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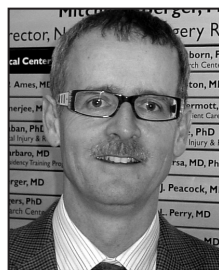
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Clinical Research by Neurosurgical Oncologists

International Report from Italy

Chairman's Message

By the Members, For the Members



Michael W. McDermott

I am delighted to assume the position of chairman of the Section on Tumors after the very successful two-year term of Ronald Warnick, MD. Dr. Warnick outlined the Section's progress during his tenure as

chairman in his Spring 2007 Chairman's Message. Important initiatives realized during his tenure included the BrainLAB Community Neurosurgery Award, the BrainLAB International Fellowship, development of the "Academic Community Alliance" along with strengthened representation for international Section members and skull base surgeons. We should all be indebted to Dr. Warnick and his Executive Committee team for their hard work during their terms.

I would also like to thank Mark Bernstein, MD, FRCSC, Joseph Piepmeyer, MD, James T. Rutka, MD, PhD, FRCS, and Raymond Sawaya, MD, for their support; under their guidance I served on the Executive Committee over the last 10 years. I have enlisted the same group as an "Advisory Board" with whom I will consult for advice on important Section matters.

Looking forward to the next two years, I have set several goals for the Section on Tumors and will take responsibility for bringing these to fruition, with your help:

1. To maintain the financial strength of the Section in the face of increasing expenses and new Section initiatives;
2. To continue to reach out to the international community by increasing international representation on the Executive Committee;
3. To give back to international neurosurgery by sponsoring attendance at two meetings per year

4. To support the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology* (JNO), and the new Editor, Linda Liau, MD, PhD, as the Section's primary journal;
5. To organize a formal 25th anniversary celebration at the 2009 AANS Annual Meeting in San Diego;
6. To organize the first joint satellite meeting with the Society of Neuro-Oncology in the fall of 2009 in New Orleans;
7. To establish term limits on the Executive Committee so that new ideas and individuals can be recognized with increasing frequency and;
8. To improve communications to the members and conduct the Section on Tumors Business Meeting for members at the beginning of the first Section session at our AANS and CNS annual meetings.

At the last Executive Committee Meeting, the Section supported funding the Brain Metastases Guidelines initiative, championed by Mark Linskey, MD, up to an amount of \$50,000 with additional funding to be requested from the AANS and CNS.

Along with AANS staff in Chicago, Jeffrey Bruce, MD, FACS, and I have reviewed the budget for the coming fiscal year and our financial position will remain strong (even with the major contribution to the Guidelines initiative). The financial success of the recent satellite meeting in Washington, D.C., chaired by Andrew Parsa, MD, PhD, secured a strong financial position for the Section. Scheduling the

Section on Tumor Awards Presented at 2007 AANS Annual Meeting

Gene Barnett, MD

The 2007 AANS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. demonstrated the depth of neuro-oncology research throughout the Section on Tumors. The high quality of research extending from basic science to translation and clinical areas was recognized by the expansion of the Section on Tumor Awards. Photos of all award recipients can be found at www.tumorsection.org.

Farber Award

Sponsored by the Farber Foundation, the Farber Award is presented at the annual meetings of the AANS and Society for Neuro-Oncology in alternate years. The recipient is selected by the presidents of the AANS and CNS and the Section on Tumors awards chair based on nominees from the Executive Committees of both associations. The award recognizes the most promising investigators who have achieved significant results early in their careers. The 2007 Farber Award recipient is Paul Mischel, MD, professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, scientific director of the Sarkaria Biomarkers program and co-director of the Cancer Stem Cell Program in the newly-formed UCLA Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Medicine. Dr. Mischel's laboratory has expertise in quantitative analysis of signal transduction pathways, stem cell-related pathways, and gene expression networks in clinical samples. His laboratory focuses on the development and application of molecularly targeted therapies and on the application of emerging technologies to identify the patients most likely to benefit from these new treatments. Dr. Mischel gave an outstanding lecture entitled, "Molecular Targeting of Glioblastoma – Towards Personalized Medicine for Brain Cancer".

Synthes Skull Base Award

The Synthes Skull Base Award is given to an attending neurosurgeon, resident or fellow within the Section on Tumors who submits the best abstract related to skull base surgery. This \$1000 award is given at the annual meetings of the AANS and CNS. Burak Sade, MD, from the Cleveland Clinic was the Sprint 2007 recipient for his abstract, "High Incidence of Optic Canal Involvement by Tuberculum Sellae and Clinoidal Meningiomas: Rationale for Aggressive Skull Base Approach."

BrainLAB Community Neurosurgery Award

The BrainLAB Community Neurosurgery Award is awarded at the annual meetings of the AANS and CNS to a neurosurgeon practicing in a non-academic setting with the best abstract related to central nervous system tumors. Richard A. Rovin, MD, FACS, from the Northern Neurosurgery Group in Marquette, Michigan received the BrainLAB award for his paper, "ZBTB7 Expression in Malignant Glioma."

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

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Each year the Section on Tumors presents a number of awards at the AANS and CNS annual meetings. Most of these awards are decided upon by selection of the highest ranking scientific abstracts. Other awards, such as the Farber Award and the Bittner Lecture, are given in recognition of outstanding scientific achievement and clinical contributions to the field of neuro-oncology. Let's help maintain the true spirit of these awards; awards of unsolicited recognition by our peers, and avoid lobbying our fellow Section members for their support.

investigating brain tumors, within 10 years of training, who has submitted the best basic science research paper. The Spring 2007 recipient, Michael Synowitz, MD, from Helios Hospital in Berlin, presented his paper, "A Subset of Fast Proliferating Neural Precursors Suppress Gliomas."

Mahaley Award

The Mahaley Award is given at each of the AANS and CNS annual meetings to a neurosurgery resident, fellow or attending physician who submits the best clinical study in neuro-oncology. The 2007 AANS Mahaley Clinical Research Award was given to Stefan S. Kim, MD, from MD Anderson for his abstract, "Awake Craniotomy for Brain Tumors near Eloquent Cortex: Correlation of Intraoperative Cortical Mapping with Neurological Outcome in 300 Consecutive Patients."

American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA) Young Investigator Award

Sponsored by the ABTA, 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 must have been out of training for less than six years. Andrew T. Parsa, MD, PhD, from the University of California-San Francisco was the AANS 2007 recipient of the ABTA Young Investigator Award for, "Autologous Heat Shock Protein Vaccine For Recurrent Glioma: Results of A Phase I Clinical Trial."

Integra Award

The Integra Foundation Award, sponsored by the Integra Foundation, is given at the AANS and CNS annual meetings for the best research or clinical paper submitted investigating benign brain, spinal or peripheral nerve tumors. The recipient of the Integra Foundation Award at the AANS meeting was Douglas Kondziolka, MD, MSc, FRCSC, FACS, from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center for, "The Long-Term Perspective on Meningioma Radiosurgery: Experience from over 1,000 Tumors."

Journal of Neuro-Oncology Award

The *Journal of Neuro-Oncology* Award is sponsored by Kluwer Academic Publishers and is presented at AANS annual meetings to a highly-ranked abstract in either clinical or basic science that is related to neuro-oncology. This year's recipient was Christopher Nimsy, MD, from the Department of Neurosurgery, Erlangen, Germany for his abstract, "Intraoperative Visualization of Language Pathways."

Bittner Award

The Bittner Award is endowed by Mrs. E. Laurie Bittner in memory of her husband, Ronald L. Bittner. It is awarded to the best abstract paper submitted to the AANS annual meeting on brain tumor research by a resident or junior faculty member. This year's recipient was Mark D. Johnson, MD, from Brigham and Women's Hospital for his paper, "A Hippocampal Precursor-like Cell of Origin For Cerebral Gangliogliomas."

BrainLAB International Fellowship

The AANS/CNS Section on Tumors/BrainLAB International Fellowship was awarded for the first time at the 2007 AANS

Annual Meeting. This award, to be given once annually, provides funding for a neurosurgeon outside North America to spend one year of mentored neurosurgical oncology research in the United States. The proposals are reviewed by a subgroup of the Section's Executive Committee. Kazuhiko Kurozumi, MD, PhD, was the recipient of this inaugural fellowship. His research project, "Glioma Extracellular Matrix Modulation to Enhance Oncolytic Viral Therapy" will be a valuable contribution to the field of neurosurgical oncology. Dr. Kurozumi is from Ohio State Medical Center and will be mentored by E. Antonio Chiocca, MD, PhD.

Through our sponsoring agencies, the Awards Section is pleased to be able to continue to support excellence in both clinical and basic science neuro-oncology research. Our awards require that the recipient be an active, international or resident member of the Section on Tumors and each award is given to a recipient only once. At the September 2007 CNS Annual Meeting in San Diego, the Mahaley, Preuss, ABTA Young Investigator, Integra Foundation, BrainLAB and Synthes awards will be presented. For further details please see the Section on Tumors Web site at www.aans.org/education/grants.aspx.

International Committee of Japan: Plan 2007-2008

Fumio Yamaguchi, MD, PhD

International relationships can be strengthened through more interactions among neurosurgeons working on brain tumors in the United States and Japan. Considering many domestic neurosurgical meetings especially in Japan, it is not easy to increase the number of international members that are interested in the Section on Tumors activities at present. To promote the application for membership, the Section on Tumors must be more attractive for Japanese neurosurgeons. The benefits of becoming a member are not enough at present. One potential incentive would be a financial benefit. For example, discounting the registration fee for AANS and CNS Annual Meetings would be a strong incentive.

In the aspect of academic interest, the sharing of knowledge and experiences may be attractive. Of course there are many differences in terms of medical technique available in both countries. However, exchanging opinions regarding patient care such as diagnosis and therapeutic strategy in cases is very meaningful and helpful. For establishing these interactions, I propose the setup of a Web Site to exchange opinions. The Web site would be secure and password-protected exclusively for Section members, which would prevent interference by others, and the cases and their medical images would be made anonymous to protect patients' privacy. The Web site must be attractive for those who need advice from other neurosurgeons not only in Japan, but in other countries including the United States.

An easy application process is also an important issue. For foreign neurosurgeons that do not have experience studying or researching in the United States, a recommendation letter is an obstacle when they consider the application. Ending the requirement for a recommendation letter may increase applications and facilitate membership in either the AANS or the CNS. Another suggestion would be allowing the applicant to get a recommendation letter from the chair of the membership committee of the Section on Tumors which would also be an effective way to promote application.

Advertising the Section to get name-recognition with Japanese neurosurgeons could be achieved by having an information booth at many Japanese meetings. Printed advertisements in the *Journal of the Japanese Neurosurgical Association* would be effective since that journal is sent to all association members monthly.

For the realization of those plans, some financial and technical support would most likely be necessary.

A joint meeting between American and Japanese neurosurgeons should also be taken into consideration. Opportunity to hold the meeting in conjunction with Japanese domestic meetings must be seized; however there are obstacles such as lack of financial support from pharmaceutical companies. Despite these obstacles, our continuous efforts are necessary for the prosperity of the Section on Tumors.

Guidelines Committee Update

Mark E. Linskey

The Section on Tumors Guidelines Committee has been very active. The tumor guidelines page of the Section Web site is available at www.tumorsection.org/membersonly/guidelines/index.htm. Indeed, this whole section has now been translated into Spanish by our international liaison from Argentina, Alejandra Rabadan, MD. We look forward to the similar contributions from other international liaisons from Japan, Germany, Italy, and South Korea.

The Guidelines initiative for the Section on Tumors is currently composed of three separate simultaneous evidence-based clinical practice parameter guidelines efforts that involve many different members of the Section as well as our colleagues from appropriate allied disciplines. There is a tremendous amount of volunteer time and work involved in each of these efforts, and the progress so far is due to the academic, leadership and volunteer work ethic contributions of our three initiative leaders: Jeff Olson, MD, GBM Project; Nelson Oyesiku, MD, PhD, Pituitary Adenoma Project; and Steve Kalkanis, MD, Metastatic Brain Tumor Project.

Dr. Oyesiku's Pituitary Adenoma Project is divided into eight chapters with five sections within each chapter. Started in 2002, first drafts of three chapters are complete and the review/editing process is underway. The first drafts of the other five chapters are in process. Instability and loss of authors from allied disciplines in this multidisciplinary project resulted in some delays which have now been rectified. Dr. Oyesiku is formalizing a new timeline for completion of the project as we go to press.

Dr. Olson's Newly Diagnosed GBM Project started in 2002 and was completed in the fall of 2006. The guidelines were submitted to the Joint Guidelines Committee of the Washington Committee for review in April 2007. There are five chapters, many of which have multiple subsections. The review and responses from the Joint Guidelines Committee regarding the results were quite positive. The draft is now in final revision for re-submission to the Joint Guidelines Committee and we anticipate a favorable recommendation for approval by the AANS Board of Directors and the CNS Executive Committee.

Dr. Kalkanis' Metastatic Brain Tumor Project started in 2005. It has nine chapters centered on nine specific EBM questions, and its multidisciplinary writing group is composed of 25 members including 11 neurosurgeons, seven medical and neuro-oncologists, and seven radiation oncologists. The initiative has the historic distinction of being the first EBM clinical practice parameter guidelines initiative chosen by the Joint Guidelines Committee of the Washington Committee to test the possibility of partnering a neurosurgery multidisciplinary guidelines effort with a professional evidence-based practice center (EPC) to be funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The project was delayed nine months while a formal request for proposal (RFP) was sent to five EPCs and one academic epidemiology division which had previously expressed interest. Three formal proposals were received and considered

in detail by the Joint Guidelines Committee. Ultimately, the McMasters EPC proposal was chosen and recommended to the AANS Board of Directors and the CNS Executive Committee for their approval.

The contract between the EPC and AANS/CNS is awaiting signature. Once signed, an intensive 12-month schedule will commence to complete the guidelines in 2008. The team from McMasters will support, mentor, and guide the 25-member writing team. This is an expensive new project; the Section on Tumors has committed up to \$50,000 and including the AANS and CNS contributions, the total expense for the professionally-expedited initiative will likely approach \$250,000. The Section can take great pride that it is entrusted with such a historic and important opportunity. The progress and results of this project will likely determine whether or not this type of project will be pursued for additional strategically-targeted clinical subject matter in our specialty.

For 2007 CNS Meeting Highlights, please visit:
www.tumorsection.org/professional/upcoming.htm

Treasurer's Report

Jeffrey N. Bruce, MD, FACS

The 2007 AANS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. was another noteworthy success for the Section on Tumors. Our members were the beneficiaries of substantial financial support from our Section award sponsors. The Executive Committee extends its thanks to the American Brain Tumor Foundation, Synthes CMF, the Integra Foundation, BrainLAB, the Bittner Family Foundation, the National Brain Tumor Foundation, the Preuss Foundation, the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology* and the Farber Foundation for supporting grants and awards. These organizations have been generous in their contributions to our academic mission. The support extended to the equally successful Section on Tumors Satellite Meeting. Under the proficient direction of Dr. Parsa, the satellite provided an outstanding forum for neuro-oncology update and discussion while managing to achieve a net income.

The Section on Tumors remains fiscally sound. The main source of revenue comes from membership dues. These funds are used to support Section on Tumor activities such as the Web site, practice guideline initiatives and the Washington Committee. The AANS Executive Office provides accounting and administrative support. With their assistance, investment of assets into both long-term and short-term funds has provided additional revenue for the Section.

Section on Tumors/BrainLAB International Research Fellowship Enters Second Funding Cycle

Frederick Lang, MD

In 2006, the Section on Tumors established a new international research program, the "Section on Tumors/BrainLAB International Research Fellowship." After a successful first round of funding under past Section on Tumors Chairman, Ronald Warnick, MD, the Section on Tumors plans to continue this effort under the guidance of current Section Chairman, Michael McDermott, MD.

The goal of the fellowship is to provide neurosurgeons from outside the United States the opportunity to come to the United States for the specific purpose of undertaking research in neurosurgical oncology. BrainLAB AG, a German company that develops surgical image-guidance systems, has supported the fellowship through an unrestricted educational grant. The name of the fellowship recognizes the critical role played by BrainLAB, Inc. in providing financial backing for this program. The AANS Executive Office has administered the fellowship through the outstanding efforts of Michele Gregory and Terri Bruce.

The first year of the program was a remarkable success. In November 2006, proposals were received from 14 applicants from all over the world, including Australia, China, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Japan, Serbia, Sudan, Taiwan, and the Netherlands. In January 2007, the scientific review committee, consisting of Dr. Warnick, Dr. Lang, Alessandro Olivi, MD, Howard Wiener, MD, Linda Liau, MD, PhD, and Jeffrey Bruce, MD, FACS, reviewed all the proposals. The committee was pleased with the quality and the spectrum of proposals, which included scientific, translational, and clinical projects.

Kazuhiko Kurozumi, MD, PhD, a graduate of the Department of Neurological Surgery at Okayama University in Japan was the inaugural 2007-2008 awardee for his research proposal entitled, "Glioma Extracellular Matrix Modulation to Enhance Oncolytic Viral Therapy." His sponsor and mentor in the United States is E. Antonio Chiocca, MD, PhD, professor and chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at Ohio State University and an international expert on oncolytic viruses. Dr. Kurozumi's one-year fellowship began in July 2007 and will continue until July 2008. He received a \$50,000 stipend. It is anticipated that Dr. Kurozumi will present an oral summary of the project at the 2008 AANS Annual Meeting.

Given the success of the initial year, the Section on Tumors will continue this effort in the upcoming year by awarding the second fellowship, which will commence in July 2008. Applications for this second award are due by November 16, 2007.

As in the first year, the 2008 Section on Tumors /BrainLAB International Research Fellowship will be awarded through a competitive application process open to all neurosurgeons or graduating residents from outside the United States or Canada. Applicants must have a sponsor in the United States who agrees to mentor them during the fellowship and to provide the space and supplies necessary to complete the proposed project. All sponsors must be members of the Section on Tumors.

The Scientific Review Committee, consisting of the Section on Tumors chairman and five others appointed by the chairman, will examine all submissions. Applications will be judged based on the novelty and scientific merit of the proposed study, the credentials of the applicant, and the support provided by the sponsor. Although the focus must be on neurosurgical oncology, all categories of investigative studies will be considered eligible for this fellowship, including (but not limited to) basic science, epidemiology, anatomic studies, preclinical or translational studies, and clinical trials. Areas of study may be within any subspecialty of neurosurgical oncology, including (but not limited to) primary brain tumors, metastatic brain tumors, spine and spinal cord tumors, peripheral nerve tumors, and skull base tumors. Preference will be given to proposals undertaking hypothesis-driven research.

The fellowship provides a stipend of \$50,000 that can be used for salary support and travel expenses. The next fellowship will be awarded by January 15, 2008, to commence on July 1, 2008. The deadline for applications is November 16, 2007.

Applications are available on the Section on Tumors Web site, the AANS Web site, and through members of the Section. The application includes a formal proposal (not to exceed five pages) that outlines the aims of the project, the background/rationale for the work, any preliminary results or supporting data for the project, and a detailed study design. The applicant must also submit a personal biographical sketch and a statement of why studying in the United States will be important for the completion of the work. Importantly, the sponsoring investigator of the accepting laboratory/program will be required to submit a letter in support of the applicant verifying the investigator's willingness to mentor the applicant and to provide necessary space and supplies for the applicant during the project/study period. Two letters of recommendation are also required.

The Section on Tumors has established a list of investigators in the United States that are interested in sponsoring foreign neurosurgeons. The investigators have provided a description of their respective facilities/programs and summaries of their areas of interest. Section members who are interested in becoming part of this list can do so at the Section on Tumors Web site.

The recipient of the fellowship will be required to submit a written mid-year progress report and, at the completion of the project, a written summary report describing the results of the study. The applicant may also present an oral summary of the project at the AANS or CNS annual meeting upon completion of the fellowship.

Please submit completed applications by November 16, 2007 to Section on Tumors/BrainLAB International Fellowship Scientific Review Committee, c/o AANS, 5550 Meadowbrook Drive, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008-3852 USA.

Research Committee: Basic & Translational

Donald M. O'Rourke, MD

The goal for the upcoming academic year for the Section on Tumors Research Committee is to continue to raise the profile of basic and translational research being performed in neuro-oncology. Members of the Section's Executive Committee and sponsoring agencies have been instrumental in facilitating research in neuro-oncology and the research subcommittee will aim to highlight these efforts by providing more information on selected research programs. The following specific initiatives will be undertaken:

1. National Brain Tumor Foundation (NBTF) Translational Research Grant: Michael McDermott, MD, and Dr. O'Rourke secured increased funding for this one-year grant from \$15,000 to \$50,000 for the coming year and applications for the award are currently being solicited. The increase in funding is critical for research in neuro-oncology given the present funding climate at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. O'Rourke will aim to obtain a five-year commitment from the NBTF Executive Director to maintain this level of funding. The \$50,000 stipend is available to neurosurgeons engaged in translational brain tumor research and provides support necessary to generate preliminary data for NIH grant applications.
2. Annual meeting presentations and research reports: A greater effort will be made at the AANS and CNS annual meetings to highlight the research achievements of the NBTF award recipients. Recipients will present their work at our national meetings in greater detail. After the introduction of the upcoming award recipient, an expanded presentation from the previous year's grant recipient will highlight the research accomplishments and detail the state of the particular research field. The discussion will take place at the CNS annual meeting since the NBTF award winner is announced at that time. A broader effort could also be coordinated with the Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation (NREF) and additional grant award extended presentations could be undertaken at both the AANS and CNS annual meetings.
3. Collaborative efforts with the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology*: Dr. O'Rourke and Linda Liau, MD, PhD, (Editor, *Journal of Neuro-Oncology*) will highlight research programs of NBTF Award recipients and other Section award recipients. NBTF award recipients will author invited papers to the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology* either annually or semi-annually. A more ambitious effort will elevate the profile of other award recipients designated by the Section on Tumors (for example, Mahaley Award, Bittner Award, BrainLAB Award, etc.) by inviting the principal investigators to author invited papers to the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology*. Discussions between Drs. McDermott, O'Rourke, Liau and Gene Barnett, MD, will continue on these efforts and Dr. Liau will determine the feasibility given the Journal's space and budget constraints. Invited papers by award recipients will be considered quarterly as a basis of initial discussion. In addition to current research, a major effort of this project will be to solicit past NBTF awardees to author invited papers to the Journal. An even more ambitious component of this effort would be to engage past and current NREF award recipients

in a similar manner in order to gain a broader perspective on the development and evolution of supported research efforts in neuro-oncology. Dr. O'Rourke will determine the feasibility with Dr. Liau regarding special issues of the Journal that may be dedicated to particularly relevant topics in neuro-oncology. Specific areas of research selected for NBTF research support could potentially represent a topic of interest to the Journal (for example, the 2006 NBTF award recipient, Amy Heimberger, MD, on the topic of brain tumor immunotherapy). A broader range of papers on a particularly important topic subject would then be solicited.

Chairman's Message *continued from front page*

meeting ahead of the 2007 AANS Annual Meeting helped achieve strong attendance at the satellite meeting.

I have asked several of the international members who presented during the satellite meeting to join the Executive Committee for the next two years in recognition of their interest and to keep the Section apprised of international neuro-oncology efforts and events.

I will seek the approval of the Executive Committee to support members attending international meetings which would be managed through an application process similar to our other requests for funding activities. The support would be a fixed financial amount and be given once to any one individual. Each time the Section would support such an effort, I would like to see a report from the attendee published on our Web site www.tumorsection.org.

The *Journal of Neuro-Oncology* has provided the Section with tremendous support over the years under the editorship of Dr. Piepmeyer, including publication of satellite meeting abstracts and support of the young member's reception at the annual meetings. Dr. Liau now takes over as editor, and I hope that Section members will continue to support the journal by submitting high quality papers for consideration. I will ask that each member of the Executive Committee contribute at least one original article to the Journal over his or her two-year term.

In 2009, the Section will mark its 25th anniversary and I have asked Fred Barker II MD, FACS, chair of the History Subcommittee for the Section, to take the lead in organizing a formal black tie dinner at the 2009 AANS Annual Meeting in San Diego. Preliminary discussions have started and Dr. Barker and I will be visiting potential venues at the upcoming 2007 CNS Annual Meeting. I would like to see as many spouses at this event as possible and for it to be a memorable and fun evening. Of course we will take clues from the successful 20th Anniversary event in 2004 run by Dr. Sawaya in San Francisco.

Another key event in the fall of 2009 will be the first joint Society of Neuro-Oncology/Section on Tumors Satellite Meeting in New Orleans to be held prior to the 2009 CNS Annual Meeting. We

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CNS 2007 Annual Meeting Highlights

Howard Weiner, MD

An exciting scientific program is planned for the Section on Tumors for the 2007 CNS Annual Meeting in San Diego on September 15-20, 2007. One major highlight is, "The CNS Neurosurgical Forum" on Monday, September 17, which contains all of the original science in the program. The forum has two components: the open paper session and the abstract session. The open paper session, between 2:00-4:00 PM, features 12 oral platform presentations focused on tumors, representing the very best and cutting-edge original science at the meeting. Three Section awards that will be presented at the 2007 CNS Annual Meeting will be featured in this oral platform session: the Preuss Award, the Synthes Skull Base Award, and the Mahaley Award. An expanded and enhanced select abstract session, from 4:00-5:45 PM, will provide the authors an opportunity to present their work during a multidisciplinary open poster session in the CNS Neurosurgical Forum arena after the open paper programs. Three additional Section awards will be presented during the select abstracts: the BrainLAB Community Neurosurgery Award, the Integra Award, and the ABTA Young Investigator Award.

Two very exciting and novel afternoon programs are planned for Tuesday, September 18 and Wednesday, September 19. The Tuesday session, from 4:00-5:30 PM, is focused on Pediatrics. "Innovative Functional Mapping Techniques for Resecting Cortical Tumors in Children" will feature interactive software and audience participation. This session will include three presentations that will highlight a different approach to these challenging lesions: 1) Non-invasive techniques in children (such as fMRI, MEG, DTI) by James Rutka, MD, PhD; 2) Awake craniotomy in children with brain tumors by Nicholas Barbaro, MD; and 3) Staged surgical resection (grid extra-operative mapping) as a method for treating pediatric brain tumors in eloquent brain regions by Dr. Weiner. After the presentations, there will be case presentations with audience participation. This interactive program will then be assessed as a teaching method in neurosurgical continuing education. At the conclusion of this symposium, participants

should be able to summarize the challenges associated with treating cortical tumors located in eloquent brain regions in children, discuss the different functional mapping techniques available, and outline the major risks and benefits associated with each of these approaches.

The Wednesday afternoon program, "Young Neurosurgeons as Neuro-Oncologic Scientists" from 2:00-3:30 PM, is focused on young neurosurgeons. This session will include three presentations by junior investigators, with a senior discussant for each presentation in three major areas of basic neuro-oncology research: 1) Biologic therapy (junior: Manish Aghi, MD; senior: E. Antonio Chiocca, MD, PhD); 2) Stem cells (junior: Peter Dirks, MD; senior: Gene Barnett, MD); and 3) Bioinformatics (junior: Michael Taylor, MD, PhD; senior: Peter Black, MD, PhD). Our aim is for this session to be lively and engaging. The junior discussant will give an overview of their own scientific work in this field and the senior discussant will then provide some insight as to the extent to which this area of neuro-oncology basic science research has yielded, or may yield, benefits in neurosurgical patient care. The senior discussants will not only comment on the junior investigator's work, but will also make suggestions both specific to the junior investigator and in general for all those working in this area. Such questions as: "What are the challenges ahead?"; "What are the key areas of research for this particular field?"; or "How would they best approach it?" will be addressed. The senior speaker will then provide some general advice related to mistakes they have made in the past with set-up, practice balance, and funding, for example. At the conclusion of this symposium, participants should be able to summarize three major areas of neuro-oncology scientific research being conducted by young neurosurgeons, discuss the extent to which scientific discoveries in neuro-oncology have been translated into clinical therapies, and outline the major areas of neuro-oncology research that hold promise for future patients.

The Section on Tumors looks forward to seeing you in San Diego in September for this exciting program!

Chairman's Message *continued from page 6*

have received approval for this meeting from AANS/CNS and I have asked Randy Jensen, MD, PhD, to chair the event. Based on the success of the recent satellite meeting, we will follow the same format of a one and a half day meeting immediately prior to the meeting. Look for future updates in Tumor News and on our Web site.

As for the AANS and CNS scientific programs over the next two years, I have already secured program chairs and symposia topics until spring 2009. An outline of the prospective programs is listed in this issue of Tumor News and chairs for the meetings are: CNS 2007 – Howard Weiner, MD; AANS 2008 – Khaled Aziz, MD, PhD; CNS 2008 – Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa, MD; AANS 2009 – Manish Aghi, MD.

Additionally, the Section has strengthened its awards portfolio by increasing the National Brain Tumor Foundation (NBTF)

Translational Research Grant Award to \$50,000; the previous funding was \$15,000. Many thanks to the NBTF for their generosity and recognition of the funding issues in the field of neuro-oncology research. Donald O'Rourke, MD, will continue to manage this grant with the assistance from AANS staff.

Finally, as we have seen over the years, the Section is only as strong as its members and their efforts. Currently our membership level is at its highest ever, thanks to the efforts of Isabelle Germano, MD, FACS, and I anticipate strong participation in all our activities and events. The Section exists to support educational and professional activities as they relate to neuro-oncology, both nationally and internationally. With your help, we can have an exciting and productive two years and I look forward to serving the membership during this time.

In Review: Section on Tumors Highlights from the AANS 2007 Annual Meeting

Mark Johnson, MD

By all accounts, the 2007 Section on Tumors Satellite Meeting in Washington, D.C. was a tremendous success. The meeting hall was filled to capacity on both days of the meeting. The gathering on Tuesday began with a symposium, "What you see is what you get: the use of imaging to improve tumor resection," which was moderated by Mark Johnson, MD, and featured several top experts in the field. Raymond Sawaya, MD, discussed the evidence that the extent of tumor resection improves outcome for malignant gliomas. Christopher Nimsky, MD, PhD, presented data on cutting edge techniques for integrating intraoperative MRI, stimulation mapping and other modalities in order to maximize the extent of glioma resection. Linda Liau, MD, PhD, provided an overview of available intraoperative MRI systems and the pros and cons of their use. Walter Stummer, MD, then presented data from a prospective, randomized trial demonstrating that the use of the fluorescent agent, 5-ALA, improves the extent of resection of malignant gliomas. He also presented data supporting that extent of resection improves survival in malignant gliomas. A panel discussion was held for questions regarding the presentations.

After the symposium, Jeffrey Bruce, MD, FACS, reviewed the 2007 Section on Tumors award recipients. The 2007 Farber Award Recipient, Paul Mischel, MD, delivered a memorable presentation on the advent and utility of personalized molecular therapies for the treatment of gliomas. Research presentations detailing cutting edge

advances in brain tumor research closed out the day's schedule.

The second day of the Section on Tumors meeting began with an update on clinical trials by Michael Vogelbaum, MD, PhD. Isabelle Germano, MD, FACS, moderated a symposium a current management controversy in neurosurgery, "Vestibular Schwannomas, Radiosurgery Versus Surgery." Marc Schwartz, MD, presented the case for surgical resection of vestibular schwannomas, while L. Dade Lunsford, MD, argued for radiosurgery. A lively discussion of the pros and cons of each treatment approach was covered including illustrative case presentations. John Park, MD, PhD, moderated a symposium on another controversy in neurosurgery, "Low grade gliomas: early resection versus observation or biopsy/adjunctive therapy." Peter Black, MD, PhD, presented the case for aggressive resection of low grade gliomas, while William Friedman, MD, FACS, discussed evidence supporting observation or adjunctive therapy. The BrainLAB Community Neurosurgery Award presentation and a host of other scientific presentations by leading investigators in brain tumor research and therapy were also part of the schedule.

In the end, attendees left the meeting with a great deal of information regarding the state of brain tumor research and therapy, and meeting organizers left feeling inspired to begin the planning for the next Section on Tumors Meeting, which will be held in September 2007 in San Diego, California.

Early Notice: Section on Tumors Symposia 2008-2009

Section on Tumors Symposia at the 2008 AANS Annual Meeting

Khalid Aziz, MD

The first symposium's subject is "Surgical Management of Suprasellar Meningiomas: Endoscopic Versus Microscopic" with the following moderators: Khaled Aziz, MD, PhD, Franco Demonte, MD, and Michael McDermott, MD. The faculty will be: Amin Kassam, MD, Ossama Al-Mefty, MD, Harry van Loveren, MD.

The second symposium's subject is: Stem Cell in Brain Tumors with moderator E. Antonio Chiocca, MD, PhD, and the following faculty: Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa, MD, Viviane Tabar, MD, and Peter Dirks, MD.

Section on Tumors Symposia at the 2008 CNS Annual Meeting

Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa, MD

The first symposium will be an "International Symposium" and will be moderated by Alessandro Olivi, MD. Topics will include: 1) Neurosurgery in Latin America - Current Status 2) Latin American Neurosurgeons in the United States and 3) Epidemiology of Brain Tumors and other central nervous system disease in the Hispanic population of the United States.

The second symposium, "Colloid Cyst Tumor Surgery", will be

moderated by Dr. Quinones-Hinojosa. Use of minimally invasive and/or endoscopic techniques for the resection of intracranial lesions including tumors has expanded recently. This symposium will include the following speakers: Bruce Pollock, MD, George Jallo, MD and Dr. McDermott.

Section on Tumors Symposia at the 2009 AANS Annual Meeting

Manish Aghi, MD, PhD

The first symposium, "Clinical and Scientific Advances in Oncolytic Viruses in Treatment of Glioma," will be moderated by Dr. Aghi, Dr. Chiocca, and William T. Curry Jr., MD. The symposium will open with, "Introduction: DNA and RNA viruses and why they appeal for use in glioma." This will be followed by three sequential trials highlighting the latest in clinical trial results coming out in May of 2009, and will include presentations by Frederick Lang, MD, James Markert Jr., MD and Eva Galanis, MD, and Dr. Curry.

The second symposium, "Current Topics in Extramedullary Spinal Tumors," will be moderated by Mark Bilsky, MD. The symposium will open with an introduction by Dr. Bilsky, followed by presentations by Paul McCormick, MD, Peter Gerszten, MD, MPH, and Ziya Gokaslan, MD, FACS.

For additional details regarding these meetings, see the Section on Tumors Web site: www.tumorsection.org.

Clinical Research by Neurosurgical Oncologists

Michael Vogelbaum, MD, PhD

Clinical research conducted by neurosurgeons has always been vital to the continued growth and development of our specialty. Over the past decade, the processes that fund and regulate the conduct of clinical research have become more complex while other forces have progressively reduced the time and effort neurosurgeons have available to participate in, and lead clinical research. The drive towards subspecialization of neurosurgery has led to increased interactions on a daily basis with other medical specialties (neurology, medical oncology, pediatrics). These interactions, which revolve primarily around clinical care, are also essential for developing new therapeutic approaches. Many medical specialties have incorporated formal training in clinical research methodology into their residency programs and research itself into their daily practice. While time and resources to support basic laboratory research have been integrated into most residency programs, a similar focus on the development of clinical research skills has not been a designated goal of neurosurgery training. Furthermore, practicing neurosurgeons in both academic and private practice settings do not have easy access to information about clinical trials which may be relevant to their patients. Because investigational therapies offered within clinical trials have become a routine part of care for many patients with malignant brain tumors, the Section on Tumors created the clinical research subcommittee of its research committee with the charges to increase awareness of clinical research opportunities and to provide educational resources for clinical research for the neurosurgical community.

To that end, the Section on Tumors sponsored a "Roundtable on Clinical Research" at the 2005 CNS Annual Meeting, and luncheon seminars on "Clinical Research: What Every Neurosurgeon Should Know" were developed for the 2006 and 2007 CNS Annual Meetings. Speakers have included well-known neurosurgeons and neuro-oncologists that provided attendees with a comprehensive overview of clinical trial design, interpretation and opportunities. One recommendation from the Roundtable, the development of an Internet-based "Clinical Trial Registry," was implemented. This listing service, which allows investigators to list their open, multi-center trials, was initially hosted on the Section Web site, and will be further developed in conjunction with the Academic-Community Alliance, which is another Section on Tumors initiative.

The Section is also gaining a strong voice within the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG), a National Cancer Institute (NCI) funded cooperative research group, which has the largest and most active brain tumor clinical trial portfolio of any of the cooperative groups. The neurosurgery subcommittee of the Brain Tumor Committee has seen its membership increase dramatically over the past two years, and currently there are more than six neurosurgeon-led trial concepts in various stages of development. These new concepts include trials of the combination of 06-BG and Gliadel for recurrent GBM, stereotactic radiosurgery for refractory acromegaly, IMRT for recurrent or high grade meningioma, specialized MRI imaging guided stereotactic radiosurgery for recurrent GBM and a vaccine therapy for recurrent GBM. In

addition, we are developing genetically-guided trials for World Health Organization (WHO) grade III gliomas. Participation in the development of these trials has provided neurosurgeons with the ability to learn about protocol development, statistical design and operational management issues that relate to multi-center trials.

Future goals of the Clinical Research subcommittee include the development of a clinical research educational program to be made available at the AANS and CNS annual meetings; identification of neurosurgeons who are experienced clinical scientists and are willing to serve as mentors for young neurosurgeons interested in pursuing clinical research; and development of support for the inclusion of basic concepts of clinical research into the formal requirements for neurosurgery training.

International Report from Italy

Francesco DiMeco, MD

The 56th Annual Meeting of the Italian Neurosurgical Society took place in Rome, Italy, July 24-26, 2007. The meeting was held in conjunction with the CNS and many colleagues from the United States effectively contributed to the success of the event. The two organizations worked closely for this official joint meeting in Rome, which was intended to reciprocate the one previously held during the CNS 2004 Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

Following the Rome meeting, a satellite International Symposium, "Updates in Neuro-Oncology," was held in the beautiful Etruscan town of Cortona, in the heart of Tuscany, June 28-30, 2007. The meeting was part of a series of collaborative symposia of the Istituto Neurologico Besta of Milan, Italy, the Semmes-Murphey Clinic at the University of Tennessee, Ohio State University, and the Johns Hopkins University. The meeting was also supported by the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS), the Section on Tumors, and the Italian Neurosurgical Society (SINCH). The Section on Tumors has been involved in the organization of the meeting by contributing both speakers and assistance in developing what resulted in an exceptionally interesting scientific program.

The outstanding international speakers' panel and the topics covered during the meeting provided a comprehensive review of the most recent advances in the field of neuro-oncology including extensive insights on the role of stem cells in the pathogenesis of gliomas and their implications for future therapies. In addition, the picturesque and historically stunning setting of Cortona, coupled with the traditional Italian convivial atmosphere, greatly contributed to the success of the meeting.

The Italian neurosurgical community feels that both meetings have provided an exceptionally fertile ground to enhance their preexisting ties and to establish productive future collaborations not only with the North American neurosurgical community but also among the entire international neuro-oncological community.

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