Dr. Alex Valadka Published in Roll Call Newspaper

In December 2012, Roll Call (Capitol Hill's newspaper of record) published a guest opinion piece featuring the Alliance of Specialty Medicine's and the American Association of Neurological Surgeons' (AANS') own Alex Valadka, MD, FAANS, FACS, the Alliance's spokesperson and chair of the AANS/CNS Washington Committee. The article, "Doctors: We Gave at the Office, and Then Some," addressed the idea that preventing the pending Sustainable Growth Rate cuts isn't the only reimbursement challenge that physicians face, and more physician cuts will hurt patients.

Make sure to stay up-to-date on this kind of information by connecting with the AANS/CNS Washington, D.C., office through the following communication platforms:
- Neurosurgery's Twitter Feed: @Neurosurgery - (https://twitter.com/neurosurgery)
- Neurosurgery's LinkedIn Group - (http://bit.ly/NeuroLinkedIn)

Know Your Medicare Participation Options

It is that time of year when neurosurgeons may wish to consider whether or not to participate in Medicare. There are three basic contractual options for physicians:

- Sign a Medicare participation agreement. Participating physicians agree to accept Medicare's allowed charge as payment in full for all of their Medicare patients.
- Elect non-participation. Non participating physicians may, on a case-by-case basis, either accept the Medicare rate (which is set at 95 percent of the PAR amount) as payment in full, or balance bill patients up to 115 percent of the non-PAR rate.
- Become a privately contracting physician. A physician who elects this status must opt-out of the Medicare program for two full years, and their Medicare patients are responsible for paying for any services provided by their physician under a private contract.

Neurosurgeons will have until Dec. 31, 2012, to modify their status with the Medicare program. Any change in status will be effective Jan. 1, 2013. To help physicians decide which option best meets their individual needs, the AMA has prepared a "Medicare Participation Kit."

Editor’s Note: The American Association of Neurological Surgeons and Congress of Neurological Surgeons do not endorse, encourage or support one particular Medicare option over another. It is up to individual neurosurgeons to make their own decisions about which option best meets the needs of their practices and patients.

Neurosurgeons Serve as Real-life Superheroes Following Colorado Movie Theatre Shooting

People often go to the movies to escape from reality, be entertained, and, in many instances, watch someone do something extraordinary and superhuman. But in the early morning hours of July 20,
2012, when a gunman entered a packed opening-night screening of "The Dark Knight Rises" Batman film in Aurora, Colo., and shot 70 individuals – ultimately killing 12 – it was local neurosurgeons and their colleagues at numerous area hospitals that came to the rescue in a real-life drama that appeared to come from a Hollywood script.

Doctors and staff handled the chaotic scenario calmly, caring for the numerous trauma victims making their way into six Denver-area hospital ERs. Amazingly, just two victims died after they arrived at a medical facility. Shortly after the incident, President Barack Obama visited with doctors and staff at one of the hospitals, and talked with victims and their families. For a list of other articles that appear in in the November 2012 issue of AANS Neurosurgeon, please click here. To see this story, as well as all of the other items detailed in in the November 2012 issue of AANS Neurosurgeon, please click here.

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- **AANS Professional Liability Program Features Unrivaled Career Award**

  One of the many advantages of coverage with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Professional Liability Insurance Program through The Doctors Company is the Tribute® Plan, a significant financial benefit that rewards doctors for their loyalty and for their dedication to outstanding patient care. This year marks the Tribute Plan’s fifth anniversary.

  “The Tribute Plan is recognition of a career spent practicing good medicine,” said Richard E. Anderson, MD, FACP, chairman and CEO of The Doctors Company.

  In the last five years, more than 1,300 Tribute awards have been distributed. The highest Tribute award to date is $88,708, which was distributed to a neurosurgeon.

  A special Tribute Plan five-year anniversary video – featuring details about Tribute, perspectives from members of The Doctors Company, and commentary from Dr. Anderson – can be viewed at www.thedoctors.com/tribute.

  The Doctors Company is the exclusively sponsored medical liability carrier of AANS. In addition to the Tribute Plan, the AANS Professional Liability Insurance Program also features:
  - An additional claims-free credit of up to 25 percent for qualified members
  - Participation in the multi-year dividend program
  - The industry's most aggressive defense, with a consent-to-settle promise where permitted by law
  - Free tail coverage for qualified members

  To learn more, log in to MyAANS, click on "Member Benefits," and click "Professional Liability Insurance through The Doctors Company." Or, visit AANS program information on the Doctors Company website at http://www.thedoctors.com/TDC/Endorsements/CON_ID_001192.

- **Journal of Neurosurgery Launches New App**

  The Journal of Neurosurgery now has a dedicated app. Available for iOS and Android devices, the app is available in the iTunes and GooglePlay stores. (Search: Journal of Neurosurgery or JNSPG in either store.) The new app will deliver content directly to your device and integrates video, podcast and social media right into the app. All content is freely available until late December, after which access can be set up either through your JNS subscription or pairing with your institution's site license.

- **Documentation on the Founding of the Harvey Cushing Society - Chapter 2**
This installment of the scanned collection of bound letters documenting the founding of the Harvey Cushing Society covers the period between the October 1931 founding meeting in Washington, D.C., and the end of that year. This compilation gives insight to the collaborative ideas that evolved into the execution of the first Harvey Cushing Society meeting in May 1932. Access to the exhibit can be found at http://www.neurosurgery.org/cybermuseum/index.html under Featured Exhibit.

The second chapter of this collection also includes invitations and responses to join the new society. The neurosurgical history enthusiast might enjoy comparing Dr. Paul Bucy's Oct. 30, 1931, letter to Dr. William Van Wagenen with Dr. Bucy's recollection of these events 50 years later in his Leaders in Neuroscience oral history. Free access to the oral history is available through your iTunes account. Please go to http://www.aans.org/Mobile%20Initiatives/AANS%20on%20iTunes%20U.aspx and click on the blue button with "Launch AANS on iTunes U." Leaders in Neuroscience is available on the right under "Top Collections."


The third chapter of the Video Atlas of Operative Neurosurgery will go live on Jan. 1, 2013. This issue focuses on Intraventricular Lesions: Microscopic and Endoscopic Approaches. It can be found under the supplements section of the Journal of Neurosurgery Publishing Group website by clicking here.

AANS E-News Archives Now Live At AANS.org

Looking for an article or piece of information from an earlier AANS E-News issue, but can't find it in your e-mail inbox? Now you can view all of the 2012 AANS E-News newsletters online at www.AANS.org. To see a list of the previous issues, please click here. Bookmark this link, as subsequent issues also will be archived for future reference. If you have any questions, contact AANS' Director of Member and Public Outreach, John Iwanski, at jai@aans.org.

2010-2012 AANS CME Cycle

Fellow, Provisional, and Affiliate members are required to document 60 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ every three years to maintain membership. Are you on track to meet your membership obligation? If you would like to check the status of your CME, please login to your MyAANS record at https://myaans.aans.org/myaans.aspx and select “CME Transcripts” from the left navigation bar. Your current CME cycle dates are defaulted.

Looking for CME opportunities that do not require being away from your practice? The AANS offers many credits as a members-only benefit. For more information, visit www.aans.org/Education%20and%20Meetings/CME/Self-Study%20CME%20and%20Online%20Courses.aspx.

Young Neurosurgeons Public Service Citation

The Public Service Citation is presented annually by the Young Neurosurgeons Committee to an individual actively engaged in neurosurgery training or practice. The citation is for extraordinary or unusual public service by a young neurosurgeon – outside of any service specific to organized neurosurgery. Suitable nominees may serve the public through various means, including, but not limited
to, public charities, medical or socioeconomic mission work, and governmental or legislative efforts. The citation is presented at the Young Neurosurgeons Luncheon held during the American Association of Neurological Surgeons' Annual Scientific Meeting.

Nominations should include the following:
1. Name, address and e-mail address of the nominee.
2. Year of completion, or anticipated completion, of neurosurgery training.
3. Letter of nomination of approximately 250-500 words, detailing the nominee's recent and relevant history of public service. Descriptive articles or other relevant material may be appended to the submission.
4. Name, address and e-mail address of person submitting the nomination.

The deadline for the 2013 award is March 25, 2013. Nominations should be sent to Chris Ann Philips at cap@aans.org.
The Journal of Neurosurgery Call for Videos: The Video Atlas of Neurosurgery

The JNS Publishing Group is pleased to announce the launch of a new publishing program: the development and curation of a Video Atlas of Operative Neurosurgery, a compendium of videos covering the full breadth of neurosurgical operative procedures. This peer-reviewed project will involve submission and serial publication of high-definition 3-D or 2-D videos. Each video submission must contain a full outline of a specific neurosurgical procedure. Submissions must be original work and cannot be previously posted or published.

July 2013 - (Supplement) Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery
Deadline for submission of videos: May 1, 2013

For more information, please visit http://thejns.org/page/foc_videos.

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The Journal of Neurosurgery Issues Call for Papers for Neurosurgical Focus

The Journal of Neurosurgery has issued a call for papers for Neurosurgical Focus, a unique series that covers a different neurosurgery-related topic, in-depth, online each month. Curated by expert guest editors, each issue constitutes a state-of-the-art textbook chapter in neurosurgery. For more information, please visit http://thejns.org/page/foc_papers.

May 2013 - Intracerebral Hemorrhage: Treatment Options and Outcome
Topic Editor: David Newell, MD, FAANS
Deadline for submission of manuscripts: Jan. 15, 2013

June 2013 - Epilepsy
Topic Editor: Howard Eisenberg, MD, FAANS
Deadline for submission of manuscripts: Feb. 15, 2013

July 2013 - Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy
Topic Editors: Edward Benzel, MD, FAANS; and Zoher Ghogawala, MD, FAANS
Deadline for submission of manuscripts: March 15, 2013

August 2013 - Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery
Topic Editors: Rod Oskouian Jr., MD, FAANS; and Juan Uribe, MD
Deadline for submission of manuscripts: April 15, 2013

September 2013 - Advances in the Neurosurgical Treatment of Intractable Pain
Topic Editors: Robert Levy, MD, PhD, FAANS; and Kim Burchiel, MD, FAANS, FACS
Deadline for submission of manuscripts: May 15, 2013

October 2013 - Management of Plagiocephaly
Topic Editors: Mark Kreiger, MD, FAANS; Alan Cohen, MD, FAANS, FACS, FAAP; and John Jane Jr., MD, FAANS
Deadline for submission of manuscripts: June 15, 2013

November 2013 - Controversies in Movement Disorder Surgery
Topic Editors: Mark Liker, MD, FAANS; and Emad Eskandar, MD, FAANS
Deadline for submission of manuscripts: July 15, 2013

December 2013 - Strategies in Meningioma Management
Topic Editors: Larry Chin, MD, FAANS, FACS; Steven Giannotta, MD, FAANS, FACS; and Warren Selman, MD, FAANS
Deadline for submission of manuscripts: Aug. 15, 2013

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JNSPG is on Facebook and Twitter

The Journal of Neurosurgery Publishing Group (JNSPG) is on Facebook and Twitter. Please visit the JNSPG Facebook page at http://on.fb.me/x1FRTG for regular updates and calls for Neurosurgical Focus papers, as well as links to the latest publications, podcasts, press releases and free articles. Let JNSPG staff know what else you would like to see on the page, as well, as they welcome all suggestions. On Twitter? Follow the JNSPG's feed, @thejns.

NEW ON THE MARKETPLACE

- **CPT 2013: Professional Edition**

  Stay in compliance with the code changes for 2013 and increase the accuracy of your claims submission with the American Medical Association's official coding resource for procedural codes, rules and guidelines. Many new features have been added for 2013. American Association of Neurological Surgeons members receive 30 percent off the list price.

  Purchases can be made by calling the AANS Member Services Department at (888) 566-AANS (2267) x539 or by visiting the AANS Marketplace.

- **ICD-9-CM 2013 Volumes 1 and 2**

  Be prepared for the most recent ICD-9-CM code changes with this comprehensive resource. Combining the Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting (OGCR) listed with the codes for instant reference in a format designed for coding excellence, this codebook helps you easily access the information you need to stay up-to-date and ensure the most accurate billing for the physician practice. American Association of Neurological Surgeons members receive 20 percent off the American Medical Association's list price.

  Purchases can be made by calling the AANS Member Services Department at (888) 566-AANS (2267) x539 or by visiting the AANS Marketplace.

- **Vertebra Bones Necktie - Red Version Now Available**

  The Vertebra Bones Necktie comes in a classic red with a gold pattern of vertebra bones, bringing a sophisticated feel to any medical professional's wardrobe. The neckties are manufactured using a unique nanotechnology treatment that attaches to the individual fibers, essentially wrapping each fiber in a protective layer, rendering it water-repellant, stain-resistant and, most importantly, antimicrobial – aiding in the prevention of healthcare associated infections. It is proven resistant to the following microbes: MRSA, VRE, Salmonella, E. Coli, C. difficile and now H1N1 (Swine Flu). The superhydrophobic qualities also render the ties resistant to wrinkles and odors.

  Purchases can be made by calling the AANS Member Services Department at (888) 566-AANS (2267) x539 or by visiting the AANS Marketplace.

MEETING NEWS
AANS/CNS Section on Tumors Calls for Abstracts on Meningioma

The AANS/CNS Section on Tumors has issued a call for abstracts on meningioma. The symposium, titled Multidisciplinary Approaches to Meningioma, is a collaborative initiative of the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors and the Society for Neuro-Oncology.

The AANS/CNS Section on Tumors 10th Biennial Satellite Tumor Symposium is scheduled for April 26-27, 2013, in conjunction with the 2013 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans, and will be held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel.

This year, the Society for Neuro-Oncology will join the Section on Tumors in hosting a special symposium on meningiomas, which will take place on Saturday, April 27. Taken together, the multidisciplinary nature of this biennial event will provide an exceptional opportunity to share and discuss fundamental advances in neuro-oncology and neurosurgical oncology.

An expert panel of surgeons, pathologists, translational scientists, radiologists, radiation oncologists and medical oncologists will discuss:

- The classification and molecular categorization of meningiomas;
- Multi-modal therapeutic approaches;
- Optimizing treatment, new therapeutic approaches and targets;
- The role of radiation therapy in patients with WHO grade II meningiomas; and
- Evolving clinical trial opportunities for these patients.

To learn more, log in to MyAANS, click on "Member Benefits," and click "Professional Liability Insurance through The Doctors Company."

Abstract Center Is Now Open

To submit an abstract, you will need your MyAANS login (e-mail on file with AANS) and password to access/edit your abstract during the submission period. If you have forgotten your login information, please e-mail abstracts@aans.org. Abstracts will be submitted via the MyAANS.org portal.

Please note that this submission site works best by using the Firefox browser. A free download is available at http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/.

To submit an abstract, follow these eight steps:

- Visit https://myaans.aans.org/MyAANS.aspx and log in.
- Select Abstract Corner from the left-hand side navigation bar and then select the meeting for which you want to submit an abstract (select AANS/CNS 10th Biennial Satellite Tumor Symposium).
- Enter Title & Abstract Body (MUST include required sections with the following headers: Introduction, Methods, Results and Conclusion).
- List Authors, including all relevant medical degrees (individual entering abstract will automatically and permanently be listed as the primary author).
- Choose your presentation Preference (Oral, Electronic or Either).
- Provide responses to Additional Information, previous presentation, sponsor (required) and FDA approval.
- Complete Disclosure and agree to Terms and Conditions.
- Review Work and Submit.

The abstract submission deadline is Monday, Feb. 4, 2013.

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AANS COURSES

- Assess Your Knowledge and Prepare for the MOC Cognitive Exam this February with AANS Neurosurgical Update
2013 AANS Neurosurgical Update: Interactive Review by Case Management
Feb. 16-17, 2013
Hyatt Regency Coral Gables
50 Alhambra Plaza
Coral Gables, Fla.

The fast-paced format of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Neurosurgical Update allows attendees to study new clinical information through more than 100 cases in just one weekend. Join Course Director Thomas J. Leipzig, MD, FAANS, and a distinguished faculty for our next interactive neurosurgical review, which will help you to prepare for the MOC Cognitive Exam and assess your knowledge of current neurosurgical practice. Subjects to be covered include cerebral tumors, degenerative and neoplastic spine, peripheral nerve/brachial plexus, pain and functional, pediatrics, skull base and other cranial cases, subarachnoid hemorrhage, stroke, trauma/critical care, and spinal fractures.

An individualized report of your Audience Response System responses is included in registration. This report will compare your responses with your colleagues and support your preparation for the MOC Cognitive Exam. In addition, Participants can claim 18.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ in a single weekend.

Escape the cold weather to Hyatt Regency Coral Gables, a Mediterranean-style Miami luxury hotel. This AAA Four Diamond hotel exudes grace and elegance while offering supreme hospitality and excellent amenities. It is situated in the "Beverly Hills of Miami," just two blocks from Coral Gable's Miracle Mile shopping, dining and entertainment area.

For course information or to register, click here or call (888) 566-2267.

Click here to read AANS Neurosurgeon's recent article about the AANS Neurosurgical Update and the MOC process.

New 2013 Exit Strategies Course for Chief Residents

American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) President-elect William Couldwell, MD, PhD, FAANS, will be hosting a new special resident education course created for chief neurosurgical residents. "Exit Strategies" is designed to provide the tools needed for the successful transition from residency to practice. Some of the topics include:

- Finding a job in neurosurgery: hospital employment vs. small group practice vs. large group practice vs. academic practice?
- What is the future of health care? How do I get up to speed on medical practice issues such as loss prevention, malpractice and reimbursement?
- Certification/MOC/MOL – Process and pitfalls.

Information on this course will be made available later this year. The first course will be offered April 5-6, 2013, in Chicago. As with all AANS Resident Courses, residents must be nominated by their Program Directors to participate. Watch http://www.aans.org/ for information as it becomes available.

AANS/SNS Neurosurgical Online Sessions for Residents

Please visit the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) iTunes U site to view free educational videos provided by the AANS/SNS Neurosurgical Online Content Committee. The site features various subspecialty topics, plus videos from the Resident Boot camp series. You can reach this site by going to the iTunes store and entering "AANS" in the search field. Click on "see all" at the center/top of the screen, and you will be able to see "All iTunes U for AANS" products.
If you already have iTunes, you can use the following link to take you directly to the site: http://itunes.apple.com/us/institution/aans-american-association/id408873302. The videos can be found under "Featured Selections" in the blue "AANS and SNS Neurosurgical Online Sessions" folder.

Please visit often, as new videos are continually added.

Registration Is Open for the 2013 Managing Coding and Reimbursement Challenges Courses

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons' (AANS) Managing Coding and Reimbursement Challenges in Neurosurgery courses, which are directed by Joseph S. Cheng, MD, MS, FAANS; and co-directed by John K. Ratliff, MD, FACS, FAANS, present coding courses for the entire reimbursement team. These courses will provide the tools you’ll need to help ensure you are compensated appropriately and fairly for your work when scheduling surgery and billing for services.

Highlights of some of the 2013 coding changes include new codes for the neurophysiologic studies, CPT language changes for analysis and programming of neurostimulators, and new codes for presacral spinal arthrodesis. In addition, neurosurgeons need to be prepared to make changes in their dictation in preparation for the implementation of the ICD-10 codes. These course will begin to discuss those changes, along with other ways you can prepare your practice.

Don’t miss out on two optional pre-course breakout sessions, held the evening prior to the full course – one for neurosurgeons and one for coders. The neurosurgeons-only breakout will review the process of developing values for procedure codes, new technology coding, and fundamentals of coding. The coders’ breakout is an introduction and review of anatomy and terminology as it relates to coding. Participation in either breakout is included in your course registration.

February 7-9 – Las Vegas, Nevada
March 21-23 – San Antonio, Texas
July 25-27 - Baltimore, Maryland
September 5-7 – Chicago, Illinois
November 14-16 – Coral Gables, Florida

For additional information or to register, click here.

Obtain CME on Your Lunch Break

Take advantage of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons' (AANS') CME offerings to ensure your CME compliance. You can complete each course during your lunch break or stop and return to the course chapter. Visit the AANS website for more online courses.

Combining Radiosurgery with Open Surgery in the Setting of Spinal Cord Compression
Faculty: Jason Weaver, MD, FAANS
0.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™

Cerebral Metastatic Disease
Faculty: Jonas M. Sheehan, MD, FAANS, FACS
0.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™

The Clinical Ethics in Neurosurgery: Part 1
Faculty: AANS Ethics Committee
1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™

Anterior Cervical Disectomy and Fusion (ACDF): Current Grafting Options
Faculty: Neill M. Wright, MD, FAANS
AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)
Register Now for the 2013 Goodman Oral Board Preparation Courses

If you are preparing to take your oral board certification examination, the AANS' Goodman Oral Board Preparation course is an excellent course option as it is highly interactive, with more than 200 case scenarios presented. Under the direction of Allan D. Levi, MD, PhD, FAANS, FACS, the course provides a broad review of pertinent topics in clinical neurosurgery. The sessions are intensive and interactive. Experienced neurosurgeons will critique your one-on-one patient management responses and your ability to organize those responses.

Register early as registration space is limited! Attend the Goodman Oral Board Preparation and experience what so many neurosurgeons who have passed the oral board examination have found to be most useful.

May 12-14, 2013
Westin Oaks Hotel
Houston, Texas

November 10-12, 2013
Westin Oaks Hotel
Houston, Texas

For additional information or to register, click here.

AANS Operative Grand Rounds

New Videos Now Available

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Operative Grand Rounds provides an informative, educational forum of operative procedures, with an emphasis on increasing surgical safety, minimizing surgical complications and improving patient outcomes. Experts in the field offer thorough knowledge of cutting-edge surgical techniques, and evidence-based data serves as a reliable source of updated information on a variety of neurosurgical procedures.

New videos include the following:

Technical Challenges in AVM Resection: A Review of Intraoperative Videos
Led by Aaron Cohen-Gadol, MD, MSc, FAANS; and Michael Lawton, MD, FAANS

Resection of Arteriovenous Malformation: Subtypes and Surgical Technique
Led by Michael Lawton, MD, FAANS

How to Choose a Practice and Succeed: The Essentials, Pearls and Pitfalls
Led by William Couldwell, MD, PhD, FAANS; and Troy D. Paynor, MD, FAANS

The videos may be viewed on mobile devices and tablets, including iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad and Android.
Visit often, as new videos continually are added to the library. CME is not available.