

ACTION ITEM
(noted by *)

JOINT SECTION ON TUMORS (CNS AND AANS)

The Section on Nervous System Tumors of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons became a Joint Section of the CNS and AANS in December, 1984. The Joint Section will continue as it has in its initial year to develop an active group of neurosurgeons with interest in nervous system tumors of all types. The primary goal of the organization is stated in its bylaws and briefly is to provide a forum for education and research on tumors to the neurosurgical community and to other organizations as needed. The Section will provide expertise to the parent organizations on the topic of tumors and will serve as a resource to them in matters they deem appropriate to foster the Section's goals.

Our membership is approximately 50 neurosurgeons at this moment and is anticipated to increase significantly with publication of the joint sectional status and with the positive features that will ensue from membership.

The Section at the present time is run by a chairman (Mark Rosenblum), a secretary-treasurer (Michael Apuzzo), five members of an executive committee (Michael Apuzzo, Edward Laws, M Stephen Mahaley, Mark Rosenblum, Harold Young), and chairmen of several standing committees. The Membership Committee is chaired by Dennis Bullard. The Research Committee is chaired by Paul Kornblith who has organized a group that will investigate the present status of basic science and clinical research in field of tumors, and that will provide the information and regular updates to the membership. The Program Committee is chaired by Edward Neuwelt and has been responsible for the presentation of a workshop on the treatment of recurrent meningiomas at the Congress of Neurosurgery Meeting in New York and is planning a workshop on diagnosis and treatment of metastatic disease for the 1985 Congress of Neurosurgery Meeting in Hawaii. They will be responsible for initiating a program for the 1986 AANS meeting if the Scientific Program Committee of the AANS if it permits us to do so. It has also been responsible for reviewing the abstracts for the Congress Meeting. The chairman of the Joint Section has been responsible for reviewing the abstracts for the Open Scientific Session for the 1985 AANS meeting. The nominating Committee is chaired by Steven Mahaley and will be responsible to present to the Executive Committee and general membership a slate of officers as appropriate. The Publications Committee is chaired by Michael Edwards and has been accumulating abstracts from both the neurosurgery and nonneurosurgery literature that have particular relevance to our field. These abstracts will be published for the use of the members; however, the exact forum for the publication has not

been determined. The Newsletter Committee is chaired by Harold Young and is in the preparation phases of developing our first newsletter. Newsletters will be distributed at first to the entire AANS and CNS membership, but will eventually be distributed solely to the members of the Section. An International Committee is chaired by Nicholas de Tribolet who will inform the Section of international activities related to tumors and will interact with other international neurosurgery organizations on our behalf. A Pediatric Committee is chaired by Fred Epstein which will provide the Section with expertise in pediatric neuro-oncology and will serve as a link to the Pediatric Section of the AANS.

Several task forces have been and are presently being developed to investigate various topics relevant to the Joint Section. A task force for development and interpretation of an American College of Surgeons survey on the present treatment of brain tumors is being chaired by Stephen Mahaley and Edward Laws. The Board of the ACS has approved and is initiating efforts to pursue this survey within 1985. Similar surveys have been developed for other types of tumors and has provided relevant information on the status of tumor treatment for other specialties. We anticipate that it will take approximately two years to perform and evaluate the results. Other task forces that will be developed include those specifically related to various tumors such as acoustic neuromas, pituitary tumors, meningiomas, malignant gliomas, metastatic tumors, spinal tumors, peripheral nerve tumors, etc. The chairman of each task force is now being selected and will, in conjunction with other experts in the field, provide us with knowledge on the present status of tumor diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. They will also inform us about the clinical and basic science research that has been published, is undergoing active investigation and is proposed as most relevant for the future. The information so gathered will provide us with the baseline information that will help determine any need for education of the neurosurgical community, for other medical specialties, and for the public as regards to these various tumors. Such information will be invaluable for the planning for future workshops, publications, and interactions with other medical specialties. We anticipate that it will take approximately one year for the task forces to complete their initial phase of work.

The financial aspects of the Section will be submitted under separate cover and can be summarized as similar to that of any initial year of an organization with a limited membership, no ability to develop funding sources from outside our Section as yet, and with the necessary expenses to provide quality service to the neurosurgical community. We are aware of the increasing demands to neurosurgeons for membership in many neurosurgical organizations and the attendant membership costs. The initial membership dues for the Section have been placed at \$50 per year and we would hope to keep it at that level if we can find other sources for funding. We hereby petition the AANS Board for approval to initiate limited and directed funding requests to

private-sector companies that interact with neurosurgeons in the diagnosis or treatment of tumors. We do not anticipate to develop a large treasury to support the Joint Section that will detract in any way from the AANS or CNS or that will or limit the parent organizations' own efforts to secure funding. We feel that it would be advantageous to keep the cost of membership to neurosurgeons at a minimum, and that such fund raising efforts would be the most appropriate method to accomplish such a goal. We hope that the AANS Board will approve our request.

* We request that the official name of the Joint Section be shortened to "Joint Section on Tumors of the CNS and AANS" rather than the longer title of " Joint Section on Nervous System Tumors of the CNS and AANS".

I speak for our entire group in expressing our appreciation for your faith in us by approving our petition for Joint Section status this past December. We will endeavor in every way possible to make the association between the Joint Section and the AANS a relevant and positive one.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark L. Rosenblum, M.D.
Chairman, Joint Section on
Tumors of the CNS and AANS