



AANS/CNS Washington Committee Fellowship

Number of Awards: 2

Fellowship Term: Two years, January 1, 2027–December 31, 2028

Application Deadline: October 30, 2026

Award Notice: December 1, 2026

About the AANS/CNS Washington Committee:

Established in 1975, the AANS/CNS Washington Committee for Neurological Surgery is the federal health policy and advocacy arm of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), representing organized neurosurgery before Congress, federal agencies, the administration, and other national health care stakeholders.

Jointly governed and supported by the AANS and CNS, the Washington Committee includes seven voting members – three appointed by the AANS, three by the CNS, and a jointly appointed chair – and brings together leaders and representatives from across organized neurosurgery. The AANS/CNS Washington Office supports this work, organized across six principal policy areas: Coding and Reimbursement; Drugs and Devices; Quality Improvement and Health Information Technology; Communications and Public Relations; Joint Guidelines Review; and the AMA House of Delegates.

The Washington Committee develops and advances organized neurosurgery's positions on federal legislative, regulatory, reimbursement, quality, and other health policy issues affecting neurosurgeons and their patients. It carries out this work through direct advocacy with Congress and federal agencies, regulatory engagement, coalition building, grassroots advocacy, communications, and participation in organized medicine.

About the Fellowship

The AANS/CNS Washington Committee Fellowship is a two-year leadership development program designed to provide neurosurgical residents and fellows with an immersive experience in health policy, advocacy, socioeconomic issues, and organized medicine.

Fellows participate directly in the work of the Washington Committee, gaining exposure to the legislative, regulatory, reimbursement, quality, communications, and clinical policy issues affecting neurological surgery and the patients neurosurgeons serve. Fellows also represent the AANS and CNS within the American Medical Association Resident and Fellow Section (AMA-

RFS), providing firsthand experience with the policymaking process of the AMA House of Delegates.

The fellowship is designed to develop future neurosurgical leaders who understand how public policy is developed, how organized neurosurgery establishes and advances its policy positions, and how neurosurgeons can effectively engage in advocacy throughout their careers.

Eligibility

The fellowship is open to individuals who will be enrolled in a neurosurgical residency or fellowship program for the duration of the two-year fellowship. Applicants must:

- Be at least a postgraduate year three (PGY-3) resident at the beginning of the fellowship.
- Remain enrolled in a neurosurgical residency or fellowship program for the duration of the fellowship.
- Demonstrate an interest in health policy, advocacy, socioeconomic issues, organized medicine, or physician leadership.
- Be able to participate fully in required meetings and fellowship activities.
- Obtain written approval from their residency program director, fellowship director, or department chair confirming that the applicant is in good standing and will be provided sufficient time away from clinical responsibilities to fulfill the fellowship requirements.

Fellowship Experience

The Washington Committee Fellowship is a participatory experience that combines exposure to federal health policy and advocacy with substantive involvement in the Washington Committee's work. Fellows will work under the mentorship of the Fellowship Director, Washington Committee leadership, subcommittee chairs, and Washington Office staff.

During the two-year fellowship, fellows will participate in three Washington Committee meetings—two in person in Washington, DC, and one virtually. Through these meetings and related activities, fellows will:

- Participate in discussions of organized neurosurgery's federal legislative and regulatory priorities and development of policy and advocacy strategies.
- Engage with Washington Committee leadership, subcommittee chairs, Washington Office staff, and other neurosurgical leaders.
- Participate in congressional advocacy and Hill Day activities associated with in-person Washington Committee meetings.
- Gain exposure to federal agencies and other health policy stakeholders as opportunities arise.

Fellows will rotate through the Washington Committee's subcommittees, combining education with substantive participation in each:

- **Coding and Reimbursement:** Introduction to physician coding, valuation, and reimbursement through neurosurgical coding education and training; exposure to the

CPT and RUC processes; and participation in commercial and federal payer reimbursement advocacy.

- **Drugs and Devices:** Experience with federal regulatory and coverage policy affecting neurosurgical drugs, devices, and emerging technologies, including research and participation in regulatory responses, policy analyses, or advocacy projects.
- **Quality Improvement and Health Information Technology:** Exposure to federal quality, health IT, clinical data and registry, and physician performance measurement policy, including participation in regulatory review, comments, or other policy projects.
- **Communications and Public Relations:** Experience translating complex policy issues into effective advocacy communications, including authoring or co-authoring *Neurosurgery Blog* articles and other Washington Committee publications.
- **Joint Guidelines Review:** Experience evaluating clinical practice guidelines.
- **AMA and Organized Medicine:** Representation of the AANS and CNS within the AMA Resident and Fellow Section (AMA-RFS), including participation in its policymaking process, review of resolutions and reports, reference committee hearings and caucuses, and development of or contribution to an AMA-RFS resolution or other policy initiative. Fellows are required to attend the two-day AMA-RFS meetings held in conjunction with the [2027 Annual Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates](#), [2027 Interim Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates](#), [2028 Annual Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates](#) and the [2028 Interim Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates](#). Fellows may also serve as an AANS/CNS delegate or alternate delegate to the AMA-RFS, as appropriate.

As part of these rotations, each fellow will complete at least one substantive policy or advocacy project addressing an active or emerging issue affecting neurological surgery. Projects will be selected in consultation with the Fellowship Director, relevant subcommittee leadership, and Washington Office staff and may include a policy analysis, regulatory comment, legislative advocacy initiative, AMA resolution, research project, communications initiative, educational resource, or other Washington Committee work product. Fellows will present their project and key takeaways to the Washington Committee at the conclusion of the fellowship.

Time Commitment and Expenses

Applicants should anticipate participation in three Washington Committee meetings during the two-year fellowship (two in person and one virtual), the AMA-RFS Annual and Interim Meetings, and periodic virtual subcommittee activities. Approved travel for required fellowship activities will be reimbursed.

How to Apply

Applicants must submit the following materials by October 30, 2026:

1. Completed application form.
2. Current curriculum vitae.
3. Letter of recommendation from a neurosurgeon or other physician familiar with the applicant's professional interests and leadership potential.
4. Letter from the applicant's residency program director, fellowship director, or department chair confirming that:
 - a. The applicant is in good standing;
 - b. The program understands the requirements of the two-year fellowship;

- c. The applicant will be provided protected time to participate in required fellowship meetings and activities; and
- d. The program supports the applicant's full participation in the fellowship.

Submission Instructions

Please email the completed application and all required supporting materials to info@neurosurgery.org with the subject line "AANS/CNS Washington Committee Fellowship Application."

All materials must be received by October 30, 2026. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Questions

Questions regarding the fellowship program or application process may be directed to:
Laura Stone McGuire, MD, MS
Fellowship Director
Member, AANS/CNS Washington Committee
CNS Alternate Delegate, AMA House of Delegates
Phone: (706) 466-0069
Email: laura.m.stone@gmail.com

Charlotte Pineda, MPP
Vice President, Health Policy and Advocacy
AANS/CNS Washington Committee
Phone: (321) 948-3360
Email: cpineda@neurosurgery.org



AANS/CNS Washington Committee Fellowship Application

Applicant Name:	
Residency/Fellowship Program:	
Institution:	
Current PGY Level:	
Anticipated PGY Level as of	
January 1, 2027:	
Anticipated Completion of	
Residency/Fellowship:	
Mailing Address:	
Email:	

Telephone:

Applicant Questions

Please respond to each of the following questions. Responses should be concise and specific and may draw on relevant professional, academic, leadership, or personal experiences.

1. Why are you interested in participating in the AANS/CNS Washington Committee Fellowship?

2. Describe your current or previous experience with health policy, advocacy, organized medicine, socioeconomic issues, or physician leadership. Prior experience is not required.

3. Identify one federal health policy issue affecting neurological surgery or neurosurgical patients that particularly interests you. Why is this issue important, and what would you like to learn about it through the fellowship?

4. How do you anticipate incorporating health policy, advocacy, or organized medicine into your career as a neurosurgeon?

5. What do you hope to contribute to the Washington Committee and the AMA-RFS during your fellowship?

Applicant Certification

I understand that the AANS/CNS Washington Committee Fellowship is a two-year commitment requiring active participation in Washington Committee activities, AMA-RFS meetings, assigned policy rotations, and fellowship projects. If selected, I agree to fulfill the fellowship's participation requirements and to communicate promptly with the Fellowship Director and Washington Office about any circumstances affecting my ability to participate.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____