

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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June 1, 2016

Dorothy Frost Teeter, Director  
Washington State Healthcare Authority  
P.O. Box 45506  
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**Subject: Support for Jean-Christophe Leveque, MD, and Abhineet Chowdhary, MD, for Health Technology Clinical Committee**

Dear Ms. Teeter:

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) and Washington State Association of Neurological Surgeons, we would like to express our support for the applications of Jean-Christophe Leveque, MD and Abhineet Chowdhary, MD, for a position on the Washington State Health Care Authority's (HCA's) Health Technology Assessment program Health Technology Clinical Committee (HTCC). Given the many issues discussed by this committee related to the nervous system, we believe the process would be greatly enhanced with the addition of neurosurgical expertise on the panel, and appreciate Drs. Leveque and Chowdhary's willingness to be considered.

Currently, Dr. Leveque serves as vice-president, and Dr. Chowdhary serves as treasurer of the Washington State Association of Neurological Surgeons (WSANS). As such, they have earned the respect of their physician peers in the state of Washington for their leadership, expertise and consensus-building skills. They have a thorough understanding of the purpose and history of the HTCC and of the concerns of Washington's physicians and patients who receive health care in varied settings across the state, whether urban, rural, private or academic practices. They fully support evidence-based medicine, and the need for accurate data and outcomes research.

Dr. Leveque has a special interest in pituitary tumors, peripheral nerves and complex and minimally invasive spine surgery. In practice at Virginia Mason in Seattle, he treats a wide spectrum of neurological and spinal conditions in a multidisciplinary, collaborative setting. Dr. Leveque has strong research experience and a thorough familiarity with clinical literature.

Dr. Chowdhary is a practicing neurosurgeon and Director of Neuroscience and Neurosurgery Program Director at Overlake Hospital Medical Center in Bellevue, Washington. Following his neurosurgery training, he completed a fellowship in diagnostic neuroradiology and interventional neuroradiology/endovascular neurosurgery, and he has a special interest in stroke prevention and treatment. Like Dr. Leveque, he has published extensively and has a comprehensive knowledge of clinical data.

Given that the HTCC has reviewed numerous neurosurgical interventions and treatments over the last ten years, and due to the diversity, complexity and intensity of neurosurgical practice, we believe a neurosurgeon member of the HTCC is essential. We share the agency's dedication to the best possible

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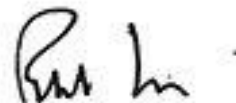
healthcare for citizens of the state of Washington. Drs. Leveque and Chowdhary are proficient in the analysis of technology assessment data and would provide clear and objective guidance to the panel. We, therefore, are delighted that they are willing to serve and we urge you to consider their applications.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Federick A. Boop, MD, President  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons



Russell R. Lonser, President  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons



Farrokh Farrokhi, MD, President  
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