



COUNCIL OF STATE NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES

FALL 2017

Welcome to Boston!



The Fall 2017 Council of State Neurosurgical Societies meeting took place in Boston. Highlights included a lively resolution debate, excellent plenary session talks, and a provocative luncheon speaker.

Fall 2017



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"Transformation Celebration"

Action request from CSNS Medical Directors Section

Neurosurgeons are increasingly taking on administrative responsibilities. The CSNS Medical Directors Section is conducting a survey to understand if neurosurgeons have been exposed to cost pressures and price awareness, if these factors have influenced their practice, and if they have been involved with vendor contract negotiations. The goal of the survey is to learn if surgeons have been adversely affected by

such contract negotiations and share successful practices to mitigate these challenges. The insights gained through the survey will be shared with the neurosurgery community in scholarly publications and at an upcoming CSNS national meeting. The survey can be accessed by visiting the URL below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JPM5K56>

Officer Reports

Dr. Rosenow's (Chair) briefing included discussing a change to the spring meeting schedule which will be to shift the plenary session slightly later so standing committees can meet prior to the plenary session. Spring resolution follow-up included a white paper and AMA resolution, both generated from a spring meeting resolution. Additionally, a survey was completed for an additional resolution with a white paper currently in process. Dr. Rosenow noted the significant socioeconomic content generated by CSNS at the current CNS meeting.

Dr. Steinmetz (Vice Chair) introduced the new fellows and discussed a new, more intensive onboarding and mentorship

structure for the new fellows. He also discussed a vision for refocusing the organization's mission and vision via the Long Range Planning Committee.

Dr. John Ratliff (Treasurer) noted that CSNS leadership was currently working to contact state societies regarding outstanding society dues. This request for outstanding dues is mainly because of diminishing industry support for the fellowship fund, which now comes out of the voluntary fund. Additionally, the first Melany Thomas Fund supported fellow will be chosen later this year. He mentioned that the Lyal Leibrock fund may be a potential future, sustainable



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Congratulations, Maya!



Dr. Maya Babu receiving the Randall W. Smith Award

The Randall W. Smith award was announced by historian Dr. Clarence Watridge. Dr. Maya Babu was this year's recipient. Dr. Babu has been instrumental in organized neurosurgery and organized medicine throughout her career as a resident and fellow. She started her involvement in CSNS as a medical student fellow in 2009, and continued that work as a 2011 CSNS resident fellow. She has held multiple leadership positions throughout the standing committees of the CSNS. Importantly, she has also been named to the AMA Board of Trustees. The CSNS thanks Dr. Babu for her service!



Meeting Resolutions

A lively resolution debate was again had during this meeting. All but one resolution passed in some form. Passed resolutions included II-2017F, which calls upon the CSNS to study the ramifications of a unified neurosurgical board certification and maintenance of certification process, under a single certifying entity, due to the recent changes to osteopathic neurosurgery residency programs. There will be a report at a future plenary session.

Resolution III-2017F calls on the CSNS to seek to better understand the use of neurophysiological monitoring in spine surgery with development of a white paper.

Resolution IV-2017F directs that a survey of practicing neurosurgeons and residents explore the practices and roles for palliative care in neurosurgical patients.

Resolution V-2017F calls for a study and white paper

regarding balance billing.

Resolution IV-2017F calls for a presentation of existing survey data on resident attitudes and perceptions of research, in particular limitation factors that may impede research.

Resolution VII-2017F calls for a survey of currently practicing neurosurgeons to identify factors contributing to attrition in the field.

Resolution VIII-2017F seeks to study preoperative patient education practices among neurosurgeons and generate a whitepaper from the resulting data.

Resolution IX-2017F calls for the CSNS to petition its parent organizations for a position statement regarding network adequacy and the inequity of narrow networks.

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Resolutions (continued)

Resolution X-2017F directs the CSNS to survey recent residency graduates and fellows, and fellowship directors regarding experiences with the fellowship selection process.

Resolution XI-2017F calls on the CSNS to study the impact of the recent Florida court decision to allow patient safety data to be legally discoverable.

Officer Reports (continued)

source of fellowship support with further funding of that Fund. He also reminded the group to work through the resolution “checklist” prior to submitting resolutions for the spring meeting. He also mentioned a drop in CNS support by \$50,000 starting this year.

Dr. Joe Cheng (Corresponding Secretary) discussed AANS/CNS officer nominations. Of note, the CNS officer nominations will most likely occur via email prior to the Spring CSNS meeting due to changes in the CNS nominating committee timeline.

Dr. Darlene Lobel (Recording Secretary) led a vote to approve the minutes from the 2017S meeting.

Dr. Clarence Watridge (Historian) discussed the historical context of the AANS as a 501C6 organization, allowing it to engage in political advocacy and lobbying on behalf of neurosurgeons and neurosurgical patients.

Special Reports



Call Compensation

Maya Babu discussed call compensation, with information derived from a survey of practicing neurosurgeons. Call was most commonly ¼-1/7. Most respondents covered a single hospital. Most had no subspecialty call schedule. Roughly half had explicit daily compensation for call. 40% did not have midlevel or resident coverage for call.



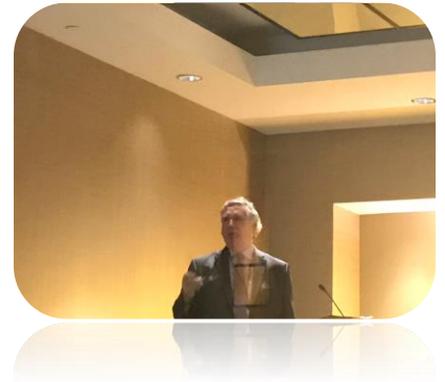
Network Adequacy

Luis Tumialan discussed network adequacy, which has become increasingly significant as narrow networks mean patients must travel unreasonable distances to access an in-network physician. This has been studied in LA and AZ by CSNS fellows.

Ethical issues in concurrent surgery: luncheon speaker

Dr. Dennis Burke was the luncheon speaker. He is an orthopaedic surgeon who was a whistle-blower in a double-booked surgery scandal at Mass General Hospital, and subsequently lost his job there. The title of his talk was “The ethical treatment of the surgical patient – whom to we serve? The controversy over concurrent surgery”. This talk was entertaining and included historical background and popular culture references to the controversy around “ghost surgery”. He noted that surgery is an inherently risky intervention,

and postulated that philosophically for surgeons as “captains of the ship”, as well as practically speaking with regards to mishaps during any point of surgery (rather than just at “critical portions”) surgeons should be present for the entire case for their patient’s benefit. This talk was both well received and led to lively discussion afterwards as CSNS members debated the merits of his argument.



*Dr. Dennis Burke,
Orthopaedic Surgeon*
