also in daily contact with a wealth of prospective members at your institution and through your network of professional colleagues.

SONS in the News

Congratulations to Section Chair Dr. Mark Proctor and Meeting Chairs Howard Weiner, MD, FAAP and David Sandberg, MD, FAAP for hosting a very successful 2017 AANS/CNS Section of Pediatric Neurosurgical Surgery in Houston, Texas as Meeting Chairs. Dr. Proctor is Neurosurgeon-in-Chief and Professor of Neurosurgery at Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Weiner is Professor and Chief of Neurosurgery at Texas Children's Hospital. Dr. Sandberg is an Professor and Chief, Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.
At the annual meeting, we welcomed new Committee Members:

- Francesco Mangano, MD, FAAP – Member Education, Newsletter & Publication Committee
- Jonathan Martin, MD, FAAP – Member, Advocacy and Policy Committee
- Brandon Rocque, MD, FAAP – Member, Education, Newsletter & Publication Committee

SONS in the News

Your SONS in Action

Through SONS, there is an opportunity to interface with the AAP Department of Federal Affairs. The AAP is actively engaged in federal advocacy for the needs of academic and subspecialist pediatricians and the children for whom they provide care. Through its Department of Federal Affairs and dedicated staff for academic and subspecialty issues, the Academy works to promote medical research for children, funding for medical education, child access to needed providers through appropriate payment, and a pediatric workforce able to meet the needs of children across the country and beyond.

Philipp Aldana, MD, FAAP and Andrew Jea, MD FAAP attended the 2017 Annual Leadership Forum (ALF), March 9-12 in Schaumburg, Illinois. The meeting brings together leadership from AAP sections, committees and councils, and chapters. The primary purpose of the ALF is to develop health policy, advocate for children, provide networking opportunities for practitioners, and to present, discuss, and vote on ALF resolutions and AAP priorities.

Have you as a SONS member received a promotion, changed institutions, spoken at a conference or been recognized with an award? Send your vitals (who, what, when, where, why) — plus a hi-res headshot or other image, if possible — to Dr. Greg Albert, (galbert2@uams.edu) and we will post your good news to SONS Newsletter
The AAP SONS Policy and Advocacy Committee works to represent organized Pediatric Neurosurgery in timely input on AAP activities and in development of content. For example, the committee reviews AAP policy statements, which delineate principles for pediatric health care delivery and overall advancement of child health. This past year, Committee members Drs. Andrew Jea and Sandi Lam navigated engagement in the following:

- Worked to obtain AAP endorsement of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons “Systematic Review and Evidence Based Guidelines for Pediatric Myelomeningocele”.
- Consulted with SONS author Dr. Mark Dias, MD and Section on Plastic Surgery author Dr. Thomas Samson on development of a new SONS-authored AAP health policy “Identifying the Misshapen Head: Craniosynostosis and Related Disorders” (in progress).
- Represented Pediatric Neurosurgery on the Society for Pediatric Radiology (SPR) Consensus Manuscript on Imaging of Abusive Head Trauma (Dr. Mark Dias).
- Represented pediatric neurosurgery at the Section on Hospital Medicine’s Surgical Care Subcommittee identifying the role of hospitalists in pediatric neurosurgical care (Drs. Doug Brockmeyer and Eric Jackson)
- Provided technical reviews for AAP Sections, Councils and Committees:
  - Council on QI and Patient Safety and Committee on Hospital Care’s policy statement, “Principals of Pediatric Patient Safety: Reducing Harm Due to Medical Care”.
  - Task Force on Pediatric Practice Change, “Guiding Principles for Team-Based Pediatric Care”.
  - Council on Genetics’ clinical report, “Health Supervision for Children with Neurofibromatosis Type 1”.
  - Committee on Bioethics’ Curriculum Review, Brain Death.
  - AAP text, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Transition to Adult Medical Care
  - Brain Death Summit Consensus Report: “An Interdisciplinary Response to Contemporary Concerns about Brain Death Determination”
  - AAP text, Managing Chronic Health Needs in Child Care and Schools: A Quick Reference Guide, Hydrocephalus & Shunts; Traumatic Brain Injury, Chapter 10

There are many opportunities to work on a national platform improving the care of children with neurosurgical disease alongside organized pediatrics and pediatric subspecialties. To get involved, please email Dr. Sandi Lam, Committee Chair, at sklam@texaschildrens.org.
The Education Committee has been rebranded as the Education, Newsletter and Publication Committee. This change reflects the role that SONS plays in educating pediatricians and families through multiple avenues in print, online and live at the AAP National Conference & Exhibition (NCE). Committee members are Greg Albert, Lance Governale, Francesco Mangano, Eylem Ocal and Brandon Rocque.

Among other outlets, SONS members have been asked to submit stories for *AAP News*. In the July issue, Dr. Francesco Mangano and Greg Albert wrote an article entitled “Management of Patients with Myelomeningocele Continues to Evolve” which reviewed the advances in prenatal myelomeningocele repair.

One very important function of SONS is to educate pediatricians on neurosurgical topics. To this end, SONS organized presentations on spinal dysraphism, plagiocephaly, and back pain at the AAP’s 2017 National Conference & Exhibition (NCE) in Chicago. The 2018 NCE in Orlando will feature presentations on Head Shape/Craniosynostosis, Incidental Findings in MRI, and Neurosurgery in the Pediatricians Office. In the spring, we will be submitting proposals on behalf on SONS for the 2019 NCE. Please send your NCE program ideas to Greg Albert at galbert2@uams.edu. In the upcoming year, we will also work hard on improving the quality of information on pediatric neurosurgical topics available to both pediatricians and families on the AAP website and parent website [www.HealthyChildren.org](http://www.HealthyChildren.org). Topics currently under consideration include craniosynostosis/plagiocephaly, Chiari malformation, hydrocephalus, and spinal dysraphism. If you have any story or topic ideas or would like to become involved in the Education, Newsletter and Publication Committee, please contact Dr. Greg Albert, Committee Chair and SONS secretary (galbert2@uams.edu).
Section on Neurological Surgery
Executive Committee

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Chair Elect:
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Ex-Officio
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