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Chairman's Message

A Vibrant Organization with a Bright Future



Ronald E. Warnick, MD

Mayfield Clinic & Spine Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio

The AANS/CNS Section on Tumors has just completed a successful two-year term under the outstanding leadership of Dr. Raymond Sawaya supported by a highly productive Executive Committee. Some of the most important accomplishments included: (1) Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Section on Tumors (including the 20th Anniversary Brochure), (2) Special Issue of the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology* distributed in CD format to all section members, (3) Formation of the Integra Foundation Award for the best clinical research paper focusing on benign tumors of the central nervous system, (4) A publication in *Neurosurgical Focus* recounting the history of the Section on Tumors, and (5) A national survey documenting current patterns of resident training in neuro-oncology. We owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Sawaya and the previous Executive Committee for leaving the Section on Tumors in such great standing.

Leadership Transition

As I assume the Chairman position of the Section on Tumors, I would like to briefly outline some new initiatives:

- (1) The Section on Tumors has sometimes been viewed as an organization comprised primarily of academic neurosurgeons specializing in glioma surgery. I would like to make the Section on Tumors more relevant to community brain tumor neurosurgeons and thereby encourage their membership in our section. To this end, Dr. Anthony Asher will chair the new **Community Collaborative Initiatives Subcommittee** and

will develop a strategic plan to accomplish these goals.

- (2) The Section on Tumors is a strong, vibrant organization that needs to continue strengthening its relationships with other national neuro-oncology organizations. For this reason, I have formed two new subcommittees: **Medical Neuro-Oncology** led by Dr. Susan Chang and **Skull Base Surgery** led by Dr. Franco DeMonte. These chairs will function as liaisons between the Section on Tumors and their respective organizations (The Society of Neuro-Oncology and the North American Skull Base Society) with regards to joint activities such as publications and meetings.
- (3) The Section on Tumors needs to broaden its international representation in order to strengthen relationships with worldwide neuro-oncology organizations. To this end, I have expanded the **International Subcommittee** to a total of seven members representing Latin America, Europe, Australia and the Far East.
- (4) The **Section on Tumors Executive Committee** must ensure the future success of our Section by developing the future leaders of our organization. Therefore, I have appointed thirteen new members to the Executive Committee and paired the younger members with a more senior neurosurgeon from the Advisory Board to establish a one-to-one mentorship program.

Dedicated Volunteers

The members of the Section on Tumors are fortunate to have a strong Executive Committee comprised of 46 highly motivated volunteers who are committed to ensuring the success of our organization. Although it is not possible to mention each and every member, I would be

Editor's Corner

Linda M. Liau, MD, PhD, University of California (UCLA), Los Angeles, California



It is my pleasure to assume the role of Editor of *Tumor News*. I feel privileged to work in this capacity over the next two years, under the Section on Tumors leadership of Drs. Ronald Warnick and Michael McDermott. *Tumor News* is the semi-annual official newsletter of the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors.

The success and usefulness of this publication depends on the input from the section membership, so we welcome submissions for potential future publications as well as "letters to the editor" commenting on previous articles. We encourage contributions related to specific tumor-related topics or of general interest to the neurosurgical oncology community.

In the coming year, in addition to feature articles, each issue will present a "Chairman's Message", as well as reports from some of the various Section on Tumors subcommittees. *Tumor News* will continue to update neurosurgeons on the activities of the Section on Tumors, including Annual Meeting highlights, changes in the Section on Tumors bylaws, and Membership services.

In this issue of the newsletter, Dr. Ronald Warnick greets us with his "Chairman's Message," and Dr. Michael McDermott summarizes the financial aspects of the Section in the "Treasurer's Report." Dr. McDermott also provides a description of the recent Section on Tumors awards at the AANS 2005 Annual Meeting in New Orleans this past spring. Dr. Kevin Lillehei reports on the First Annual Aspen Symposium on Brain Tumor Immunotherapy, and Dr. Roberta Glick summarizes the past and future activities of the Immunotherapy Task Force. Dr. Randy Jensen reports on the results of a recent survey of neurosurgical oncology training, and Drs. Fred Barker and McDermott highlight a recently published

article in *Neurosurgical Focus* on the history of the Section on Tumors awards. For the International Report, Dr. Fumio Yamaguchi provides a summary of recent neuro-oncology activities in Japan and other parts of Asia.

In addition, under Dr. Ronald Warnick's leadership, three new subcommittees have been added to the Section on Tumors: 1) Community Collaborative Initiatives, headed by Dr. Anthony Asher; 2) Medical Neuro-Oncology subcommittee, chaired by Dr. Susan Chang; and 3) Skull Base Surgery Subcommittee, directed by Dr. Franco DeMonte. In this issue of the newsletter, Dr. Chang provides a report of the activities of the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) in conjunction with the Section on Tumors; and Dr. DeMonte updates us on the activities of the North American Skull Base Society.

If you have any suggestions for *Tumor News* or content to submit for publication in an upcoming issue, please contact me at:

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Chairman's Message *continued from front page*

remiss if I did not recognize Dr. Michael McDermott who is the new Secretary/Treasurer of our Section. Dr. McDermott has been an active and visible member of the Section on Tumors Executive Committee and has re-energized the Awards Committee during his four-year tenure. I look forward to working closely with him over the next two years.

The Future is in Your Hands

In summary, I am pleased to report that the Section on Tumors is an active and creative organization that is fulfilling all of its missions and goals. We are interested in hearing your comments and suggestions on how we can better make the Section on Tumors meet your needs. Feel free to send me an email at: nsgymd@mac.com. Our greatest resource is you...our members!

Treasurer's Report

Michael W. McDermott, MD
University of California, San Francisco, California

Total assets for the Section on Tumors for the current year ending June 30, 2005 were \$260,246. Compared to the prior year, this is a decrease of 7.9 percent – reflecting additional costs for the Section on Tumors Satellite meetings and mailing of the 20th Anniversary publication CDs. These expenditures resulted in a decrease in our checking balance. On the other hand, short term investments were up 5 percent and long term investments were up 6 percent adding to stable long term reserves now totaling \$169,000.

Under Dr. Ronald Warnick's leadership, the section is working with the AANS Executive Office to control costs for annual meetings and to promote recruitment of new members. Outstanding amounts for activities at the New Orleans AANS Annual Meeting of 2005 have been addressed and we expect to collect these funds shortly. Currently, outstanding membership dues total \$9,262 and efforts will be made to collect unpaid dues. Members with more than three years unpaid dues will have their membership status revoked.

AANS/CNS Joint Section on Tumors Awards, New Orleans, Louisiana

Michael W. McDermott, MD, University of California, San Francisco, California

The 2005 AANS Annual Meeting in New Orleans was another success for the Section on Tumors. Of course our thoughts and prayers now go out to the people of New Orleans as they try to rebuild and recover from Hurricane Katrina. There is no doubt our annual meeting will be held in New Orleans in future years.



The section was pleased to present for the first time the *Integra Foundation Award* to be given at each annual meeting of the AANS and CNS for the best research or clinical paper submitted investigating benign brain, spinal or peripheral nerve tumors. The monetary component of the

award is \$1,000—similar to our other major awards. Both residents and attending neurosurgeons are eligible to submit papers for consideration and the award will be given to a recipient only once. Dr. Bruce Pollock from Mayo Clinic was this year's AANS recipient for his paper: *A Prospective Study Comparing Patient Outcomes after Vestibular Schwannoma Resection and Stereotactic Radiosurgery*. The Award certificate was presented to Dr. Pollock by Dr. Michael McDermott, left, chair of the Awards Committee (Figure 1).

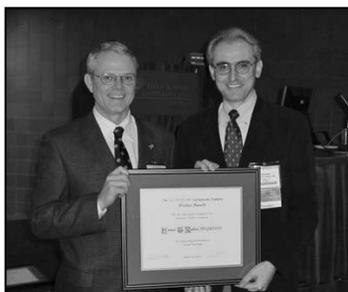
Following the success of the Satellite Symposium in October 2004 in San Francisco, Drs. Frederick Barker and Michael McDermott prepared a historical review of the Section on Tumors and its awards published in *Neurosurgical Focus* at www.aans.org/education/journal/neurosurgical/. The article entitled *Prizes, Lectures, and Awards of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Section on Tumors* (*Neurosurg Focus* 18(4): E11, 2005) is available online and a must-read for new and established members of the section who would like to understand where we came from, the important figures in our past, and where we are today. Many thanks to Fred Barker for spearheading this effort.

The Awards Committee leadership has now changed hands and Dr. Jeffrey Bruce will oversee day-to-day, meeting-to-meeting operations. There is a new award to announce at the upcoming CNS meeting which will be awarded for the first time at the AANS Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Please welcome Jeff Bruce to this important position. I know he will do an outstanding job.

As my last duty as the outgoing Awards Chair, I am pleased to summarize the remaining awards and winners from the AANS 2005 Annual Meeting below.

Farber Award

This year's award was presented by Dr. Raymond Sawaya, right, Section on Tumors chair, to Dr. James Rutka (Figure 2). Dr. Rutka, past chair of the Section on Tumors and chairman of

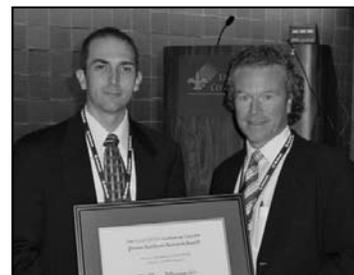


Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto, was recognized for his outstanding work on medulloblastoma and the outstanding researchers in neuro-oncology he has trained. Dr. Rutka holds the Dan Family Chair in Neurosurgery and is the director of the Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumor Research Center. His presentation entitled *Medulloblastoma: From mice to men* documented the history of basic science research as it relates to medulloblastoma and the implications and applications of this work for the clinical care of patients afflicted with this tumor.

Sponsored by the Farber Foundation, the Farber Award is presented at the annual meetings of the AANS and Society for Neuro-oncology on alternate years and the awardee speaks at both meetings the year the award is bestowed. The recipient is selected by the presidents of the two societies and the Section on Tumors Awards Chair based on nominees from the executive committees of both societies. The award recognizes the most promising investigators who are achieving significant results early in their careers and is given only once to a recipient.

Preuss Award

The Preuss Award, sponsored by the Preuss Foundation, is given at each of the AANS and CNS Annual Meetings to a young scientist investigating brain tumors, within 10 years of training, who has submitted the best basic science research paper.



At the 2005 AANS Annual Meeting the winner was Dr. Cory Adamson, for his paper entitled, *Identification of OTX2 as a Medulloblastoma Oncogene Whose Product Can Be Targeted by All-Trans Retinoic Acid*. The award was presented to Dr. Adamson, left, by Dr. Donald O'Rourke, right (Figure 3).

Mahaley Award

This year's recipient was Dr. Ajay Jawahar for his paper, *Phase II Randomized Trial to Assess the Efficacy of Gamma Knife Radiosurgery with or without XRT for Brain Metastases*.

Named in memory of neurosurgeon Steven Mahaley, the Mahaley Award is given at each of the AANS and CNS Annual Meetings to a neurosurgery resident, fellow or attending, who submits the best clinical study in neuro-oncology. The applicant must be a member of the section and can receive the award only once. The award is sponsored by the National Brain Tumor Foundation. The award was presented to Dr. Jawahar, left, by Dr. Raymond Sawaya (Figure 4).



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Aspen Symposium on Brain Tumor Immunotherapy

Kevin O. Lillehei, MD, University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado



The Aspen Symposium on Brain Tumor Immunotherapy was held August 8 - 9, 2005 at the Given Institute in Aspen, Colorado. The symposium, chaired by Dr. Kevin Lillehei, was sponsored by the Immunotherapy Task Force of the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, and the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Colorado. Sixteen talks were presented over a

two-day interval covering various aspects of basic neuro-immunology and immunotherapy, along with novel treatment strategies. The novel approaches to the treatment of high-grade gliomas included a variety of vaccine therapies, the use of antisense oligonucleotides to block intracranial inhibitory cytokine production, use of chimeric T-cell clones engineered for anti-tumor effect, and immuno-gene therapy. Participants included representatives from most of the major tumor centers in the United States, as well as a group from Regensburg, Germany. The symposium was enthusiastically received, providing a

focused platform for the presentation and discussion of leading work on brain tumor immunotherapy. Because of the overwhelming support for this year's symposium, plans are underway for the "2nd Annual Aspen Symposium on Brain Tumor Immunotherapy" scheduled for August 7 - 9, 2006. The format of the meeting will be changed to three half-day morning sessions, allowing for the afternoons and evenings to be free for family activities, exploring the mountains, and attending the Aspen music festival activities.



Tumors Awards *continued from page 3*

Young Investigator Award

Sponsored by the American Brain Tumor Association, the Young Investigator Award is given at each AANS and CNS Annual Meeting to a young faculty member involved in neuro-oncology research who has demonstrated outstanding potential for future basic science research. The applicant may only have been out of training and in practice for less than six years.

At the 2005 AANS Annual Meeting the winner was Dr. Carlo Benech, for his paper, *Effects of Antisense ODNs for VEGF Vehiculated by Colloidal Carriers (Solid Lipid Nanoparticles) in an Experimental Model of Glioma*. The award was presented to Dr. Benech, left, by Dr. Ronald Warnick (Figure 5).



Ronald L. Bittner Award

This year's recipient was Dr. Manish Aghi who presented his paper, *Increased Ratio of T2 - Bright MRI Volume to T1-Enhancing Volume in EGFR-Amplified Glioblastoma*.



The Bittner Award is presented annually at the AANS Annual Meeting to recognize excellence in clinical and basic science research in neuro-oncology. The award was presented to Dr. Aghi, right,

by Dr. Rutka, past chair of the section (Figure 6).

Journal of Neuro-Oncology Award

Dr. Ronald Warnick presented the award to this year's recipient Dr. Walter Stummer, left, for his paper, *Multicentric Phase III Study on Fluorescence-Guided Resection of Malignant Gliomas with 5-ALA: Preliminary Results on Interim Analysis of 270 Patients*.

Sponsored by Springer Publishing, this award is given to the highest ranked presentation on tumors during the Section on Tumors Annual Meeting (Figure 7).



Award Name	Sponsor	AANS Awardee
Farber Award	Farber Foundation	Dr. James Rutka
Mahaley Award	National Brain Tumor Foundation	Dr. Ajay Jawahar
Preuss Award	Preuss Foundation	Dr. D. Cory Adamson
Young Investigator Award	American Brain Tumor Association	Dr. Carlo A. Benech
Integra Foundation Award	Integra Foundation	Dr. Bruce Pollock
Ronald Bittner Award	Ronald L. Bittner Foundation	Dr. Manish Aghi
Journal of Neuro-oncology Award	Springer Publishing	Dr. Walter Stummer

Brain Tumor Immunotherapy Task Force

Roberta P. Glick, MD, Cook County Hospital/Neurosurgery, Chicago, IL



In recent years, there has been an increased interest in the development of immunologic strategies for the treatment of brain tumors. It is evident by the many questions, inquiries and contacts from patients and physicians (including neurosurgeons) that there is an urgent need to coordinate and disseminate the current information and ongoing research in this field. Even within the scientific community, many do not know what current studies are underway, the results of ongoing clinical trials, what immune parameters should be monitored in these clinical trials, whether these studies should be multi-center trials, and what further pre-clinical work needs to be done.

Several researchers and clinicians involved in neuro-oncology thought this need could be met via a focused research group. To this end, we have organized a multi-disciplinary group (i.e., an "Immunotherapy Task Force"), a kind of "neural environment" as a means of facilitating communication among researchers, both basic science and clinical, and as a means of coordinating multi-center collaborative research efforts. Since the initiation of this group in 2001, we have grown to over 75 members.

We have organized this Immunotherapy Task Force in order to bring people in the field together for the purposes of education/research and to evaluate the need for an Immunotherapy Consortium. The meetings are organized into three parts: Invited Lecturer,

Research Talks (oral presentations), and Round Table Discussions. Previous invited lecturers have included Dr. Darell Bigner and Dr. Edward Oldfield.

The goals of these meetings are threefold:

- (1) First, to present and evaluate the novel and current laboratory and clinical research in the field of brain tumor immunotherapy in order to coordinate and disseminate current information and ongoing research in the field;
- (2) Second, to achieve consensus regarding what clinical endpoints and immune system monitoring parameters should be evaluated in clinical studies; and
- (3) Third, to evaluate the need and timing for an Immunotherapy Consortium for conducting multi-center clinical trials.

As a result of the growing interest and promising early results in this exciting and changing field, a special issue of the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology* (September 2003) had been dedicated to clinical and basic research in brain tumor immunotherapy. The articles in this issue represent work from many of the leading researchers in the field of brain tumor immunotherapy, most of whom are members of the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors Immunotherapy Task Force. This issue was dedicated to one of our great past teachers and proponent of immunotherapy, Dr. Stephen Mahaley.

Resident Training in Neurosurgical Oncology:

Results of the Survey of North American Training Programs by the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors

Randy Jensen, MD, PhD, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah



The Section on Tumors recently commissioned a survey to investigate how neurosurgical residents are trained in the subspecialty of neurosurgical oncology. This is a subject of special interest to the Section on Tumors because of its specific involvement in the education of practitioners managing

patients with tumors involving the nervous system. The full results of this survey have been submitted for publication in the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology*.

The survey organizers determined that faculty background; resident rotations, research opportunities, and caseload; and post-graduate neuro-oncology-related activities would all provide important information to evaluate the opportunities available to residents. Anonymous surveys were sent to 106 North American training centers and approximately 40 percent (n=44) of the programs responded to the survey.

The results of the survey were varied. More than 90 percent of the responding programs have a faculty member that specializes in neurosurgical oncology, which provides the basis for strong training. However, neurosurgical oncology fellowships or dedicated

neuro-oncology resident rotations, which would provide more direct contact with neuro-oncology patients and faculty, are found only in a small number of responding programs. Nevertheless, most residency programs support resident research, including exposure

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Table 1. Resident exposure to tumor cases during the final year of residency

Tumor type	Number of cases/year	Number of programs*
Primary brain tumors	<100	15 (34%)
	>100	29 (66%)
Skull base tumors	<50	20 (46%)
	>50	24 (54%)
Spine/peripheral nerve tumors	<50	30 (70%)
	>50	14 (30%)

*Forty-four of 106 neurosurgical resident training programs responded.

Prizes, Lectures, and Awards of the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors

Frederick G. Barker II, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts & Michael W. McDermott, MD, University of California, San Francisco, California

An important goal of the Section on Tumors, since its founding in 1985, has been to foster both education and research in the field of brain tumor treatment. As one means of achieving this, the section awards a number of prizes, research grants, and named lectures at the annual meetings of the AANS and CNS. After a brief examination of similar honors that were given in recognition of pioneering work by Knapp, Cushing, and other early brain tumor researchers, the authors describe the various awards given by the Section on

Tumors since its' founding, their philanthropic donors, and the recipients of the awards. The subsequent career of the recipients is briefly examined, in terms of the rate of full publication of award-winning abstracts and achievement of grant funding by awardees.

A full article of this historical perspective of the Section on Tumors can be found in the online journal *Neurosurgical Focus* (Barker FG II & McDermott MW, *Neurosurg Focus*, April 15, 2005).

International Report: Japan

Fumio Yamaguchi, MD, PhD, Nippon Medical School, Tokyo, Japan



The 6th Annual Meeting of the Japan Molecular Neurosurgery Society was held in September in Osaka, Japan. Cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL) induced by the WT1 peptide vaccine seem to have some efficacy as immunotherapy for recurrent malignant gliomas. A Phase I/II clinical trial of this peptide vaccine has been completed and resulted in partial responses and in some cases prolonged survival. Dendritic cell (DC) therapy and autologous natural killer (NK) cell therapy for malignant gliomas were also reported to be effective and safe in several clinical trials. Basic research currently undertaken in the field of brain tumors was also covered during the meeting. Factors that are currently studied in Japan include virus vectors expressing IL-12, Hsp90 inhibition, thermo-reversible gelatin polymers, survivin, BNIP3, CD44, neuroleukin/gp78 and JNK.

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association held on September 14-16, 2005 focused on translational research and custom-made medicine. Particularly, brain tumor research reported at this meeting included therapies targeting Bcl-2, JNK and HB-EGF; the analysis of IGFBP2, chromosome 19, TSGL1, MET; and new advances in proteomics. With such research endeavors, we are actively working towards the eradication of brain tumors.

We expect to have several upcoming meetings focusing on tumors of the central nervous system. The upcoming meetings in Japan and other Asian countries include:

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Japan Neurosurgical Society

Oct. 5-7, 2005, Yokohama, Japan
<http://www.congre.co.jp/jnss2005>

The 23rd Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Neuro-Oncology

Oct. 31-Nov 1, 2005, Kagoshima, Japan
e-mail: mkeishi@kaiju.medic.kumamoto-u.ac.jp

The 4th Meeting of Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology

Nov. 4-6, 2005, Taipei, Taiwan

The 10th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Congress for Brain Tumor Surgery

Nov. 25-26, 2005, Saga, Japan

12th International Symposium on Pediatric Neuro-Oncology 2006

June 6-9, 2006, Nara, Japan

Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament for Pediatric Brain Tumor Research

Jeffrey N. Bruce, MD, Columbia University, New York

The 2005 Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament to benefit pediatric brain tumor research was played on June 11, 2005 in the Great Lawn of New York's Central Park. The event was hosted by Columbia University and sponsored by George Steinbrenner and Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees, with all proceeds benefiting pediatric brain tumor research. Competing teams included the Departments of Neurosurgery from eight of the nation's top medical centers – Columbia, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Cornell, NYU, Yale, Albert Einstein, and Mt. Sinai. In honor of one of the former Chairmen at Columbia and pioneers of neurosurgery, the championship trophy was named "The J. Lawrence Pool Memorial Trophy" and will be housed at the winning institution. This year, Columbia claimed the championship by beating Cornell 9-2 in the finals, while Albert Einstein defeated Harvard 10-6 to win 3rd place.

Organized by Dr. Ricardo J. Komotar, a neurosurgery resident at Columbia University, this year's tournament raised nearly \$70,000 for the Columbia University Pediatric Brain Tumor Research Fund (www.KidsBrainResearch.org).



2005 Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament Champions – Columbia University.

(Upper Row from Left to Right: Saadi Ghatan, Donald Quest, Chris Mandigo, Ty Olson, Sean Lavine, Richard Anderson, William Mack, Allen Waziri, Guy McKhann, Jeffrey Bruce, J Mocco, Robert Goodman, Chris Winfree, Sander Connolly, Robert Solomon, Lower Row from Left to Right: Patrick Senatus, Todd Hankinson, Rick Komotar, Michael Kaiser, Alfred Ogden, Anthony D'Ambrosio, Michael Sisti).

Medical Neuro-Oncology Subcommittee of AANS/CNS Section on Tumors

Susan M. Chang, MD, University of California, San Francisco, California



A new Medical Neuro-Oncology Subcommittee was formed since the AANS 2005 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. I will be the liaison between the Section on Tumors and the Society of Neuro-Oncology (SNO). In this role, I will cover matters concerning joint activities such as publications and meetings, and I will serve as a resource for the Section on Tumors membership regarding updates in the field of medical neuro-oncology.

The Society of Neuro-Oncology Executive Committee held a planning meeting in Orlando in May 2005. The major goals for SNO in the upcoming years are related to research, education and support of the infrastructure of the society. While the annual meeting is the primary meeting for SNO, other opportunities for additional educational events were discussed. Particularly relevant to the Section on Tumors was the partnering with this society to offer a meeting more tailored to neurosurgeons. Preliminary discussions have been very favorable in both societies about this joint meeting, and planning is in its initial phase. Details regarding the scientific program and support for the joint meeting will be reviewed by Drs. Andrew Parsa and Frederick Lang.

In addition to the SNO/Section on Tumors meeting, another proposed joint activity is the development of reporting guidelines for surgically based neuro-oncology clinical trials. A manuscript outlining the Guidelines for Neuro-Oncology Standards for Investigational Studies (GNOSIS statement) for the reporting of Phase I and II drug trials in Neuro-Oncology has been published with the collaboration of many members of SNO. (Chang et al., GNO-SIS-Guidelines for Neuro-Oncology: standards for investigations studies-reporting of phase I and II clinical trials. *Neuro-Oncology* 2005, Vol 7, Issue 4, online). The guidelines are intended to assist with accurate interpretation of results, facilitate peer review, and expedite the publication of important and accurate manuscripts. The guidelines are summarized in a checklist format and can be used to construct a trial.

Using a similar format and the involvement of members of the Section on Tumors, the plan is to generate guidelines for reporting surgically-based therapeutic trials in Neuro-Oncology. An initial draft has been started, which I will review with several members of the section for their input. Publication in the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology* as well as *Neuro-Oncology* is being planned, and possibly other neurosurgical journals as well.

to various brain tumor clinical trials, which offer residents critical exposure to the collection, analysis, and interpretation of clinical observations that will significantly improve the individual's rational approach to the management of patients and the critical judgment of his or her own work and reports in the literature.

In addition to faculty mentoring, an appropriate caseload will expose a resident to a breadth and depth of neuro-oncology-related disease states. Resident caseload varies by program but most residency programs that responded to the survey offer more than 100 surgical cases of primary brain tumors (Table 1). Exposure to skull base tumors and spine and peripheral nerve cases is more limited, but is still generally available to residents (Table 1).

Overall, neuro-surgical oncology training at most residency programs appears to be strong at the programs that responded to our survey. Half of the responding programs indicated that graduates had taken faculty positions focusing on neurosurgical oncology, which must be one measure of success of neuro-oncology training. Nevertheless, resident training in neurosurgical oncology can be improved, and residents with interests in this subspecialty need support to further this field.

AANS/CNS Section on Tumors Seeking Feedback on Stereotactic Radiosurgery Coding Issues

Andrew E. Sloan, MD, University of South Florida

The AANS/CNS Task Force on Stereotactic Radiosurgery met in Chicago in late June to address the current clinical and administrative challenges in the field. The treatment of multiple lesions in a single session was addressed. Some centers are treating and billing for up to 30 lesions at a single session. After thorough review, the Task Force recommended that 61793 should be used to code for the first lesion in a session and 61793-59 or 61793-51 could be used for up to four additional lesions in the same session. However, it was agreed that 61793 should be used no more than five times in a single session. Under the auspices of the Washington Committee, the Task Force is currently addressing this coding issue. The Section on Tumors is seeking feedback on this. Please submit comments to SloanAE@Moffitt.usf.edu.

Membership in the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors

Isabelle M. Germano, MD, FACS

Why join the Section on Tumors?

Consider the following benefits:

Formal acknowledgement of your special interest in tumors

Enhanced credibility with tumor patients and in medico-legal activities

Semiannual newsletter

- Latest news on section activities
- Announcement of clinical trials
- Interesting articles on advances in brain tumor management

Journal of Neuro-Oncology 50 percent discount (the official journal of the Section on Tumors)

- A multi-disciplinary journal encompassing basic, applied, and clinical investigations in all research areas as they relate to cancer and the central nervous system

Reduced registration at the Section on Tumors Biennial Tumor Satellite Meeting

- Up-to-date clinical and basic research on nervous system tumors presented by leaders in the field

Access to colleagues with similar interests

- Neurosurgeons with interest in peripheral, primary and metastatic CNS tumors, skull base and spinal tumors

Your membership also helps support the activities of the section, which serves as the official voice of AANS and CNS in matters related to tumors. The Section on Tumors deals with a myriad of tumor-related issues including new CPT codes, resident and fellowship education, research initiatives, and supports organized neurosurgery in areas pertinent to the scope of neurosurgical tumor practice and policy.

Active membership is available to members of the AANS and/or CNS with an interest in tumors. International and Adjunct (non-neurosurgeon) memberships are also available. An application and details on membership requirements are available at:

<http://www.neurosurgery.org/sections/section.aspx?Section=TU&Page=mbrInfo.asp>

Send your complete application and recent CV to: Isabelle M. Germano, MD, FACS, Professor of Neurosurgery, Director-Stereotactic and Tumor Program, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, One Gustave Levy Place, Box 1136, New York, NY 10029, or e-mail to: isabelle.germano@mountsinai.org.

CNS 2005: Tumor Highlights

Linda M. Liau, MD, PhD, University of California (UCLA), Los Angeles, California

The Section on Tumors program at the 2005 CNS Annual Meeting in Boston will have several notable highlights. On Monday, October 10, 2005, the General Scientific Session will feature a talk by Dr. James T. Rutka, entitled *Gliomas: Quo Vadis?* This will be followed by several luncheon seminars on tumor-related topics:

M04 Anterior Skull Base Approaches: What, When How?

Franco DeMonte, James P. Chandler, Alexandru Vlad Ciurea, Amin Kassam, Anil Nanda, and Jon H. Robertson

M05 Acoustic Schwannomas: Options, Approaches, and Results

Madjid Samii, Steven Giannotta, John G. Golfinos, Stephen J. Haines, Kazuhiro Hongo, and Douglas S. Kondziolka

M06 State of the Art Management of Brain Metastases

Raymond Sawaya, Alessandro Ducati, Linda M. Liau, Bruce E. Pollock, Viviane Tabor, and Steven A. Toms

On Tuesday, October 11, 2005, a special symposium entitled, *Neurosurgeons as Clinical Investigators – An Open Forum on the Future of Brain Tumor Research* will be conducted with several neurosurgeons experienced in clinical research. Symposium speakers will include Dr. Michael Vogelbaum from the Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Anthony Asher from South Carolina Neurosurgery, and Dr. Frederick Barker from the Massachusetts General Hospital. This symposium will also feature representatives from the National Cancer Institute, NCI (Jeffrey Abrams) and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NINDS (Thomas P. Jacobs), who will discuss opportunities for clinical research funding through the National Institutes of Health. Opportunities and challenges for clinical neurosurgical research will be addressed in a roundtable discussion format. Luncheon seminars on tumor topics will include:

T24 Management of Low Grade Gliomas: Current Strategies and Dilemmas

Abhijit Guha, Jeffrey Bruce, Jan Mooji, Joseph M. Piepmeyer, John H. Sampson, and Robert Weil

T26 Mastery of Pituitary Surgery

Edward H. Oldfield, William T. Couldwell, Edward R. Laws, Dieter Ludecke, Kalmon D. Post, and Brooke Swearingen

T35 Pediatric Brain Tumors

Mark M. Souweidane, Derek Bruce, Michael H. Handler, Timothy B. Mapstone, Christian Sainte-Rose, and Tadanori Tomita

On Wednesday, October 12, 2005, Dr. Gene Barnett will present *Translational Research for Gliomas: Quo Vadis?* during the General Scientific Session. There will be a scientific symposium entitled, *Molecular Targets and Targeted Therapies for Malignant Brain Tumors*. Symposium speakers will include Dr. Paul Mischel from UCLA, Dr. Daniel Fufts from the University of Utah, and Dr. John Laterra from John Hopkins University. Tumor-related luncheon seminars include:

W47 International Society of Pituitary Surgeons: Pituitary Tumors, Quo Vadis?

Gail Rosseau, Jens Astrup, Armando Basso, Enrico DeDivitiis, Rashid Jooma, and Michael Powell

W49 Current Management of Meningiomas: Benign and Malignant

Phillip H. Gutin, Ivan S. Ciric, Mohamed El-Fiki, Randy Jensen, Ali F. Krisht, and Michael W. McDermott

Tumor highlights during the 2005 CNS meeting will conclude on Thursday, October 13, 2005 with a General Scientific Session presentation by Dr. Charles B. Wilson, Department of Neurosurgery, University of California, San Francisco, who will discuss *The Future of Surgical Neuro-Oncology* – a talk you don't want to miss!

Skull Base Surgery Subcommittee

Franco De Monte, MD, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX



The Skull Base Surgery Subcommittee of the Section on Tumors is a newly formed subcommittee with the following charges:

- 1) To liaison with the North American Skull Base Society with regard to joint educational activities such as publications and meetings.
- 2) To serve as a resource for the Section on Tumors membership with regard to updates in the field of Skull Base Surgery.

- 3) To serve as a resource for the Scientific Committee of the section during the planning phases of the AANS/CNS Annual Meetings and Section on Tumors Satellite Symposia.

Preliminary announcements for the 2006 Annual Meeting of the North American Skull Base Society in Phoenix, Arizona on February 16 – 19, 2006 and for the 2008 World Federation of Skull Base Societies meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia on September 11 – 14, 2008 may be viewed on the North American Skull Base Surgery website: www.nasbs.org.

AANS/CNS Section on Tumors

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Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008

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		Journal of Neuro-Oncology
		Medical Neuro-Oncology
		Member Services
		Membership Newsletter
		Nominating Program
		2005 CNS
		2006 AANS
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