

A Strengthened Focus

AANS 2005 Annual Report



American
Association of
Neurological
Surgeons

President's Message: Ever Evolving Strengths

As Teddy Roosevelt said, "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." Serving as president of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) has only heightened my sense of satisfaction in devoting my life to a career in neurosurgery. The field has grown and evolved enormously since I became an AANS member nearly 30 years ago. The AANS has grown to reflect these changes, ever evolving and staying on top of the key issues that impact neurosurgeons and our specialty. Today, it is an association with newfound and strengthened focus.

Nearly 75 years ago, the society that is now the AANS grew out of the need of the field's pioneers to learn more and to share their expertise with one another, with the admirable goal of



attaining improved patient outcomes. This is no less true now, although today's neurosurgeons must also navigate through multiple layers of documentation and regulations to support the requirements associated with licensure and certification. They must deal with realities such as skyrocketing medical liability premiums and neurosurgeon shortages. The AANS continuously strives to assist members in navigating the growing

complexities of a career in neurosurgery in the 21st century.

In response to the uninsured health crisis facing our Nation and its impact on neurosurgery, the AANS released a Health Care Coverage Position Statement in April supporting health insurance for all Americans.

Coding and reimbursement issues in stereotactic radiosurgery have been increasingly important topics during the last year. The AANS has formed a task force and engaged ASTRO. We are committed to insuring neurosurgery's role in the development and delivery of radiostereosurgery.

The AANS recognizes how crucial it is for neurosurgeons to learn about and implement the ever changing technological advances in the field. The superb continuing medical education (CME) activities offered by the AANS reflect the latest advances in the field and enable members to hone their knowledge and skills.

The AANS CME policy was clarified by the Board of Directors in January 2005. Active and Active Provisional members are required to document receipt of the Continuing Education Award in Neurosurgery to maintain membership in the AANS. The association expanded its criteria for what qualifies for AANS CME credit, taking into consideration the anticipated American Board of Neurological Surgery (ABNS) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements, as well as those mandated by other outside organizations.

The AANS understands how challenging it can be for neurosurgeons to document the requirements associated with certification, both to retain AANS membership and meet MOC criteria. As a benefit of membership, the AANS tracks and records CME credits for members, providing personalized online transcripts and award certificates.

The relationship of professional societies and identity has come under increased scrutiny. In order to ensure the continued delivery of unbiased educational offerings, the AANS developed new guidelines to govern its relationship with commercial vendors. These were approved by the Board of Directors in November 2004.

In June 2005, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, a 501(c)(6) organization, announced formation of the AANSPAC. This new PAC will be a much more efficient vehicle for influencing liability reform and other issues of importance and for soliciting funds that support these crucial efforts. This will replace the organization known as ANSPAC and complement Neurosurgeons to Preserve Health Care Access (NPHCA).

The AANS supports the future of neurosurgery through the Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation (NREF). The NREF fosters the promising work of young, talented neurosurgical researchers by awarding several grants annually. The NREF awards the Van Wagenen Fellowship for post-resident study in a foreign country for a period of 12 months. In addition, the NREF bestows both Young Clinician Investigator and Research Fellowship awards every year.

I cannot think of a more fitting way to culminate one's term as AANS president than by presiding over the annual meeting. This year's meeting in New Orleans exemplified all that the AANS does for members and for neurosurgery throughout the year with its theme: *Education and Innovation in Neurosurgery*. The annual meeting remains the premier neurosurgical educational event, with an impressive diversity of practical clinics, breakfast seminars, and scientific sessions. Among the awards I presented this year was the Harvey Cushing Medal, the most prestigious honor the AANS bequeaths on a member. I had the great pleasure of presenting this to my good friend and esteemed colleague, Martin Weiss, MD, FACS. This followed with the lively Cushing Oration by Pulitzer Prize winning author, Edmund Morris, who wrote the definitive biography on Teddy Roosevelt.

When I handed over the gavel to Phil Wirth, MD in New Orleans, I did so with confidence that the AANS, with its strengthened focus, is well positioned to build on its excellent foundation. Within this report, you will see evidence of the AANS' strong commitment to advancing the field of neurosurgery forward through the 21st century with cutting edge programming and an invaluable array of member benefits.

Robert A. Ratcheson, MD
2004-2005 AANS President

Executive Director's Report: A Reenergized Momentum

I am very pleased to submit to you this review and assessment of the AANS service to its membership covering the 2005 fiscal year—July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

The title for this year's report, *A Strengthened Focus*, conveys the organization's multidimensional advances in this newly entered phase of service to its member neurosurgeons, as well as the specialty as a whole.

While the AANS' focus for the first three years of this decade was first and foremost to solidify its finances and infrastructure in order to eventually provide members with the specialty's most advanced services, it simultaneously needed to start producing new programs to meet its members' growing and immediate needs. No truly premier member service organization has the luxury of dealing with its challenges in a linear fashion, and the AANS recognized that reality from the outset of its recently revised strategic planning.

By the beginning of 2004, it was clear that we achieved those early objectives of stability and service development much sooner than expected. The AANS has striven this past year to consciously invest in its rapid success by embarking upon the next step: a re-energized focus to use the momentum of those achievements to undertake our next phase of service to neurosurgery: utilizing our considerable strengths and resources to prudently but confidently accelerate and enhance our benefits to you.

In the reports that follow, you will clearly see the fruits of this year of your organization operating at full throttle: financially sound and viable, innovative, creatively diverse, confident and visionary. From offering you superior quality educational activities such as the new *Minimally Invasive Spinal Techniques* and other select education on DVDs; the innovative practice management activity:

Neurosurgeon as CEO: The Business of

Neurosurgery; the enhanced technological services available to AANS members housed on MyAANS.org such as CME tracking systems (including tracking individual state requirements); the emerging member benefits to be realized via the AANS Online Marketplace; the improved and ongoing successful signature AANS offerings such as the *Neurosurgery Review by Case Management*; and *Oral Board Preparation*; the premier clinical *Journal* and the quarterly socioeconomic news *Bulletin*; and the always evolving and renowned Annual Scientific Meeting—the AANS' "focus" is truly a dynamic and multi-faceted plan to assure its membership of premier service development.

From a position of strength, achieved by sound leadership and fiscal prudence, we now confidently and vigorously expand our focus to meet your needs in a time of dramatic change for healthcare and its providers. This report will demonstrate that the AANS has never been better positioned to support you as you face those challenges.



Thomas A. Marshall
AANS Executive Director

State-of-the-Art Neurosurgical Education

AANS successfully conducted 10 practice management activities throughout the country this year. These included coding, advanced coding, practice management, and anatomy and terminology. All practice management activities performed well educationally and financially. A new one-day activity, *Neurosurgeon as CEO: The Business of Neurosurgery* focused on the identification of creative and innovative revenue streams to improve the financial health of the neurosurgical practice.

As part of the ongoing Master Series, AANS presented clinical spine education: *Innovations in Spinal Fixation: An Advanced Course* was offered in two locations, and the new *Minimally Invasive Spinal Techniques* was offered once. These provided detailed didactic and hands-on instruction for advanced spinal fixation techniques to a limited capacity audience. They were presented by world-class neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons and featured state-of-the-art equipment and instrumentation.

The always popular oral board review courses were offered twice this year to neurosurgeons in preparation for their ABNS certification exam. Under the direction of Julius Goodman, MD, this activity always sells out far in advance with a waiting list.

The AANS Resident Mentoring Program, under the direction of Samuel J. Hassenbusch, MD, was launched in January 2005. The program matches residents with seasoned neurosurgeon mentors, providing residents with options outside their respective residency programs. Currently there are 99 participants; 65 residents and 34 neurosurgeons.

Continuing Medical Education (CME)

On January 1, 2005, the AANS Executive Committee implemented new rules and regulations to assist members in obtaining and tracking appropriate CME credits to meet the anticipated mandates of the ABNS, as well as those required by other outside organizations. The new cycle requires at least 60 neurosurgical credits over the three-year cycle to document receipt of the

Continuing Education Award in Neurosurgery to maintain membership in the AANS. The cosponsored-endorsed category allows allied organizations that are accredited providers of CME to apply to the AANS to cosponsor neurosurgical CME activities. Joint sponsorship allows non-accredited entities to jointly sponsor certified educational activities with AANS, an accredited provider, once specific requirements are met throughout the planning, implementation and evaluation processes.

- A total of 18 directly sponsored activities were offered to 2,954 physician attendees and 917 non-physician attendees.
- A total of 18 jointly sponsored activities were offered to 2,177 physician attendees and 323 non-physician attendees.
- AANS helps members track progress toward state CME requirements through **MyAANS.org**:
 1. Members can now select the state(s) in which they hold a license to practice medicine, and enter their license dates/number.
 2. Selecting the state on the CME page prompts a message with the details of relicensure for that state, and features a link to the state's licensure Web site. A percentage meter shows each member's progress toward meeting these requirements.
 3. The service offers a convenient option to print a transcript of CME for a chosen state that includes the state license number for submission with a renewal.



FOCUS

Expanding
Knowledge through
Innovative
Education and
Science



ROBERT F. HEARY, MD

Education and Practice Management Committee,
Clinical Course Director

According to the most recent AANS member survey, members spend close to 60 percent of their time performing spinal procedures. To address the great need for continuing education within this area, the AANS has made a concerted effort in the last few years to expand spine educational activities.

Under the direction of Robert F. Heary, MD, the AANS launched a new Masters Series cadaver activity in December 2004, *Minimally Invasive Spinal Techniques*, which complemented *Innovations in Spinal Fixation: An Advanced Course*. Dr. Heary was on board when the first spine activity was held in July 2002, and assumed leadership as director for spine education in 2003.

“The spine subspecialty is ever evolving with new techniques being developed continually, making it a challenge for neurosurgeons practicing in this area to stay on top of advanced technology,” stated Dr. Heary.

“The spine activities offered by the AANS present state-of-the-art techniques, with high faculty-to-participant ratios, ensuring individualized instruction. This environment promotes mentoring and learning, utilizing hands-on instruction provided by seasoned master spine surgeons. The faculty is able to address specific issues facing each participant in his or her own practice through one-on-one mentoring. A testimony to the high caliber of these activities is that they invariably sell out,” remarked Dr. Heary.

Dr. Heary, chair of the AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves, is professor of neurological surgery and program director of the Neurosurgical Residency Training Program at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School in Newark, N.J.

2005 AANS Annual Meeting: Education and Innovation in Neurosurgery

The AANS Annual Meeting is the nation's largest annual scientific meeting for neurosurgeons, neurological residents in training, neuroscience nurses, clinical specialists, nurse/physician assistants, and other allied health professionals. Featured were the latest scientific and technological advances in neurological surgery. At the opening reception, neurosurgeons and their guests feasted on an array of Cajun culinary delights and enjoyed lively music and dancing amid the colorful, visually creative backdrop of Mardi Gras World. This year's meeting was attended by 2,843 medical registrants and a total of 6,084 participants, including exhibitors and guests.

Highlights included:

- 40 practical clinics
- 22 general scientific sessions
- 135 oral abstract presentations
- Nearly 500 poster presentations
- About 770 exhibits (representing more than 225 companies)
- 80 educational breakfast seminars
- 2005 Cushing Orator, Pulitzer Prize winning author Edmund Morris

AANS Bestows Top Awards

- Cushing Medalist (highest award given)—Martin H. Weiss, MD, FACS
- Distinguished Service Award—John C. VanGilder, MD
- Humanitarian Award—Tetsuo Tatsumi, MD, FACS
- Honorary Member—Armando J. Basso, MD, PhD

A Wealth of Knowledge—Special Lectures

- The Richard C. Schneider Lecture—Julian Hoff, MD
- The Ronald L. Bittner Lecture—Darrell Bigner, MD, PhD
- The Van Wagenen Lecture—Charles Warlow, MD, PhD
- The Rhoton Family Lecture—Robert G. Grossman, MD
- The Theodore Kurze Lecture—Martin H. Weiss, MD, FACS
- The Hunt Wilson Lecture—H. J. Peter Ralston, MD

RICHARD G. FESSLER, MD, PHD

2005 Annual Meeting Chair

What does it take to make the AANS Annual Meeting the premier neurosurgical educational event in the country? Having served on the AANS Annual Meeting Committee for five years, Richard G. Fessler, MD, PhD, understands firsthand how the complex and multi-layered planning process ensures consistently high quality—from the first morning's practical clinic to the very last lecture presented on the final day.

Dr. Fessler started serving on this committee in 2001, as a member at large, was scientific chair in 2004, and Annual Meeting chair in 2005. "The entire process from beginning to end is like a well-orchestrated play—every AANS volunteer and staff person is integral to making this meeting of enormous magnitude play out seamlessly to the attendees," said Dr. Fessler. Before the 2005 Annual Meeting concluded, planning for the next one was well underway. The cities and venues are arranged years in advance.

"The committee works diligently to offer a wide range of practical clinics, breakfast seminars and plenary sessions that cover the gamut of extraordinary work being done across all specialties of neurosurgery. The bottom line every year is to improve upon the prior year's program and offer neurosurgeons and allied health professionals cutting edge, innovative education and technology to further their careers and ultimately, improve patient care," remarked Dr. Fessler.

Dr. Fessler is the John Harper Seeley Professor and chief of neurosurgery at the University of Chicago in Chicago, Ill.



A Compelling Message

Every year at the annual meeting, the AANS highlights neurosurgical topics chosen by a peer-review process from all accepted oral abstracts, for release to the media. A compelling array of topics this year attracted considerable media attention, resulting in significant circulation numbers. Media coverage of the 2005 AANS Annual Meeting has exceeded 417 million people worldwide to date. Notable online outlets include: Yahoo!News, Medscape, HealthScout, HealthDay, HealthCentral, Excite, *Forbes*, and Dr. Koop. Major newspapers include: *The New York Times*, *Dayton Daily News*, *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, *Indianapolis Star*, *Detroit Times*, *Times (London, England)*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *Sacramento Bee*, and *Winston-Salem Journal*.

2005 Annual Meeting Highlighted Topics

- Intraventricular Passive Immunization against Beta-Amyloid as a Treatment for Alzheimer's Disease in Transgenic Mice
- Age-related Changes in Cerebral Blood Flow may Explain Worse Outcome in Female Head Trauma Patients
- Multicentric Phase III Study on Fluorescence-guided Resection of Malignant Gliomas with 5-ALA: Preliminary Results on Interim Analysis of 270 Patients
- The Induction of Venous Collateral Circulation By Staged Separation of Craniopagus Twins

- Is there a "July effect" in Pediatric Neurosurgery at Teaching Hospitals?
- Changing Patterns of Traumatic Brain Injury Epidemiology and Mortality Risk
- Deep Brain Stimulation for Pain: A Meta-analysis
- Prospective Blinded Outcome Assessments In Spinal Surgery

Fifty doctors participated in Hometown Radio Interviews, coordinated by well-known Chicago radio personality, Christopher Michael. This free program gives AANS members the opportunity to speak about any aspect of neurosurgery that interests them, and serves as a great way to educate the public about the groundbreaking work being done in the field. This year's interviews were heard on 1,644 stations nationwide, with a combined audience exceeding 40 million listeners.

The 2005 Neurosurgical Media Awards Program, created to encourage balanced and educational media coverage of neurosurgical topics, was moderated by Gail Rosseau, MD. A lively panel discussion gave members insight into what makes a great news story, how to pitch to a reporter, and common pitfalls to avoid. The 2005 recipients were: Vicki Mabrey, *Saved from Senility*, CBS 60 Minutes Wednesday; Melissa Fletcher Stoeltje, *The Will to Walk*, *San Antonio Express-News*; and Debi Chard, *Neurosurgeons: Above and Beyond*, WCSC-TV, Charleston, S.C.



TERRY LICHTOR, MD, PHD

2005 Annual Meeting Highlighted Topics Author

Terry Lichtor, MD, PhD, feels very indebted to the furry little creatures he keeps in his laboratory at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. The reason he is indebted is that these laboratory mice may hold the key to a potential cure for Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Lichtor has been working on Alzheimer's disease research for several years and the findings he presented at the 2005 AANS Annual Meeting were the most promising to date. So promising in fact, that Dr. Lichtor's Alzheimer's research reached more than 100 million readers across the world and helped contribute significantly to the huge media circulation the AANS generated for the scientific portion of the meeting.

"The data reported in this study provided strong support for treating Alzheimer's disease using a strategy involving injection of antibodies into the brain to impede the formation of beta-amyloid protein, without the serious side effects implicated in prior immunization strategies," said Dr. Lichtor.

"Funding for neurosurgical research is frequently tenuous and this project in particular was at risk for not receiving ongoing funding. The tremendous media attention that the AANS garnered for my work is directly responsible for several opportunities presented to me which will hopefully enable me to continue this promising research," remarked Dr. Lichtor.

"I feel very grateful that my research was chosen from the 135 accepted oral abstracts for inclusion in the 2005 Annual Meeting Press Kit. Educating the public about cutting edge research being conducted by neurosurgeons across the world is an invaluable service the AANS provides to its members," added Dr. Lichtor.

Dr. Lichtor is associate professor at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Ill.



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Providing a Broadened Array of Information, Technology, and Benefits

One important strategy in AANS' goal to diversify revenue streams is to offer an assortment of products tailored to the specific needs of neurosurgical practices that fulfill the AANS mission. Many are developed by neurosurgeons for neurosurgeons; others are developed by practice management experts. The AANS introduced several new items to its product and service line and enhanced home-study CME opportunities.

- *A Patient's Guide to Spinal Fusion*, the latest brochure in the AANS Patient Education Series discusses when spinal fusion techniques might be used to treat low back pain, the benefits of the procedure, and the types of spinal fusion (with instrumentation and bone grafting).
- *Vertebroplasty and Kyphoplasty* by Daniel K. Resnick, MD and Steven Garfin, MD is the first multidisciplinary book to cover these procedures. Included are patient selection, choice of procedure, complications and management, and expected outcomes. This volume provides 15 Category I CME Credits.
- *Minimally Invasive Spinal Techniques* DVDs present fundamentals in minimally invasive spine surgery. Included are current techniques, indications and anatomic overview. The 6-DVD set features both didactic presentations and footage of hands-on lab instruction using cadaver material. This set provides 12 Category I CME Credits.

- *Neurosurgical Focus*, the monthly online topic-based AANS journal became eligible for no-cost CME as a member benefit in August 2004. There have been 398 CME tests submitted with 391 receiving passing marks, as of June 30, 2005. This benefit provides AANS members with one CME Category 1 credit available per month, for a total of 12 credits per year for this activity.
- Through an arrangement established with Oakstone Publishing in January 2005, members can now receive CME credits by subscribing to the monthly DVD series, *Practical Reviews in Neurosurgery*.
- A new and improved coding resource, the *AANS Guide to Coding: Mastering the Global Service Package for Neurological Surgery Services* was introduced. Incorporating feedback and ideas from neurosurgical coders, this publication now includes one page for each code, organized in code order with an index at the back of the book. It also includes common names for procedures.

The AANS often partners with companies with expertise in specific areas who can offer members programs at discounted rates or with additional/exclusive features. Two such programs were introduced in the 2005 fiscal year:

- *AANS Rewards American Express Card* through MBNA America offers members rewards and privileges with no annual fee. Card holders earn one point for every dollar in purchases, redeemable for cash rewards, travel on major U.S. airlines with no blackout dates, brand-name merchandise, and gift certificates from well-known merchants.
- *Automobile Lease and Purchase Program* through Physicians Leasing Co. (PLC): PLC works with dealers and manufacturers nationwide to assure members receive the best price. They offer free vehicle delivery to home or office; design leases with terms and payments to accommodate individualized needs; accept trade-ins; and lease or sell used vehicles. AANS members receive all of the available rebates and incentives when leasing or purchasing a vehicle through PLC.

The AANS *Bulletin* rates consistently high as a member benefit by providing well-researched articles that highlight breaking socio-economic issues affecting the field of neurosurgery. This year, the quarterly magazine featured the cover articles: *CME Evolution—How the AANS is Helping Members Meet All CME Requirements; To Care is Human—It's Quality that Neurosurgery Must Define; RE: The ER—Who is Answering the Call?; and Is the Sun Setting on Medicare?—Grim Future, Few Bright Spots without Part B "Fixes"*.

In conjunction with the American College of Surgeons, AANS introduced an annual scholarship to subsidize attendance and participation in the course, *Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management*, at Brandeis University. The 2005 recipient, Gary M. Bloomgarden, MD attended the course May 15–20, 2005.

The AANS keeps on top of the latest technology by continually enhancing and improving its three Web sites: AANS.org, MyAANS.org, and NeurosurgeryToday.org. Beginning this year, members can assign a "delegate" who can access their password-protected MyAANS.org records. This benefit provides neurosurgeons with an invaluable timesaving tool. Oversight and control are maintained as the neurosurgeon designates, and if necessary, removes security access for the assigned individual. This allows an assistant or anyone a neurosurgeon designates to review/print his or her CME records, make online dues payments, complete speaker's requests, and access the AANS Online Membership Directory.

In July 2004, AANS Voting Members approved a Bylaws Amendment to permit electronic voting. This electronic process was implemented for the first time in June 2005 when members were given the option to vote electronically on three proposed Bylaws. The implementation of electronic voting is a considerable cost-saving measure.

The user-friendly public Web site, www.NeurosurgeryToday.org, provides the public with comprehensive neurosurgical information crafted by AANS experts. Camera ready fact sheets were added to the line of patient education materials, and new topics will be added regularly. These easy-to-print fact sheets are created for the public to use, as well as for AANS members to download and offer to patients.



ROBERT A. MACIUNAS, MD

Publications Committee Chair

Educating neurosurgeons to ultimately improve patient care is the fundamental reason AANS exists. Reaching more neurosurgeons and improving access to this education has been a primary focus of the past year.

"One solution was to revisit home-study, or self-education opportunities," said Robert A. Maciunas, MD, chair of the AANS Publications Committee. "This year, AANS and our publishing partner, Thieme, introduced the first publication in several years to offer CME credit. Books now in the works will have CME available. Self-education options were expanded to include not only books, but educational DVDs, and online offerings such as *Neurosurgical Focus* (free to AANS members)," added Dr. Maciunas.

"These opportunities will make it easier and more convenient for physicians to stay on top of advancements in their areas of expertise, as well as acquire necessary CME credits. Furthermore, members now have the benefit of earned CME credits being automatically posted to their transcript, which they can access online any time."

Dr. Maciunas is professor of neurological surgery, department of neurological surgery, University Hospitals of Cleveland, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio.



ALEX B. VALADKA, MD, FACS

Washington Committee

Dealing with neurosurgical trauma cases on a daily basis has given Alex B. Valadka, MD, FACS, chair of the AANS/CNS Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care, hands-on knowledge of socioeconomic issues in emergency medicine. The AANS benefited from his expertise on this subject in several arenas in the last year.

Dr. Valadka authored the cover article in the winter 2004 *Bulletin*, delineating many of the underlying factors potentially contributing to the emergency room coverage crisis. The article touched on the role of EMTALA regulations, stipends for on-call services, and medical liability as possible components contributing to this crisis.

Dr. Valadka also lent his expertise when he presented organized neurosurgery's views on EMTALA in Washington, DC at the EMTALA TAG meeting on March 30, 2005, submitting a number of suggested modifications. The comments are available online.

"In response to the fact that The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system is in the midst of a growing crisis, the AANS recognized the need to weigh in on this issue on two fronts—advocacy and member education. I was glad to get the opportunity to discuss this issue both in Washington and in the *Bulletin* article," stated Dr. Valadka.

"We are optimistic that the recent changes to the EMTALA Regulations and Interpretive Guidelines will help ease the burdens on hospitals and physicians and will encourage, rather than discourage, neurosurgeons' participation in the emergency healthcare delivery system, thereby improving patient access to emergency medical services," added Dr. Valadka.

Dr. Valadka is professor of neurosurgery, Baylor College of Medicine and chief of neurosurgery, Ben Taub General Hospital in Houston, Texas.



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Poised at the Forefront on Legislative Issues Impacting Neurosurgery

In February 2005, James R. Bean, MD, AANS treasurer, testified before the House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee on the topic of "Current Issues Related to Medical Liability Reform." Dr. Bean, who appeared on behalf of the Alliance of Specialty Medicine, a coalition of 13 medical specialty societies, called on Congress to pass medical liability reform legislation that includes, among other things, a \$250,000 cap on noneconomic damages. Dr. Bean also participated in a press conference with Senator John Ensign (R-NV), who along with Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) announced the reintroduction of their medical liability reform bill, the HEALTH Act, in the Senate.

In February 2005, the Joint AANS and CNS Washington Committee submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (OIG), requesting that the OIG establish a new safe harbor making it permissible for hospitals to subsidize neurosurgeons' medical malpractice premiums. Currently, such financial assistance may be illegal under anti-kickback laws.

At the end of March 2005, the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) Technical Advisory Group (TAG) held its first meeting. The TAG, mandated by the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, is charged with reviewing regulations and interpretive guidelines related to EMTALA and making recommendations for appropriate changes. John A. Kusske, MD, the neurosurgery representative appointed in January 2005, began his 30-month term on the TAG on March 30.

Financial stability is the cornerstone of the AANS infrastructure, enabling visionary growth and expansion.

Consistency is the word that best describes the financial activities of fiscal year 2005. The total net excess decreased by only \$45,000 from fiscal 2004. For the fourth consecutive year, the AANS posted a net operating profit without a dues increase. This financial stability has enabled the Board of Directors to hold 2006 calendar year dues to the same rates billed since 2001.

Once again, this year's financial improvement can be attributed to a focused financial awareness by AANS leadership, as well as AANS staff that are adept at managing resources while containing costs.

This report reflects the combined financial statements of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the American Association of Neurosurgeons covering the period of July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005.

Revenue

Gross revenue in fiscal 2005 showed an increase of slightly more than \$1,000,000 from the previous year. All gross revenue categories posted increases this year.

- Revenue for the 2005 AANS Annual Meeting increased by \$30,000 over the previous fiscal year.
- The *Journal of Neurosurgery* posted another large increase in gross revenue of \$421,000. While advertising revenue improved slightly, this gain is attributed to increased subscription rates and subscriptions for nonmembers and foreign institutions.
- The education and practice management area achieved substantial revenue gains, producing \$1,338,000 in gross revenue. The three regional spine courses generated \$285,000, while the *Leibrock Leadership Development Conference* generated \$133,000.

Expenses

Cost containment contributed in great part to the net profit posted in fiscal 2005. The cost of operations increased by \$114,000, although this represents a mere 4 percent increase from the previous year, while total activity expenses decreased by \$40,000. Areas showing substantial change include:

- The 2005 AANS Annual Meeting in New Orleans incurred \$144,000 less in expenses than the 2004 Annual Meeting in Orlando.
- The increase in the number of journals produced by the *Journal of Neurosurgery* contributed to a \$391,500 increase in expenses. However, the publication posted a net income increase of \$30,000 from the previous year.
- Education and practice management courses finished 2005 with a net income of \$285,000, a decrease of only \$6,000 from 2004.

All year-end financial statements of the AANS are reviewed by outside auditors. Any material differences between a published financial statement and the auditors' report are communicated to AANS members in the *AANS Bulletin*. Copies of the most recent audit are available to members by writing to: AANS Accounting Department, 5550 Meadowbrook Drive, Rolling Meadows, IL., 60008-3852.



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Financial Stability
the Cornerstone
of Growth

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

6/30/05

ASSETS

Cash and Investments	8,455,223
Other Current Assets	3,608,707
Property and Equipment, net	3,735,521
Other Assets	372,657
Total Assets	\$16,172,108

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Accounts Payable and other Current Liabilities	5,246,497
Note Payable	364,376
Total Liabilities	\$5,610,873

Equity

Beginning Net Assets	8,856,349
Net Income	1,704,886
Total Equity	\$10,561,235

Total Liabilities and Equity	\$16,172,108
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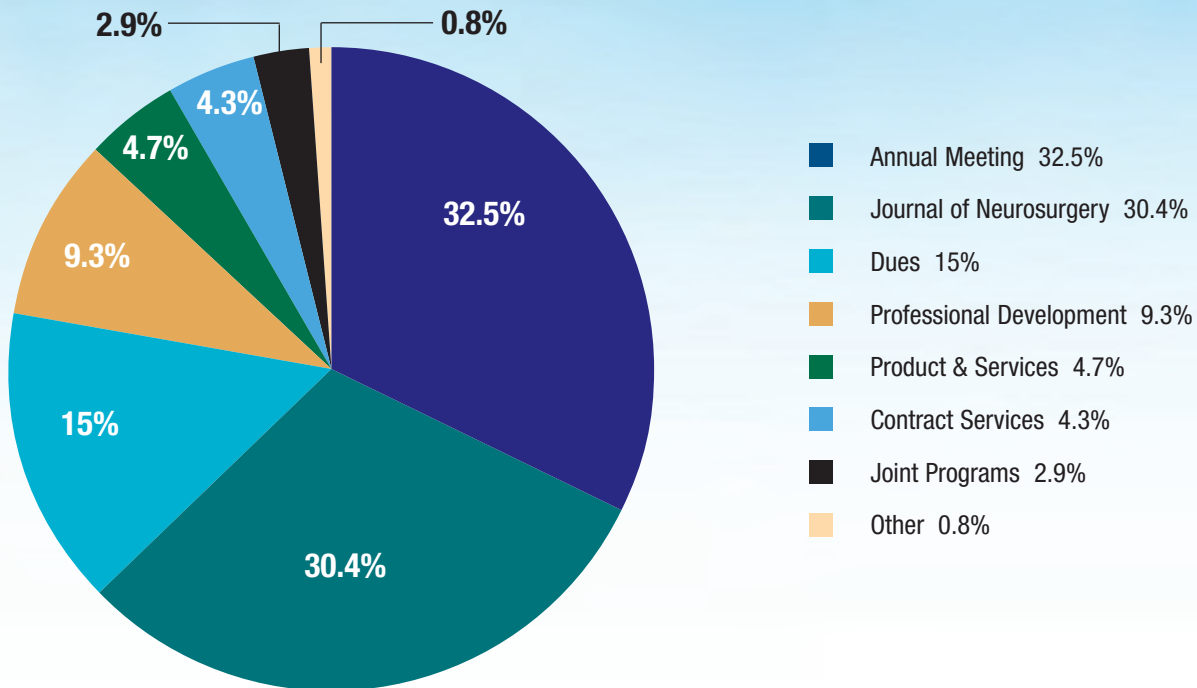
INCOME STATEMENT

Revenue

Operating Revenue	13,293,152
Operating Expenses	12,025,153
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$1,267,999

Non-Operating Activities	436,887
Net Income (Loss)	\$1,704,886

FY2005 SOURCES OF REVENUE



The NREF has been dedicated to providing private, nongovernmental sources of funding for research training in the neurosciences since its establishment in 1981. The NREF ensures the continued viability and expansion of the field of neurological surgery, based on fundamental research in the basic sciences and clinical enterprises pertinent to neurosurgery.

In 2004-2005, the NREF made some noteworthy fundraising strides. AANS members responded very well, increasing their support by 47 percent, while the number of donations increased by 110 percent. There were 460 new contributors, and online dues invoices generated 62 gifts totaling nearly \$10,000.

By supporting neurosurgical research, the NREF stimulates learning and enhances educational opportunities in the field of neurosurgery, and contributes to potential breakthroughs in treating a wide range of neurological diseases and conditions. Today's researchers supported by the NREF may provide the path to finding cures for devastating conditions such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries, and brain tumors.

Young Clinician Investigator Award Recipients (\$40,000 for one year)

- Steven Casha, MD, PhD, (cosponsored by Kyphon Inc.) Foothills Hospital, *Metalloproteinase Inhibition in Acute Spinal Cord Injury: A Human Pilot Study of Intravenous Minocycline*
- Amy B. Heimberger, MD, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, *Phenotypic and Functional Characterization of Microglia within Malignant Gliomas*
- Charles Y. Liu, MD, PhD, University of Southern California, *Artificial Niches for Neural Stem Cells*

Research Fellowship Award Recipients (\$40,000 for one year, \$70,000 for two years)

- David Cory Adamson, MD, (2-Year), Duke University, *Identification of Novel Molecular Therapeutic Markers in Glioblastoma Multiforme*
- Ryan DenHaese, MD, (1-Year), University of Maryland, *Molecular Mechanism for Adenosine Effects in Cerebral Vessels*
- Michael Kelly, MD, (1-Year), (cosponsored by DePuy Spine, a Johnson & Johnson Company), University of Saskatchewan, *Synchrotron-supported Imaging of Spinal Cord Injury in an Animal Model*
- Kendall H. Lee, MD, PhD, (1-Year), (cosponsored by Medtronic Neurological), Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, *Mechanism of Action of Deep Brain Stimulation*
- Brian Ragel, MD, (1-Year), University of Utah, *Cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) Inhibitors in the Treatment of Meningiomas*
- Michael Louis Smith, MD (1-Year), University of Pennsylvania, *Injury-induced Changes in Hippocampal Function: Electrophysiology Investigations of Circuit and Synaptic Signaling*

Seventh Annual Silent Auction Supports NREF Research

The silent auction is always a lively event at the AANS Annual Meetings. Sponsored by the Young Neurosurgeons Committee, this year's silent auction in New Orleans proved just as popular for attendees. Featuring an eclectic array of nearly 100 items, proceeds totaling more than \$23,000 were donated to the NREF in support of crucial research and education.



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JULIAN T. HOFF, MD

NREF Chair

Julian T. Hoff, MD, dedicated more than seven years of service to the NREF as chair of the Executive Council, stepping down from the position in October 2004. Dr. Hoff brought considerable grace, skill, and passion to supporting neurosurgical research, and the growth and quality of the program reflects this. His firm belief and enthusiastic support of research led to considerable strides in generating fundraising revenues to support the grant program. Under his expert guidance, the number of grant applications received increased significantly, and the NREF nearly doubled the number of grants awarded to nine in 2004.

“Supporting the potentially groundbreaking work of young researchers is an integral part of advancing the field of neurosurgery, and the NREF is an excellent vehicle for attaining this goal,” said Dr. Hoff. The research supported through the NREF may hold the key to future treatments and cures for a wide range of neurological diseases and conditions—from spinal cord injuries, to brain tumors, to Parkinson’s disease,” added Dr. Hoff.

“Corporate and member support has increased greatly for the NREF over the last few years, enabling the funding of more research projects. It is important to continue this forward momentum as this program supports fundamental research that one day may save one of our lives or the lives of countless individuals,” remarked Dr. Hoff.

Dr. Hoff is the Richard C. Schneider Professor in the department of neurosurgery at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Developing Corporate Relationships

In an effort to boost corporate giving, the AANS Development Committee created the AANS Guidelines for Corporate Relations, with the brand new *AANS Corporate Partnership Opportunities* brochure launched at the AANS Annual Meeting in April.

Annually, companies support the AANS by becoming Pinnacle Partners. The Pinnacle Partners program, now in its second year, offers corporate partnerships that go beyond traditional sponsorships. Sponsorships are a pathway to achieving companies’ missions and goals, while establishing added recognition and greater exposure to the broadest possible audience—the AANS membership. Through their generous support, Pinnacle Partners help provide invaluable member services, such as quality education courses and professional meetings.



AANS gratefully acknowledges two new Pinnacle Partners who showed their support in 2004-2005: Kyphon Inc. and Stryker Leibinger Micro Implants.



STEVEN CASHA, MD, PHD

Young Clinician Investigator Award Recipient

For the last year, Steven Casha, MD PhD, has been tackling research that may one day lead to a breakthrough in treating acute spinal cord injury (SCI), potentially decreasing paralysis caused by these injuries, and restoring function. Definitely a worthy endeavor, given that an estimated 2.5 million people across the world are living with paralysis caused by SCI. In the United States alone, there are about 11,000 new injuries every year and more than 250,000 people living with SCI.

This award was cosponsored by Kyphon Inc. founded in 1994, and dedicated to restoring spinal function through minimally invasive therapies. “My previous research has focused on the investigation of neuroprotective strategies related to cell death mechanisms after SCI. This award has enabled us to initiate a double blind randomized placebo controlled human pilot study of minocycline in these patents,” stated Dr. Casha.

“Specifically, the ultimate goal of the research is to determine if minocycline, a second-generation tetracycline administered in conjunction with spinal perfusion pressure augmentation, improves outcome after SCI,” said Dr. Casha.

“Initial results are promising. We have been able to administer the trial protocol successfully and to collect outcomes reliably. I hope that this initial study will provide the preliminary data necessary to undertake a larger randomized, controlled, double-blinded clinical trial investigating efficacy in the near future.”

“The NREF provides invaluable support to young researchers working on projects that one day may lead to improved patient outcomes and perhaps even cures for devastating conditions and diseases affecting millions,” concluded Dr. Casha.

Dr. Casha is assistant professor of clinical neurosciences at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta.

KENDALL H. LEE, MD, PHD

Research Fellowship Award Recipient

Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) has been used effectively to treat intractable pain, Parkinson’s disease, epilepsy, and tremor. However, the exact mechanism by which this creates therapeutic relief is yet to be fully understood. In his research study, Kendall H. Lee, MD PhD, has been exploring the intracellular effects of high frequency stimulation (HFS) on neurons within the subthalamic nucleus and the thalamus of laboratory animals to test the hypothesis that HFS results in neurotransmitter release.

Dr. Lee’s grant was cosponsored by Medtronic Neurological, a division of Medtronic, Inc., a global leader in medical technology. “Receiving an NREF Research Fellowship Award has enabled me to continue the work I have been doing in this arena for the last few years and will hopefully further the knowledge we have about how DBS therapy influences specific regions of the brain,” stated Dr. Lee.

“While preliminary results suggest that the mechanism of HFS releases neurotransmitters, I am also testing the hypothesis that neurotransmitter release induced by HFS may block synchronized oscillations, the underlying cause of tremor, as well as spindle waves and 3 Hz Absence seizure-like discharges,” said Dr. Lee.

“DBS is a very important treatment tool for many individuals with debilitating movement disorders and seizures. By pinpointing this mechanism more precisely, we may be able to improve the efficacy of DBS for treating a variety of neurological conditions,” added Dr. Lee.

Dr. Lee is chief resident in neurosurgery at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H.



The Foundation gratefully acknowledges and appreciates the generous support of the following individuals, groups and corporations, who made their contributions to NREF from July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005.

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