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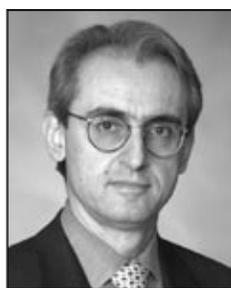
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20 Years of Growth and Accomplishments



Raymond Sawaya, MD

Section on Tumors: A Developmental History:

On the 20th Anniversary of the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors, an opportunity arose to review our history and to pay tribute to those who contributed to our success. Three phases of development have been identified.

The Initiation Phase:

Initiating a new concept is the most difficult and challenging step, requiring a strong vision and determined leadership. Both were provided by Edward R. Laws, MD, then president of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, who saw the need for, and the promise of, a strong Section on Tumors. The selected Founding Chairman, Mark Rosenblum, MD, labored relentlessly for seven years at the helm of the section, to lay the solid foundation upon which all future accomplishments were built. Selecting the first group of executives required great wisdom. Creating and defending the vision demanded foresight, energy, and diplomacy. It was our fortune that both men whom we are honoring at this time (see awards) were armed with all the necessary qualities and attributes that have generated what was to follow.

The Growth Phase:

Having established its own bylaws, and created a viable governing structure, it was now possible for the Section on Tumors to follow a democratic process for electing its leaders and initiating new programs. Each of the seven chairmen who followed Dr. Rosenblum played critical roles in consolidating the base, enlarging the structure,

and attracting new members.

As early as 1987, it was apparent to Dr. Rosenblum that to secure its success, the section would have to partner with national organizations that share the same goals of advancing research and enhancing patient care. To this end, scientific programs with the most promising research were selected, and awards were given for specific categories to individuals. This would not have been possible without the generous commitment of several foundations and organizations, beginning with Peter Preuss and the Preuss Foundation, which sponsored the first award to neurosurgical residents for their research in brain tumors, and which was followed by several others (see accompanying stories).

The Differentiation Phase:

A differentiated state implies maturity, depth, breadth, and complexity, with richness. This is, in fact, what the current Section on Tumors represents. Its Executive Council is made up of 40 recognized leaders in the field; all of whom are involved in a multitude of tasks and functions that were developed gradually over the past two decades. Scientific programs have been offered during each Annual Meeting held by the two parent organizations (AANS and CNS), with biennial symposia organized since 1994. Special courses have been offered and several issues of the Journal of Neuro-Oncology were published. This has led to a special collaborative agreement between the journal and the section. Practice guidelines were developed and published, and several online services were established. An Immunotherapy Task Force was established, and fellowship accreditation for neurosurgical oncology was approved by the Society of Neurological Surgeons.

Sixth Biennial Tumor Satellite Symposium

Fred Lang, MD

The Sixth Biennial Tumor Satellite Symposium of the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors took place on October 21-22, 2004 at the beautiful Palace Hotel in San Francisco, Calif. The meeting was particularly special, as it marked the 20th Anniversary of the formation of the Section on Tumors. Over 180 attendees, including neurosurgeons, medical oncologists, basic scientists, residents and physician-extenders participated in a dynamic scientific program that included three special symposia, a luncheon seminar, a keynote address, more than 30 selected oral paper presentations, and approximately 100 poster abstracts.

The meeting began on Thursday afternoon with, "Special Symposium I: Stem Cells and Brain Tumors: Biology and Therapeutics", during which invited experts discussed the role of stem cells in brain tumor biology and applications of these unique cells to tumor therapeutics. This discussion was particularly timely, given the increasing controversy surrounding stem cell research. **Peter B. Dirks, MD**, the Hospital for Sick Children and University of Toronto, presented seminal research describing the isolation and characterization of "cancer stem cells" from human brain tumors that possess the capacity for self-renewal, proliferation, and differentiation. This exciting talk described the revolutionary concept that "cancer stem cells," which comprise only a small fraction of the entire tumor mass, may be the critical cells driving tumorigenesis; implications for therapy were analyzed. **Sadhram Majumder, PhD**, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (M.D. Anderson), Houston, Texas, further developed the link between stem cell biology and tumorigenesis, by describing how inappropriate expression of a specific transcription factor (called REST) can prevent normal differentiation of neural stem cells and result in the formation of brain tumors, particularly medulloblastomas. This talk demonstrated how an understanding of neural stem cell biology provides insight into tumor formation. Lastly, **John S. Yu, MD**, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, Calif., described the potential therapeutic application of neural stem cells in the treatment of brain tumors. Interestingly, his group isolated the neural progenitor cells from bone marrow, pointing out that the use of bone marrow circumvents the ethical and tissue rejection problems associated with fetal neural stem cells. In the end, participants were left with the clear impression that stem cells will be an important area of active brain tumor research and therapy.

After concluding Thursday evening with an exciting Gala Dinner (see accompanying article), the Friday morning session began with, "Special Symposium II: Molecular Imaging in Brain Tumors." In this session, participants were exposed to the emerging technologies that have allowed imaging of brain tumors at the molecular level. **Juri Gelovani, MD, PhD**, M.D. Anderson and **Martin G. Pomper, MD, PhD**, Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, Md., presented complimentary discussions describing advances in molecular imaging, which they defined as the visualization in

both space and time of normal or abnormal cellular processes at the molecular or genetic level. The speakers pointed out that the advances in molecular imaging have largely to do with improvements in magnetic resonance (MR) imaging, computed tomography, positron emission tomography, and optical imaging, but that the most exciting aspect of this emerging new field has been the novel imaging paradigms being developed. The speakers provided several examples of various paradigms for molecular imaging, such as the use of reporter-transgene technology, which couples a reporter gene with a complimentary reporter probe that can be detected by specific imaging modalities. These paradigms have been used to study gene therapy, protein-protein interactions, endogenous cellular processes, and cellular therapies in real time in living animals. The clinical applications of these scientific tools were clearly established. In the last talk of this session, **Soonme Cha, MD**, The University of California/San Francisco, gave a dynamic presentation on the clinical application of MR Imaging for evaluating patients with brain tumors. She pointed out that whereas MR Imaging has conventionally been used to define the anatomic aspects of brain tumors, newer MR Imaging methods, such as diffusion-weighted imaging, perfusion imaging, and spectroscopic imaging provide quantitative information about the physiology of the tumor. Dr. Cha provided examples of the application of each of these techniques in the evaluation of brain tumors. For instance, dynamic contrast-enhanced perfusion MR Imaging provides in vivo maps of cerebral blood volume and tumor vascularity that allow indirect assessments of angiogenesis, an important element in brain tumor biology. Likewise, diffusion weighted MR Imaging can be used to distinguish tumor recurrence from post-resection injury, and spectroscopy can be used to distinguish recurrent tumor from treatment-related necrosis. By the conclusion of this session, the progress and advances in molecular imaging and their relevance to clinical care were fully appreciated by all participants.

The morning session was concluded by an exciting Keynote Address by **Patrick Kelly, MD**, Ransohoff Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at New York University Medical Center in New York City, N.Y. Dr. Kelly was chosen to

Chairman's Message *continued from front page*

The ultimate success of the Section on Tumors was achieved when it became the de facto official spokesperson for organized neurosurgery on matters pertaining to tumors. This special newsletter issue is a tribute to all the chairmen and their associates, all the organizations that have diligently and collaboratively advanced the section's work, and all the awardees who have distinguished themselves then and now.

To all, I say congratulations and thank you.

give this address because of his seminal work in the development of stereotactic surgery as it applies specifically to brain tumors. His stimulating presentation did not disappoint as he reviewed the history of stereotactic surgery and his particular odyssey into applying stereotactic principles to the resection of brain tumors. He provided multiple examples of the application of his home-grown stereotactic system. His talk was interspersed with interesting anecdotes about sailing, his mentors, and his patients. Dr. Kelly provided the audience with an inspiring account of a career devoted to bringing the concept of tumor stereotaxis to fruition.

The afternoon session began with a luncheon seminar entitled, "Clinical Trial Design: Role of the Neurosurgeon," the goal of which was to discuss the importance of neurosurgeons in the development and execution of clinical trials. **Susan Chang, MD**, The University of California/San Francisco, gave the perspective of a medical oncologist, while **James Markert, MD**, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, and **Michael Vogelbaum, MD, PhD**, The Cleveland Clinic, provided the perspective of the neurosurgeon. The speakers, all of whom have been active participants in multiple clinical trials, emphasized that neurosurgeons have a critical role in designing and implementing trials, especially trials that evaluate the effectiveness of surgically-based delivery

systems, such as implantable wafers and convection-enhanced delivery. They also pointed out, however, that many conventional drug trials could be improved if neurosurgeons played a more active role in acquiring pretreatment and post-treatment tissue specimens that would permit more direct assessments of the effect of a drug on a patient's tumor. **Frederick Barker, MD**, Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, Mass., described the CNS Working group of the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG), and presented the concept of developing a partnership between the Section on Tumors and ACOSOG in an effort to increase clinical trial development and accrual within neurosurgery. This session advocated a "call to arms" for neurosurgeons to increase their active involvement in clinical trials.

The final session of the meeting, "Special Symposium III: Neurosurgical Oncology: Not Just Glioma Surgery", was a unique endeavor for the Section on Tumors. In this symposium, a series of speakers described the broad range of specialization within the field of neurosurgical oncology. Because the Section on Tumors is often viewed as overwhelmingly devoted to glioma surgery and research, it was the goal of this symposium to call attention to the fact that neurosurgical oncology is a broad field. In this context, **Ziya Gokaslan, MD**, Johns Hopkins, emphasized the role of neurosurgical oncologists in the treatment of spinal tumors. **Samuel Hassenbusch, MD, PhD**, of M.D. Anderson, presented information regarding the role of neurosurgeons in the treatment of cancer related pain. **Franco DeMonte, MD**, also from M.D. Anderson, discussed the important role of the skull base surgeon in neurosurgical oncology. And lastly, **Allan Belzberg, MD**, Johns Hopkins, described his extensive experience with peripheral nerve tumors. This session was intended to stimulate a broader view of neurosurgical oncology and to emphasize that neurosurgical oncology is a dynamic and inclusive field.

Participation of the attendees was a valued part of the Satellite Symposium. Indeed, following each of the invited speaker sessions, over 30 peer-reviewed abstracts were delivered as oral paper presentations. These included timely studies of stem cells, imaging, tumor biology, and clinical trials. In addition, nearly 100 abstracts were presented as posters. In all, the abstracts presented at this meeting were of the highest scientific quality and embodied work from diverse areas of neurosurgical oncology.

Finally, special recognition is given to the many meeting sponsors, whose generosity made the meeting possible, especially the Platinum Level Sponsor, Brain Lab Inc., and the Gold Level Sponsors, Schering Plough Oncology Inc. and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Special thanks also go to Lisa Sykes, Nathalie Johnson, Jennifer Wolff, Mary Kay Karl, Paula Nedza, and all of the members of the AANS staff, as well as Diane Bower of the Brain Tumor Center at MD Anderson who helped organize this 20th Anniversary Tumor Satellite Symposium.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Isabelle M. Germano, MD

Under Dr. Raymond Sawaya's leadership, the Joint Section on Tumors accomplished a tremendous number of successful activities over the past six months. **I would like to thank Michael McDermott, MD and Mark Linskey, MD for their help in co-editing** this Special Edition of the Joint Section on Tumors Newsletter. In this issue of the newsletter, **Raymond Sawaya, MD**, reviews the initiation, growth, and differentiation phases of the section. **Ron Warnick, MD** summarizes the financial aspects of the Section. **Donald O'Rourke, MD** highlights the special symposium on Tumors during the upcoming AANS 2005 meeting. **Michael McDermott, MD**, provides a detailed description of the recent awards at the CNS 2004 and Sixth Satellite Symposium. **Fred Lang, MD** reports on the very successful scientific program of the Sixth Satellite Symposium. **Roberta Glick, MD** summarizes the past and future activities of the Immunotherapy Task Force. **Gene Barnett, MD** stresses the benefits of membership to the Joint Section on tumor. **Mark Linskey, MD** reports on the Special 20th Anniversary Issue of the Journal of Neuro-Oncology.

As always if you have content to submit for this newsletter, please contact me.

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20th Anniversary Special Issue Journal of Neuro-Oncology

Mark Linskey, MD

One of the highlights of the 20th Anniversary celebration for the Joint Section on Tumors was the section's Sixth Biennial Satellite Symposium on October 21-22, 2004, during which a Special Anniversary Issue of the Journal of Neuro-Oncology was issued. Officially cited as Journal of Neuro-Oncology Volume 69, Numbers 1-3, August/September (I,II), 2004, this project was moved from initial idea (May 2003) through final submission to the publisher (March 2004) in only 10 months, and through to final publication in only 16 months.

Completing this ambitious project was not easy, and the lion's share of the credit for completing it on time for publication goes to the individual authors who volunteered their efforts and made a serious commitment to it. The schedule was quite tight. Authors only had three months to organize, develop, and complete their initial submissions, which were due the second week of January 2004. In order to accomplish this feat, each already busy and over-committed author needed to prioritize the Section on Tumors manuscript with very little advance notice. Each contribution was thoroughly peer-reviewed and then returned to the authors for revision. Authors were extremely receptive to the suggestions, with an eye towards comprehensiveness, integration, and the overall vision of the special issue when taken as a whole. Contributing authors only had 2-4 weeks to complete their revisions, which were due February 15, 2004, and the final project was sent to the publisher by March 15, 2004.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Journal of Neuro-Oncology Editor-In-Chief and fellow Joint Section on Tumors member, Joseph Piepmeier, MD who supported this project throughout. Special recognition and thanks to the editors and staff of Kluwer academic publishers who were professional and supportive throughout, particularly Laura Walsh. Laura was present at the 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner October 21, 2004 where she accepted an award for her team's work on the special issue.

Originally conceived as a two-volume special issue, the final version consisted of a single large 350-page volume. It includes the first peer-review publication of an official history of any AANS/



FIG 2 Kluwer Academic Publishing Staff, who worked on the Special 20th Anniversary Issue, pose with their award presented to them by the Joint Section on Tumors. (Left-to-Right: Meertinus Faber, Desk Editor; Maureen Tobin, Editorial Assistant, Oncology; Laura Walsh, Managing Editor Journal of Neuro-Oncology; Cheryl Knight, Journal Editorial Office).

CNS Joint Section, an introductory preface to the journal from the journal special editor, a reflection on the past and future of neuro-oncology by the section chairman, as well as 22 manuscripts focused on showcasing the surgical treatment of brain tumor patients, as well as clinical innovations and clinical research efforts. Many section events and programs in the past showcased basic science brain tumor research efforts of the section members and neuro-oncology in general. The goal of the Special Anniversary Issue was to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state-of-the-art in surgical brain tumor patient care, with articles written by recognized experts in each area of concern. Topics range from benign and low grade primary brain tumors, to metastatic brain tumors, and skull base tumors and pineal region tumors. Pediatric tumors, spine tumors, spinal cord, and peripheral nerve tumors are all addressed. Technique topics range from microsurgery, to skull base surgery, to stereotaxis and minimally invasive surgery, to brachytherapy and stereotactic radiosurgery. Topics about innovations range from the operating room state-of-the-art, to surgical delivery of biological and other non-surgical tumor therapies. Philosophical topics include strategies for developing comprehensive brain tumor programs, as well as the practical aspects of designing, implementing, and performing brain tumor clinical trials. Of the 25 primary invited authors, 22 (88%), are members of our section.

The Special Anniversary Issue of the Journal of Neuro-Oncology serves as a benchmark reference for the current state-of-the-art in surgical neuro-oncology. We hope that it will come to be considered a classic monograph on the history of our section, as well as the advancement of our specialty. Efforts are underway to fund a CD-ROM containing the special issue in its entirety through our section treasury that can be circulated to all Joint Section on Tumors members, as well as neurosurgery residents. As a section, we can take pride in the creation of a lasting tribute to our 20th Anniversary, as well as the progress heretofore achieved in clinical surgical neuro-oncology for the benefit of our patients.



FIG 1 Cover of the Special 20th Anniversary Issue of the Journal of Neuro-Oncology, officially cited as Journal of Neuro-Oncology Volume 69, Numbers 1-3, August/September (I,II), 2004.

2004 CNS Awards

Michael McDermott, MD

The 2004 CNS Annual Meeting in San Francisco was another success for the Section on Tumors. Award presentations were made at both the 54th Annual CNS Meeting and the Tumor Satellite Meeting that immediately followed.

The section recently secured a **new award** to launch at this year's 2005 AANS Annual Meeting thanks to the Integra Foundation. The **Integra Foundation Award** will 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 \$1000, similar to our other major awards. Both residents and attending neurosurgeons can submit papers for consideration. Recipients may only receive the award once.

Farber Award: The 2005 Farber Award winner is **James T. Rutka, MD, PhD, FRC**, past chair of the section, recognizing his significant contributions to the understanding of pediatric brain tumors, and most notably medulloblastoma. Dr. Rutka is the Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto where he holds the Dan Family Chair in Neurosurgery. He is also the director of the Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumor Research Center in Toronto. Dr. Rutka will present his work at the upcoming AANS Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Congratulations!

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 and the awardee speaks at both meetings the year the award is given. This year Dr. Rutka is only able to speak at the AANS meeting as he is unable to attend the International Neuro-oncology meeting in Edinburgh. The recipient is selected by the presidents of the two entities and the Section Awards chair, based on nominations from the executive committees of both entities. The award recognizes the most promising investigators achieving significant results early in their careers. Recipients can only receive the award once.

NBTF Translational Research Grant Award: The 2004 winner was **Hideho Okada, MD** the University of Pittsburgh, for his project entitled, "Vaccination with glioma associated antigen peptides in NF1 and TRP 53 mutant mice that develop spontaneous glioblastoma" (Fig. 1). This year five proposals were received and reviewed by Drs. O'Rourke, Mamelak, Guha, McDermott. Outside experts were also used as part of the review process to be fair.

The National Brain Tumor Translational Research Grant Award is given annually by the NBTF for the best translational research

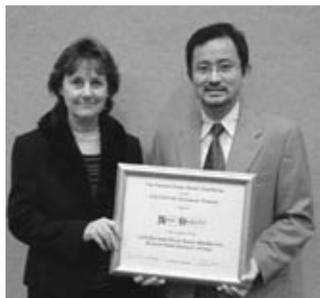


Fig. 3 Hideho Okada, MD, University of Pittsburgh (right), presented with National Brain Tumor Foundation Translational Research Grant Award certificate by Sharon Lamb, RN, from the NBTF.

Fig. 4 Justin Santarelli, MD (right), Stanford University, presented with the Preuss Award certificate by Ronald E. Warnick, MD.



Fig. 5 Marvin Bergsneider, MD (right), UCLA, presented with Mahaley Award certificate by Michael W. McDermott, MD.

Fig. 6 Kyle Weaver, MD (right) from Vanderbilt presented with the Young Investigator Award certificate by Raymond Sawaya, MD



grant proposal submitted by the end of May. The winner is announced at the CNS Annual Meeting each year.

Preuss Award: The 2004 Preuss Award winner was **Justin Santarelli, MD** from Stanford University, for his abstract, "Incorporation of bone marrow derived FLK-1-expressing CD34+ cells in endothelium of tumor vessels in mouse brain." (Fig. 2)

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

Mahaley Award: The 2004 Mahaley Award winner was **Marvin Bergsneider, MD**, UCLA, for his abstract, "Extent of brain tumor resection using high field versus low field strength intraoperative MRI" (Fig. 3)

The Mahaley Award is given at each of the AANS and CNS meetings to a neurosurgery resident, fellow or attending, who submits the best clinical study in neuro-oncology.

Young Investigator Award: At the 2004 CNS Annual Meeting the winner was Vanderbilt University, for his abstract, "Identification

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2004 Tumor Satellite Meeting Awards

Michael McDermott, MD

Best Individual Investigator Award and Best Resident Abstract Award: The selection of the award winning papers for these awards was made by a subcommittee of Drs. Lang, Sawaya and McDermott. This year's Best Individual Investigator Award went to **Michael Taylor, MD, PhD, FRC**, for his paper, "Whole Genome Characterization of Pediatric Ependymomas". This award, sponsored by the Journal of Neuro-Oncology, includes one year's free subscription to the journal and a \$500 cash award. The winner of the Best Resident Abstract Award was **Avinash L. Mohan, MD** for his paper, "Activation of Smoothed Induces Medulloblastoma in Mice". This award is sponsored by Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation of the United States (PBTUS), which this year increased the monetary award substantially to \$1,000, thanks to the generosity of Mike Traynor, MD, co-founder of the PBTUS.

Best Poster Award: The poster program at the Satellite Symposium was well supported with very few absences amongst accepted abstracts. Selection of the best poster was made by a subcommittee of Drs. Lang, Del Maestro and McDermott on Friday morning and the winner announced at the conclusion of the program Friday afternoon. This year's winner of the Best Poster Award was **Ajay Pandita, MD** for his poster entitled, "To Construct a High Resolution Genetic Alteration Map of Transformed Schwann Cells in Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumors (PNST)". This award is sponsored by the Section on Tumors in the amount of \$250.

Special Commemorative Awards: One of the highlights of the Symposium was the Gala Dinner on Thursday evening, conceived and organized by **Dr. Raymond Sawaya**. At the gala, individuals and societies important in the establishment and continued success of the Section on Tumors were recognized. Dr. Sawaya put together a wonderful monograph provided to all attendees, which documented the history of the section and accomplishments of past chairmen, as well as a catalogue of the Preuss, Mahaley, Young Investigator, National Brain Tumor Translational Research Grant, Farber, Journal of Neuro-oncology and Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Award winners. Dr. Sawaya also arranged for special southwestern decorative and engraved plates with stands to be given to the sponsors in recognition of their support. An elegant touch to the event was the performance by a classical pianist during dinner.

To begin the special awards presentations, **Dr. Edward R. Laws** was honored with a **Distinguished Service Award** for his conception and support of, the Section on Tumors over the years. **Dr. Mark Rosenblum**, the driving force behind the creation of the Section in 1984, and the chairman until 1991, was honored with the first **Charles B. Wilson Award**, sponsored by the Brain Tumor Society. Dr. Rosenblum spoke about the early years of the section and the remarkable growth he has witnessed over the years. **Charles Wilson, MD**, not to be stopped by a recent bilateral knee replacement operation, attended to give the evening's keynote address on

the past, present and future of brain tumor research drawing from 30 years experience as one of neurosurgery's pioneers in surgical neuro-oncology.

As chair of the Awards Committee, it was my pleasure to pay tribute to our sponsors. The success of our section, and its goal to find a cure for primary brain tumors, is dependent on the commitment of our members and the support of sponsors that encourage innovation and provide a means to continue our ongoing research efforts. The **National Brain Tumor Foundation (NBTF)**, founded in 1981, sponsors basic science research, patient support groups and national brain tumor conferences to the tune of more than \$1.3 million a year. They sponsor the section's largest single award, the Translational Research Grant Award, in the amount of \$15,000, paid directly to the research institution of the selected awardee. The NBTF also sponsors the Mahaley Award (\$1,000), at both the AANS and CNS meetings, recognizing outstanding clinical neuro-oncology research in memory of Stephen Mahaley, MD (a past member of our Section). Rob Tufel, executive director of NBTF, was on hand to accept a special gift from the section. The **American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA)**, founded to support research and patient groups, offered fellowships and grants totaling \$1.5 million this year. The ABTA sponsors the Young Investigator Award twice a year at our national meetings in the amount of \$2,000 to recognize and support investigators early in their careers for outstanding research. Naomi Berkowitz, executive director of ABTA was on hand to accept a gift from Dr. Sawaya. The **Brain Tumor Society (BTS)** was founded in 1989, and through 2003, has allocated close to \$6 million for basic and translational research. This year they sponsored the first Dr. Charles Wilson Award in



Fig. 7 Michael Taylor, MD presented with the Best Individual Investigator Award certificate by Fred Lang, MD

Fig. 8 Avinash L. Mohan, MD presented with the Best Resident Abstract Award certificate by Fred Lang, MD





Fig. 9 Edward R. Laws, MD presented with the Distinguished Service Award certificate by Raymond Sawaya, MD

Fig. 10 Mark Rosenblum, MD presented with the Charles B. Wilson Award certificate by Neil Levitan, Executive Director, Brain Tumor Society



the amount of \$5,000 to recognize the outstanding contributions of Dr. Mark Rosenblum. Neil Levitan, executive director for BTS assisted in presenting the award to Dr. Rosenblum and receive a gift from the section. Mike and Dianne Traynor from the PBTFUS were on hand for the dinner and have been long time supporters of research for pediatric brain tumors. Apart from funding 7-8 research proposals per year, they sponsor the Best Resident Abstract Award at our Biennial Satellite Symposia. Although not present, Peter Preuss, who established the **Preuss Foundation** in 1985 with a \$3.5 million gift, was honored for the Foundation's support of the Preuss Award. This award, given at both the AANS and CNS meetings, recognizes the best basic science research paper with a \$1,000 stipend. The **Ann and Jason Farber Foundation** was recognized for its ongoing support of the Farber Award, given once each year to investigators achieving significant results early in their careers. James Farber currently oversees the award, which provides \$10,000 and travel support for lectures at both the AANS and Society for Neuro-oncology meetings each year. Last, but not least, special thanks was given to the **Journal of Neuro-oncology and Kluwer Publishers** for their support of the *Special 20th Anniversary Edition*, edited by Mark Linskey, MD, and provided to all the Symposia attendees. This 350-page, 22 chapter edition includes reviews on the current state-of-the-art in brain tumor treatment and research efforts. The journal is also recognized as the official journal for the Section on Tumors and is edited by Joseph Piepmeier, MD, past chairman of the section from 1999-2001. The journal also supports 2 awards: The *Journal of Neuro-oncology* Award, presented at each AANS meeting to recognize a high ranking basic science or clinical research paper and; the Best Individual Investigator Award at the biennial satellite meetings. Both Dr. Joseph Piepmeier and Laura Walsh, managing editor, of the journal were present, with Laura accepting a gift from our section.

The Awards program for the Section on Tumors has had strong and consistent support over the years from the entities mentioned above. Without them, we could not have succeeded to the extent that we have. On behalf of the members of the Section on Tumors, I would like to congratulate all of our winners, past and present, for their outstanding efforts and to thank our sponsors for their continued support.

Treasurer's Report Ronald E. Warnick, MD

The Section on Tumors's total assets increased by \$19,835 to a total of \$282,621. This is a 7.5 percent increase and reflects the favorable market. The section invested \$100,000 in an intermediate term, fixed-interest investment from USB Financial Services and we expect a four percent annual return at maturity. The section also maintains more than \$100,000 in checking and short-term investments to cover fluctuations in cash flow.

The 2004 Tumor Satellite Meeting was a financial success as reflected by net income of \$15,626. Actual revenue was greater than budget (\$136,545 vs. \$121,650) and meeting expenses were lower than predicted (\$120,919 vs. \$128,925). The Executive Committee has recommended that a portion of the annual meeting proceeds be used to distribute a CD version of the *Special Anniversary Issue of the Journal of Neuro-Oncology* to all Section on Tumors members.

International Report: Germany J.C. Tonn, MD

1. A national network of centers of excellence for glioma treatment and research has been funded by the German Cancer Foundation (Deutsche Krebshilfe) for three years initially, with an additional two years as an option. Members of the "German Glioma Network" are the University Hospitals (in alphabetical order): Bonn, Dresden, Freiburg, Hamburg, Munich, Tuebingen. The speaker for the network is Michael Weller, Professor of Neurology, University of Tuebingen. Each center consists of the departments of neurosurgery, neurology, radiation oncology, neuropathology, neuroradiology, and, in some centers, nuclear medicine. Referral centers for general neuropathology in Bonn, for molecular neuropathology in Duesseldorf and Berlin, and for data management in Leipzig, complete the network.

The main goal is to collect information about clinical courses, treatments, molecular analyses of tumor specimens, as well as standardized data about disease and the treatment related quality of life changes. This program will set standards in patient care and provide a huge data bank concerning clinical as well as molecular data in a large scale patient population. These data will allow research on patient care as well as programs focusing on translational research.

2. During 2004, recruitment for the phase III trial "Fluorescence guided resection of glioblastoma after 5-ALA administration" was finished, since the required number of patients in both arms was achieved. Results of the study are expected mid-2005.

Award History

Frederick Barker, MD

The banquet celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Section on Tumors was a wonderful occasion to celebrate the accomplishments of the section and to honor some of the seminal figures in its formation and development. It is often interesting to compare our present celebrations with their historical precedents; but this was the first such banquet for our section. To find a comparable celebration in our section's lineal descent, we must go back 65 years, to the banquet held in 1939 by the AANS (then called the Harvey Cushing Society) to mark Cushing's 70th birthday. As with our present banquet, the festivities were preceded by a distinguished scientific program and accompanied by special issues of several journals (a parallel to the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology* Special Issue edited by Drs. Linskey and Sawaya). There was splendid food and drink and august speeches abounded at both banquets. The main difference between the past and the present occasions lies in the dramatic expansion of our field since Cushing's day. In fact, there have already been more winners of our section's major awards than there were members of the Harvey Cushing Society in 1939.

Of the section's many awards, already described by Dr. McDermott, the two oldest are the Preuss Award (1987) for best research submission by a resident, and the Mahaley Award (1991) for best clinical research submission. There have been 35 Preuss awardees and 26 Mahaley awardees; only one individual has won both awards.

The 35 Preuss awardees (Table 1) represent 21 residency programs, two programs having supplied four winners each, three programs had three winners and one program had two winners. Only one awardee was in training outside North America. Twenty-six Preuss awardees (75%) were honored for work on gliomas. At the five-year mark after the award presentation, two-thirds of the winning abstracts reached full publication in peer-reviewed journals, and to date, three of the articles have been cited more than 100 times by other publications. About one-third of awardees received NIH-sponsored grants within seven years after the award (17 grants to nine awardees). Within 12 years of receiving their awards, almost 30 percent of awardees received NIH R01 grants (five grants to four awardees).

The Mahaley Award recipients (Table 2) were honored for work on a more diverse range of tumors: only one-third of the awards were given for work on gliomas. Four awards recognized completion of multicenter randomized clinical trials. Seventeen institutions submitted work originating from single centers, six of the institutions were located outside North America. Over two-thirds of Mahaley award-winning abstracts reached full publication in peer-reviewed journals within eight years after presentation; to date, one of the previous award winning abstracts has been cited more than 100 times by other publications.

The high quality of the work recognized by the Preuss and Mahaley Awards is reflected by these statistics. The section's

other awards are not yet old enough for similar figures to be compiled, but the future prospect for continued excellence of research presentations at the section's meetings certainly seems to be a bright one.

Table 1. Preuss Resident Award winners

1987	John Zovickian	Corey Raffel
1988	Charles Wrobel	
1989	Jacob Rachlin	Ian Pollack
1990	Charles Gordon	Alfred Bowles
1991	William Couldwell	Douglas Kondziolka
1992	Douglas Brockmeyer	Mark Linskey
1993	Frederick Lang	Michael Haglund
1994	Kamal Thapar	Eric Flores
1995	John Brayton	John Yu
1996	Margaret Wallenfriedman	Barry Birch
1997	Andrew Metzger	Walter Jean
1998	Matthias Feldkamp	Bob Carter
1999	Sandeep Kunwar	Terrence Julien
2000	Amy Heimberger	Michael Taylor
2001	Jeffrey Leonard	Andrew Parsa
2002	Jorge Gonzalez-Martinez	Loi Phuong
2003	Markus Bredel	John Y. K. Lee
2004	Manish Aghi	Justin Santarelli

Table 2. Mahaley Award winners.

1991	James Melisi	
1992	Robert Sanford	Mark Bernstein
1993	Georg Noren	John Schneider
1994	Shlomi Constantini	Albino Bricolo
1995	Wolfgang Koos	Robert Selker
1996	William Hitselberger	Walter Hall
1997	Douglas Kondziolka	Fred Barker
1998	Prem Pillay	Byron Young
1999	Douglas Kondziolka	Bruce Pollock
2000	Robert Weil	Ronald Warnick
2001	Yutaka Sawamura	Hae-Dong Jho
2002	Joung Lee	Gene Barnett
2003	Marcus Ware	Franco DeMonte
2004	Ossama al-Mefty	Marvin Bergsneider

AANS 2005: Tumor Highlights

Donald O'Rourke, MD

The AANS Section on Tumors Program at the Annual Meeting in April 2005 will have several notable highlights. A special symposium entitled, "Neuro-Imaging for the Neurosurgeon" will be conducted with several experts in contemporary imaging techniques of benign and malignant primary brain tumors. Symposium speakers will include Michael Lev, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Soonmee Cha, MD, University of California/San Francisco, and Nelson Oyesiku, MD, PhD, Emory University. The symposium will feature discussions on the application of MR perfusion, diffusion and spectroscopic techniques in the diagnosis and treatment of malignant gliomas. Additionally, molecular imaging techniques of pituitary tumors will be addressed in this unique symposium. An overview of the application of newer imaging techniques in image-guided surgery as well as a discussion of the importance of these newer imaging modalities to the neurosurgical management of brain tumor patients will also be presented.

Additional events will include the Farber Award lecture. This year's lecture will be given at the annual meeting by Dr. Rutka, chair, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto, who will present his work entitled, "Medulloblastoma: From Mice to Men". Mouse models of medulloblastoma have been critically important in defining aberrant signaling pathways in these tumors and in evaluating experimental treatment strategies. Dr. Rutka's laboratory has contributed greatly to the understanding of the pathophysiology of childhood medulloblastoma and this work serves to illustrate advances in translational research and anticipates future advances in molecular diagnosis and treatment of human brain tumors.

CNS Awards *continued from page 5*

of hypermethylated tumor specific DNA in plasma of patients with glioma".(Fig. 4)

Sponsored by the American Brain Tumor Association, the Young Investigator Award is given at each AANS and CNS 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.

The awards section is pleased to be able to, through our sponsoring agencies, continue to support excellence in both clinical and basic science research about tumors of the central and peripheral nervous system.

All of our awards require that the recipient be an Active, International or Resident Member of the section and each award is given to a recipient only once. At this year's upcoming AANS Annual Meeting in New Orleans, April 16-21, 2005, the Mahaley, Preuss, Young Investigator, Farber, Bittner, Integra Foundation and Journal of Neuro-oncology awards will be presented. Outlined below is the current list of awards and meetings at which they are presented or announced. For further details please see the Section on Tumors website at www.aans.org/education/grants.aspx.

Membership in the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors

Gene Barnett, MD

Why join the Joint 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

A 50 percent discount on the Journal of Neuro-oncology (the official journal of the Joint Section on Tumors)

- A multidisciplinary 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's 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, 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 on tumor related issues. The Joint 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. Further details about Section membership, including the membership requirements and an application are available at <http://www.neurosurgery.org/sections/section.aspx?Section=TU>, and click on "Membership information" or "Application for membership" from the left menu.

Send your application and recent CV to Gene Barnett, MD, Brain Tumor Institute – S80, The Cleveland Clinic, 9500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44195

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Immunotherapy Task Force

Report
 Roberta Glick, MD

The Immunotherapy Task Force is a multidisciplinary group of approximately 50 members, including both clinical and basic science researchers, involved in the investigation of the role of immunotherapy for brain tumors. This Task Force was created in response to numerous questions by clinicians, physicians, and patients regarding the efficacy of this treatment and to share and evaluate the current knowledge, research and clinical trials in this field. Planned activities for the near future include:

- 1 The **Fourth Annual Meeting** will be held in conjunction with the AANS 2005 Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 17, 2005 from 12:00 to 5:00pm. The agenda will include an Invited Speaker, followed by series of research talks, and finally a Round Table Discussion. This is an open meeting and anyone is invited to attend and/or present their work.
- 2 A **Special Issue of the Journal of Neuro-Oncology** was dedicated to Immunotherapy for Brain Tumors and members of the Immunotherapy Task Force are represented in this Issue.

The task force wants to thank the Section on Tumors for their continued support of this endeavor.

AANS/CNS Section on Tumors Leadership

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