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AANS/CNS Section on Tumors Executive Committee

From the Chair



Jeff Bruce, MD

I am humbled and delighted to begin my term as chair of the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors. Our previous chair, Michael McDermott, MD, has left a legacy of accomplishments that will be difficult to match. Under his

outstanding leadership, the Tumor Section has grown and provided leadership in several key areas.

Mike oversaw the expansion of the International Committee and was instrumental in developing increased support for the ASIST Program for International Travel Award. Working with Gene Barnett, MD, he oversaw an increase in the number of Tumor Section awards including expansion of the NBTF Translational Research Grant Award and the ABTA Clinical Research Grant. Mike also worked with Editor Linda Liao, MD, to provide an automatic subscription to the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology* for all Tumor Section members. In addition, he coordinated an outstanding event honoring the Tumor Section's 25th Anniversary event at the San Diego meeting. More importantly, he was a leader in the coordination of the first joint satellite meeting with the Society for Neuro-Oncology, scheduled for October 2009. His efforts have left the Tumor Section in excellent shape and have eased my transition to his former role.

As part of my transition, I have put together an outstanding group of individuals to form the new Executive Committee for the Tumor Section. I am indebted to so many talented and dedicated individuals who have generously volunteered their time on behalf of the section. As the committee begins its work on the new Tumor Section agenda,

I have focused on expanding several important areas of our field.

One of the major areas of emphasis will be our International Committee. I believe that expanding our collaborative efforts in education and clinical care will be beneficial to our international colleagues and will provide meaningful interchange and cooperation among all countries. I have asked Khaled Aziz, MD, and Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa, MD, to lead this effort through our International Committee. Our subcommittees are led by Manfred Westphal, MD, and Francesco DiMeco, MD, from Europe; Zvi Ram, MD, and Hossam El Huseiny, MD, from the Middle East; Fumio Yamaguchi, MD, from Asia; Jose Valerio-Pascua, MD, from Central America; Alejandra Rabadan, MD, and Enrique Concha-Julio, MD, from South America; Okezie Kanu, MD, from Africa; and Charles Teo, MD, from Australia.

In other areas, I am pleased that Mark Linskey, MD, has agreed to organize and lead a new subcommittee on clinical trials. Mark has previously done great work on the Guidelines Committee and was able to identify certain areas of clinical research that were significantly lacking in prospective clinical trials. As part of his responsibilities, Mark will be organizing multicenter studies to analyze important aspects of brain tumor diagnosis and management. Meanwhile, the Guidelines Committee will continue under the able leadership of Steve Kalkanis, MD, and Tim Ryken, MD.

Other Tumor Section programs will be supported, including the Community Collaborative Initiatives that was begun by Tony Asher, MD, and Russ Lonser, MD. The continued support and expansion of the Academic Community Alliance Web page as well as support for webinars will continue to bring sophisticated neuro-oncology education into the community.

Joint Scientific Meeting To Focus on Neuro-Oncology, Tumor Research

Randy Jensen, MD

For the first time, the Society for Neuro-Oncology and the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors are joining scientific research efforts to present the latest developments in neuro-oncology and tumor surgery at the 2009 Joint Meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology and the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors, Oct. 22–24, 2009, in New Orleans, La. This robust and dynamic educational event brings a renewed focus to neuro-oncology and tumor research. Plan to be there as leading experts discuss and debate the latest advancements in the field of neuro-oncology and tumor surgery. There is still time to register at www.cns.org/snosot.

The meeting will begin on Thursday, Oct. 22, with the traditional educational half-day program which this year focuses on the topic “Personalized Medicine: Is It the Future or Now?” Speakers will include Lauren Eileen Abrey, MD, Kenneth D. Aldape, MD, Daniel J. Brat, MD, Cameron W. Brennan, MD, Mark R. Gilbert, MD, Minesh P. Mehta, MD, Christopher Nimsky, MD, and Christina I. Tsien, MD. There will be a concurrent quality-of-life session titled “Enhancing Quality of Life Throughout the Illness Trajectory.”

The afternoon will begin with a plenary session featuring the top-scoring abstracts. The remainder of the afternoon will highlight concurrent sessions on the topics of cell biology and clinical trials. Thursday evening will include a poster viewing session and reception.

The next day, Friday, Oct. 23, will begin with the following 7 a.m. sunrise sessions featuring expert discussion: “Neurosurgical Oncological Endoscopy”; “Meningiomas: Current Basic Science and Clinical Treatments”; “Cancer Stem Cell: State of the Hypothesis”; and “Metastatic Spine Tumors: Biology and Therapy.” The morning plenary session, which begins at 8 a.m., will include Peter Dirks, MD, giving the Farber Lecture followed by a plenary

Society for Neuro-Oncology Report

Michael A. Vogelbaum, MD, PhD, FACS

In October the first joint meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology and the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors will be held in association with the 2009 CNS Annual Meeting. Program Co-chairs Randy L. Jensen MD, PhD, and Frederick F. Lang, MD, have put together a program that draws from each organization’s strengths. The Scientific Committee developed a hybrid format that includes programmatic elements drawn from past, independently held meetings.

The Tumor Section leadership plans to build upon the success of this joint program to engage in future cooperative educational efforts with SNO and to maintain lines of communication with the broader clinical and research neuro-oncology community. To this end, the position of liaison to the Society for Neuro-Oncology was created position by the Tumors Section Executive Committee.

session on experimental therapeutics. The keynote speaker will be Raymond Sawaya, MD. The morning sessions will conclude with a plenary session on surgical therapies. The afternoon will include concurrent sessions on medical and experimental therapies; epidemiology and quality of life; radiology; pediatric basic science; immunobiology and immunotherapy; and radiation oncology. The day will be capped off with a poster viewing session and reception.

Saturday, Oct. 24, will begin with sunrise sessions on epidemiology and pharmacogenomics; immunotherapy in clinical trials; medulloblastoma; and brain tumor genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, ubiquinomics. The morning plenary session will begin with the Hassenbusch Lecture given by Katie O. Orrico, JD. This will be followed by a plenary session on genomics and proteomics, stem cells, and pathology/prognostic markers. The meeting will conclude after the luncheon and the SNO business meeting.

Medical Neuro-Oncology Committee Report

Susan M. Chang, MD

This fall the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors will partner with the Society of Neuro-Oncology to hold a conference in New Orleans. Mike McDermott, MD, Jeff Bruce, MD, Ab Guha, MD, Susan Chang, MD, and the administrative staff of the Tumor Section and the SNO are to be acknowledged for coordinating the efforts of both societies to plan this meeting. Randy Jensen, MD, will represent the Tumor Section as scientific program co-chair with Fred Lang, MD, representing the SNO.

There will be an educational half-day review of the challenging aspects of “personalized medicine,” as well as a quality-of-life session generously supported by the Tug McGraw Foundation. Other highlights of the meeting include a presentation by Peter Dirks, MD, who is the recipient of the Farber Award, and a keynote lecture by Raymond Sawaya, MD. More than 600 abstracts from diverse clinical and basic science disciplines have been submitted for this meeting. This exciting conference will focus on the current neurosurgical aspects of care in addition to highlighting advances in neuro-oncology research.

From a medical neuro-oncology perspective, the recent accelerated FDA approval of bevacizumab as a single agent for patients with recurrent glioblastoma has initiated research efforts on the development of biomarkers that could assist with optimal patient selection for this treatment, assessment of imaging techniques to better evaluate response to therapy, evaluation of the utility of bevacizumab in the initial treatment of glioblastoma as well as in combination with other agents in the recurrent setting, and the exploration of strategies to overcome resistance to antiangiogenic agents. We look forward to reviewing the progress of these efforts in future meetings of the Tumor Section.

Tumor-Related Presentations at the 2009 CNS Annual Meeting Offer a Rich Educational Experience

William T. Curry Jr., MD

Overlapping with the joint meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology and the AANS/CNS Tumor Section, the CNS Annual Meeting Oct. 24–29 in New Orleans will offer a rich educational experience in current issues in neuro-oncology. Interest in the treatment of tumors and in the Tumor Section continues to grow as evidenced by the record number of related abstracts submitted this year; more abstracts were submitted to the Tumor Section than to any other section. I particularly would like to thank those who spent many hours reviewing and grading the abstracts, including Reid Thompson, MD, Manish Aghi, MD, Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa, MD, John Boockvar, MD, and Michael Chicoine, MD.

Tumor-related scientific presentations will occur on Monday, Oct. 26, at 2:30 p.m. in the Neurosurgical Forum's "Top Ten Abstracts" program in which the 10 highest graded abstracts from each of the neurosurgical subspecialties will be delivered as oral presentations. Fred Lang, MD, and Linda Liau, MD, will moderate the Tumor Section's session, which includes these abstracts:

- **American Brain Tumor Association Award—Manish Aghi, MD**
"Identifying Mechanisms of Bevacizumab Evasion in Human Glioblastoma"
- **Journal of Neuro-Oncology Award—Tal Shahar, MD**
"Trial to Survive: The Impact of Enrollment in Clinical Trials on Survival of Patients With GBM"
- **National Brain Tumor Society Mahaley Clinical Research Award—Hideyuki Kano, MD**
"Solving radiation Effects Versus Tumor Progression: T1/T2 Matching to Differentiate Tumor Growth From Radiation Effects After Stereotactic Radiosurgery"
- **BrainLAB Community Neurosurgery Award—Melvin Field, MD**
"Markers Distinguishing Cancer Stem Cells From Normal Human Neuronal Stem Cell Populations in Malignant Glioma Patients"

Congratulations to each of these award winners.

Running concurrently with the "Top Ten Abstracts" session will be the special course "Cerebral Metastases Guidelines," directed by Mark Linskey, MD, and Steven Kalkanis, MD. This session will serve as the formal unveiling of this important Tumor Section guidelines project.

At the conclusion of these two presentations, section leaders will guide groups of attendants through presentations of highly rated posters in the Neurosurgical Forum. This session allows brief oral presentations by abstract authors in a relaxed atmosphere with wine and cheese. This aspect of the Neurosurgical Forum is a new feature for the CNS that is sure to promote a productive exchange of ideas.

Additional abstracts in digital poster format will be available for viewing throughout the meeting.



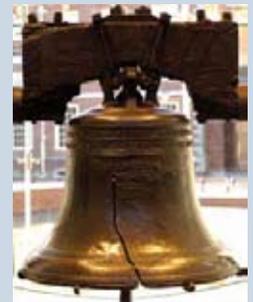
Because of the high volume of tumor-related material at both the CNS Annual Meeting and the Tumor Section's joint meeting with the Society for Neuro-Oncology, the section takes a break from the Integrated Medical Learning program this year. A topic will be chosen and presented in IML format at the 2010 CNS meeting.

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, the special symposium "Achieving Excellence in Craniopharyngioma" will take place from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Moderated by Paul Gardner and John Jane Jr., this symposium promises a stimulating discussion of ways to achieve best outcomes for both pediatric and adult patients with craniopharyngioma. James Rutka, MD, the Honored Guest of the CNS meeting, will offer his perspective on the issues facing these patients. Following his presentation Jeffrey Bruce, MD, will discuss open surgical management; Charles Teo, MD, will discuss endoscopic surgery; Thomas Merchant, MD, will discuss outcomes and radiation; and Jeffrey Wisoff, MD, will discuss outcomes associated with surgery. There will be ample time for questions from the audience and for case presentations.

The Tumor Section thanks all of those individuals who have contributed to the section's activities for the 2009 CNS meeting, including everyone who submitted an abstract, the abstract graders, the moderators, the speakers, and the sponsors for the awards. The New Orleans meeting offers a fantastic opportunity for Tumor Section members to enjoy both learning and camaraderie. I hope to see you there.

Tumor Section Symposia: 2010 AANS Annual Meeting Stephen Tatter, MD

Planning is under way for the 2010 AANS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. The meeting will include two symposia on tumors on the afternoons of Tuesday, May 4, and Wednesday, May 5, and will feature three and four speakers, respectively, focusing on glioma immunotherapy and pituitary adenomas, followed by panel discussions. There will also be a total of 17 10-minute talks between the two afternoon sessions. More details will be available when the preliminary meeting program is published online in late 2009.



Brain Tumor Research Funding Opportunities

John A. Boockvar, MD

Organization	Type	Description	Award	Due Date(s)	Duration	Phone	E-mail for Questions	Web site
The Sontag Foundation	Grant	Research/Career Development	600K	03/24/2010	4 yrs	904-273-8755	kverble@sontagfoundation.org	www.sontagfoundation.org
National Brain Tumor Society	Standard Grant	Basic/Translational Question	100K	LOI: 04/2010 DUE: 07/2010	1 or 2 yrs	617-924-9997	"Contact Us" page on Web site	www.braintumor.org
	Advanced Grant	Basic Research	200K	(same)	3 yrs			
	Grant	Innovative Research	150K	(same)	2 yrs			
Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure	Grant	Translational	250K	03/2010	1 yr	202-419-3140	Joanne.salcido@abc2.org	www.abc2.org
Musella Foundation for Brain Tumor Research	Grant	All That Works	10K-50K	None	None	516-295-4740	musella@virtualtrials.com	www.virtualtrials.com
American Brain Tumor Association	Fellowship	Basic Research	80K	07/01/2010	1 yr	847-827-9910	researchawards@abta.org	www.abta.org
	Grant	Translational	75K	(same)	1 yr			
	Grant	AANS/CNS Clinical Research	50K	01/15/2010	1 yr		vogelbm@cdf.org	
James S. McDonnell Foundation	Grant	Translational	450K	Check Web site in November	3-6 yrs	Web site	Through Web site	www.jsmf.org/apply/research
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation	Grant	Basic Science	50K	September	1 yr	828-665-6891	dtraynor@pbftus.org	www.pbftus.org
Goldhirsch Foundation	Grant	Research / Translational	100K-600K	01/07/2010	1 or 3 yrs	617-279-2254	smcnagny@goldhirschfoundation.org	www.goldhirschfoundation.org
AACR	Fellowship	AACR-NBTF	40K	08/10/2010	1 yr	267-646-0665	grants@aacr.org	www.aacr.org
	Fellowship	Basic Science	100K	12/02/2009	2 yrs	443-849-3729	grohen@gbmc.org	www.kimmel.org
	Grant	Translational	100K					
Brain Tumor Funders Collaborative NREF	Grant	Translational & Clinical Research	Check Web site 40K or 70K 70K	June 10/31/2009	N/A 1 or 2 yrs	Web site 847-378-0500	Through each of the organizations involved. nref@aans.org	www.braintumorfunders.org www.aans.org/research/fellowship
	Grant	Clinical	40K		1 yr			
	Fellowship	Travel Abroad	60K	10/01/2009	12 mos.	(Same)	info@aans.org	www.aans.org/research/fellowship/aans.asp
Codman Fellowship in Neurotrauma and Critical Care	Fellowship	Basic/Applied Clinical Research	40K	12/21/2009	1 yr	N/A	michael.feilings@uhn.on.ca	www.neurosurgery.org
AANS/CNS	4 Fellowships	Spine or Peripheral Nerve	5K-30K	12/01/2009	1 yr	412-647-0958	gersztenpc@upmc.edu	www.spineaction.org/fellowships_awards.php
	3 Research Grants	Spine or Peripheral Nerve	15K-30K					
	Trial Proposal	Spine Clinical	500K			N/A	zoherghogawala@yale.edu	
	Fellowship	Spine Clinical	50K		1 yr	N/A	zoherghogawala@yale.edu	

Clinical Research Committee Report

Christopher McPherson, MD

The AANS/CNS Section on Tumors has long recognized the importance of early stage clinical research, as well as the limited grant support available for such projects. Therefore, the Tumor Section, with the generous support of the American Brain Tumor Association, in 2007 initiated the American Brain Tumor Association Clinical Research Grant. The initial goal of this grant was to provide support to early stage clinical research projects in hope of developing successful projects that would lead to full-scale funding from the National Institutes of Health, American Cancer Society and other major funding sources.

The grant initially was approved as a one-year grant with \$50,000 dedicated in support. In 2008, the first grant was awarded to John Sampson, MD, of Duke University for his project entitled, "A Pilot Study of in vivo PET Imaging of Gene Expression and Tumor Localization of RNA-modified T cells in Patients with Glioblastoma." Due to its initial success, the grant was extended to a two-year, \$100,000 grant. In 2009, the clinical research committee received and reviewed 14 applications, and Andrew Parsa, MD, PhD, of the University of California San Francisco was awarded the grant for his project entitled, "HSP Immunotherapy for Recurrent Glioma Patients: PI(3) Kinase Activation Predicts Poor Clinical Outcomes." The goal of this grant is to determine if PI(3) kinase activation correlates with poor response to brain tumor immunotherapy using the heat shock protein immunotherapy model. Interim reports will be reviewed in 2010 and a final report will be published in 2011. The committee looks forward to reporting the results of this project to Tumor Section members.

Given the continued success of this grant, the next application cycle will be in 2011 with an application deadline in January of that year. The grant is open to any full-time neurosurgeon who is a member of the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors. Start planning your grant application now!

Immunotherapy Research Update

John H. Sampson, MD, PhD, MHS

As the Tumor Section Executive Committee member responsible for immunotherapy research, I would like to begin by saying how thrilled I am to have the opportunity to advance the research agenda of the CNS and AANS in this exciting area. As many of you know, neurosurgeons have historically led the way in immunotherapy basic, translational, and clinical investigation. As a group we continue to lead the advances in this field.

During the upcoming year, I hope to arrange satellite meetings with neurosurgeons interested in immunotherapy. My goal is to develop a dialogue and a set of priorities that will focus on enhancing research funding for neurosurgeons involved in immunotherapy research and to provide infrastructure for collaborative multicenter trials. Anyone interested in participating in this discussion is urged to contact me at john.sampson@duke.edu.

Organization	Type	Description	Award	Due Date(s)	Duration	Phone	E-mail for Questions	Web site
NIH	Grant	R01	R01 New: February 5, June 5, and October 5 R01 renewal, resubmission, revision March 5, July 5, and November 5					
		R21	R21 New: February 16, June 16, and October 16 R21 renewal, resubmission, revision March 16, July 16, and November 16					
	K12 K22	K Series New: February 12, June 12, and October 12 K series: renewal, resubmission, revision March 12, July 12, and November 12						
The Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation	Grant	Basic Science/ Translational	25-30K	March	1-2yrs	301-515-2900	cbtf@childhoodbraintumor.org	www.childhoodbraintumor.org
Children's Brain Tumor Foundation	Grant	Basic Science/ Translational	150K	Check Web site	2 yrs	866-228-4673	research@cbtf.org	www.cbtf.org
Society for Neuro-Oncology International Outreach	Fellowship	Research	50K	09/01/2009	1 yr	N/A	Contact desired host institution. Sponsored by American Brain Tumor Association and EMD Serono.	www.scangrants.com/category/brain-tumors.aspx
The Ben & Catherine Ivy Foundation	Grant	Research/Translational	3M	July	3 yrs	650-324-3000	info@ivyfoundation.org	www.ivyfoundation.org/apply-grant
Voices Against Brain Cancer Department of Defense	Grant	Research/Non-research	20K	09/15/2009	1yr	N/A	grants@voicesagainbraincancer.org	www.voicesagainbraincancer.org
	Grant	Research	1.75M	12/09/2009	N/A	301-619-7079	cdmp.pa@amedd.army.mil	www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppid=48121
Brain Research Foundation	Grant	Research	40K	Check Web site	1yr	312-759-5150	info@theBRF.org	www.thebrf.org
ThinkCure!	Grant	Collaborative Research	N/A	April	1yr	323-224-1360	info@thinkcure.org	www.thinkcure.org

England

Nitin Mukerji, MD, MRCSEd

The Society of British Neurological Surgeons met in Birmingham this year for its spring meeting. Scientific discussions involving trainees and consultants on topics like aneurysms and whether neurosurgeons should enter the world of endovascular coiling in the U.K. took center stage. The SBNS also devoted some time to discuss the available manpower to provide the services, especially at the middle grade or registrar level, in the light of the European Working Time Directives that were implemented in August 2009.

The British Neurosurgery Research Group met in Newcastle in March 2009. The neuro-oncology sessions brought forth the ongoing research in diffusion tensor imaging and advanced intraoperative imaging for brain tumors. Some discussions also centered on service organization and making services available even more quickly to brain tumor patients to maximize their survival.

The British Neuro-Oncology Society met in Hull in June 2009. The meeting was well attended by neuro-pathologists, neurosurgeons, neuro-oncologists and well-known international figures including Peter M. Black, MD, from Boston. There was a healthy exchange of ideas in themed discussions involving chemotherapeutic agents and surgical strategies to deal with malignant astrocytomas. Useful insight was provided into the latest guidance from the NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence) over the management of brain tumors and requirements for neurosurgeons specializing in neuro-oncology.

The SBNS aims to host the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies meeting in London in 2017, just after the centennial of the death of Sir Victor Horsley, the first surgeon to be appointed to a hospital position specifically to perform brain operations. A large U.K. contingent attended the WFNS meeting in Boston in order to be actively involved in the proceedings and to back the bid. Future meetings include the SBNS autumn meeting in Dublin in October 2009 (Oct. 28–30) and the British Neurosurgery Research Group in Southampton in February 2010.

Japan

Fumio Yamaguchi, MD, PhD

Many neurosurgical meetings regarding tumors of the central nervous system have been held recently in Japan. The 3rd Quadrennial Meeting of the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology held jointly with the 6th Meeting of the Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology took place May 11–14 in Yokohama, Japan. The meeting was hosted by the Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology.

State-of-the-art presentations were given by the doctors from many countries. The details are available at <http://wfno2009.umin.ne.jp/PDF/program2009.pdf> and <http://wfno2009.umin.ne.jp/PDF/Abstracts2009.pdf>.

A charity concert was held by Musica Neurochirurgiana (the Japan Neurosurgical Society Orchestra). The proceeds from the concert were donated to the Children's Cancer Association of Japan

and to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation in the U.S.

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Congress of Neurological Surgeons was held May 15–17 in Osaka, Japan. Research on tumor stem cell and gene therapy for malignant glioma and the future of temozolomide therapy were discussed. White matter dissection for glioma surgery was also discussed in association with diffusion tensor imaging fiber tracking and opercular glioma. Craniopharyngioma and pituitary adenoma were discussed in terms of surgical approach.

The 68th annual meeting of Japan Neurosurgical Society will be held Oct. 14–16 in Tokyo. This meeting is hosted by Professor Akira Teramoto of Nippon Medical School. More than 5,000 participants are expected and will learn from 1,700 to 1,800 speakers via presentations including special lectures, symposia, oral paper presentations, and poster presentations. For more information, visit <http://jns2009.umin.ne.jp/>.

Recent and upcoming meetings regarding CNS tumors include:

- 10th annual meeting of the Japan Society of Molecular Neurosurgery, Sept. 19–20, 2009, Okayama, Japan
- 14th annual meeting of the Japanese Congress for Brain Tumor Surgery, Sept. 25–26, 2009, Tokyo, Japan; <http://bts2009.umin.ne.jp/>
- 68th annual meeting of the Japan Neurosurgical Society, Oct. 14–16, 2009, Tokyo, Japan; <http://jns2009.umin.ne.jp/>
- 27th annual meeting of the Japan Society for Neuro-Oncology, Nov. 8–10, 2009, Osaka, Japan; www.jsn-o.com/
- 33rd annual meeting of the Japan Society for CNS Computed Imaging, Feb. 10–11, 2010, Tokyo, Japan
- 20th annual meeting of the Japan Society for Hypothalamic and Pituitary Tumors, Feb. 18–19, 2010, Osaka, Japan

Switzerland

Dominik Cordier, MD

Two clinical trials examining targeted NK 1-receptor mediated radiolabeled brachytherapy using radiolabelled Substance P (Clin Cancer Res 2006;12[12] June 15, 2006: "Evaluation as a Second Line Therapy") as the primary therapeutic modality for gliomas WHO grade II–IV have been concluded. The results are being analyzed; submission for publication will follow. A multicenter trial with several European centers for evaluation of the adjuvant form of this treatment modality is being planned.

Transcranial high-energy ultrasound for the treatment of intracranial lesions was successfully evaluated in a clinical study of 10 patients. The project was realized by the Functional Neurosurgery and the MR-Imaging departments in Zurich.

The Swiss Association for Academic Surgery and Perioperative Medicine was inaugurated in May 2009. The society's main goal is to provide an improved infrastructure to facilitate clinical and basic science research projects, focusing on exchange of experience,

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networking and funding.

The Gamma Knife facility in Zurich (Klinik im Park, Hirslanden Group) now offers another radiosurgical alternative: the CyberKnife (Accuray Incorporated). So far, its primary focus is the treatment of noncranial tumors.

The annual meeting of the Swiss Society of Neurosurgery took place Sept. 24–26 in St. Gallen. This event is a joint meeting with the Swiss Societies of Intensive Care Medicine and Neuroradiology.

From the Chair *continued from page 1*

Additionally, I look forward to the continuing efforts of our highly successful Awards Committee. Jonas Sheehan, MD, will lead this committee, which previously expanded under Gene Barnett's expert guidance.

Among other items on the Tumor Section agenda is the upcoming combined satellite meeting with the Society for Neuro-Oncology immediately preceding the CNS meeting in New Orleans. Ab Guha, MD, Susan Chang, MD, and Chas Haynes from SNO, Laurie Behncke from the CNS, as well as Randy Jensen, MD, Fred Lang, MD, and Mike McDermott, MD, from the Tumor Section have led

the way for these two great societies to unite their common interests in neuro-oncology. We hope that this will be the beginning of a long and productive mutual interaction. I strongly encourage all Tumor Section members to register for and attend this outstanding meeting.

The regular CNS meeting will have many interesting and informative events for Tumor Section members. Will Curry, MD, has organized the neuro-oncology sessions to include numerous

I look forward to seeing everybody in New Orleans at both the combined SNO meeting and the regular CNS meeting.

provocative and informative abstracts along with a symposium on craniopharyngiomas featuring former Tumor Section Chair Jim Rutka, MD, who is this year's honored guest. In addition, please plan on attending our Young Neurosurgeons' reception on the Monday night of the meeting.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the members of our Tumor Section Advisory Board consisting of past chairs as well as other prominent neuro-oncologists. The chair of this important group is William Couldwell, MD.

I look forward to seeing everybody in New Orleans at both the combined SNO meeting and the regular CNS meeting. This is an exciting time for neuro-oncology, and I look forward to sharing it with the members of the Tumor Section.

Third Research Fellowship Awarded

Frederick F. Lang, MD

The recipient of this year's AANS/CNS Section on Tumors/BrainLAB International Research Fellowship is Rachel Grossman, MD, from Tel Aviv, Israel. Dr. Grossman's fellowship will be from July 2009 through June 2010 in the laboratory of Henry Brem, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. The title of Dr. Grossman's proposal is "The Impact of Anti-VEGF Therapies on Intratumoral Cytotoxic Drug Concentration in U87 Gliomas." The fellowship carries a stipend of \$50,000 for travel expenses and salary support. The Scientific Review Committee selected Dr. Grossman's proposal from a group of high-quality proposals from outstanding investigators across the globe.

This international research fellowship was established in 2006 by the Tumor Section with the goal of providing neurosurgeons from outside the United States and Canada with the opportunity to come to the U.S. 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 for the past three years.

Applications for next year's award (commencing July 2010) are due on Nov. 20. Proposals can focus on any clinical or basic research topic in neurosurgical oncology. The application requires a five-page proposal outlining the purpose and methods of the research, an essay describing the importance of the fellowship in the applicant's career, and letters of recommendation. A letter of support from the sponsor in the U.S., who must be a member of the Tumor Section, also is required. All proposals are reviewed by the Scientific Review Committee, which consists of six members from the Executive Committee of the Tumor Section. Interested neurosurgeons can obtain applications and details about the submission process through the Tumor Section Web site, by contacting Julie Quattrocchi by e-mail (jaq@aans.org), or by writing to AANS, 5550 Meadowbrook Drive, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008-3852, U.S.A.

The AANS/CNS Section on Tumors again thanks all those who have worked so hard to make this fellowship successful. Special thanks go to Julie Quattrocchi and Michele Gregory, who have played critical administrative roles in overseeing the application process. The Tumor Section remains grateful to BrainLAB AG for its generous financial support.

Past Awardees

2007–2008: Kazuhiko Kurozumi, MD, Okayama, Japan;
Mentor: E. Antonio Chiocca, MD, PhD

2008–2009: Xiang Wang, MD, People's Republic of China;
Mentor: Victor C-K Tse, MD, PhD

Membership Committee Report

Jeffrey J. Olson, MD

The AANS/CNS Section on Tumors is the largest organization of neurosurgeons with a stated special interest in the therapy of brain tumors. The Tumor Section currently has 2,105 members on its roster. This includes 645 active members and 1,276 resident members. An individual's entrance into an accredited North American neurosurgical residency results in automatic enrollment into the Tumor Section. The remainder of the membership is made up of special membership strata (international, associate, honorary, and adjunct) to accommodate the participation of as many interested individuals as possible in our section's activities. Additional information on membership categories is available at <http://www.tumorsection.org/membership/types.htm>.

Current annual membership dues are \$150 for active members, \$75 for international members and \$37.50 for adjunct members. There is no cost for resident membership and, as mentioned above, all residents in approved North American neurosurgery residency programs are automatically made members of the section. Once they have completed their residency, the resident members are notified of the opportunity to become active members and provided with a temporary reduction in annual dues for the first year after completing their training.

Active membership includes a subscription to the Tumor Section's official journal, the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology*.

Section Membership

2,105	Total
1,276	Resident
645	Active
184	Other

The JNO is optional for international, adjunct and resident members at a reduced rate of \$75 annually. Additional benefits include regular receipt of the section's newsletter, updates on sponsored meetings such as tumor satellite symposia occurring with the national neurosurgery organization meetings, and being informed of the content of scientific seminars and presentations to take place at meetings to allow the membership to plan meeting attendance strategies.

Vigorous membership participation in the Tumor Section's activities at national meetings and on other fronts is key to seeing that neurosurgery's role in brain tumor therapy is strong. It is important that active members inform residents that they too are members of this organization so as to encourage participation and awareness of the benefits available.

Skull Base Surgery Committee Report

Franco DeMonte, MD

The North American Skull Base Society is celebrating its 20th year and has an outstanding meeting planned for October 2009. The meeting will be held in New Orleans Oct. 16–18 with premeeting courses on Oct. 14 and 15. The theme of the meeting is "Recovery, Rehabilitation and Renewal: Achieving Optimal Outcomes in Skull Base Surgery." As chair of the Skull Base Surgery Committee, I encourage Tumor Section members to rediscover the NASBS. It remains a vital and unique society. If you haven't been to a skull base meeting in a while, this would be an excellent opportunity to discover what is novel in the field.

Information regarding this meeting and other upcoming NASBS meetings is on our Web site, www.nasbs.org. If I can be of any assistance to any of our membership, please contact me at fdemonte@mdanderson.org.

Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Committee Report

Howard Weiner, MD

This fall is a busy and exciting time for pediatric neuro-oncology. A key paper published on Sept. 2, 2009, in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, entitled "Treatment of Medulloblastoma With Hedgehog Pathway Inhibitor GDC-0449" is the first report demonstrating that an inhibitor of this pathway can cause regression of human medulloblastoma.

The 2009 Joint Meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology and AANS/CNS Section on Tumors, Oct. 22–24 in New Orleans, will offer several sessions focused on pediatric topics. Session VI on Friday, Oct. 23, from 3:15 to 5 p.m. will feature several pediatric basic science talks. On Saturday, Oct. 24, there will be a session entitled "Medulloblastoma: Current State of Biology and Therapy."

The 2009 CNS Annual Meeting in New Orleans features several sessions that highlight pediatric neuro-oncology. James Rutka, MD, the meeting's honored guest, will speak on several occasions throughout the meeting. On Sunday, Oct. 25, Dr. Rutka, Ian Pollack, MD, and Susan Chang, MD, will lead a practical course (PC26) on pediatric neuro-oncology. On Monday, Oct. 26, the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery will feature its "Top Ten Abstracts" as oral presentations, the first two of which are on pediatric neuro-oncology topics. On Tuesday, Oct. 27, a session at 4 p.m. entitled "Excellence in Pediatric Neurosurgery: Avoiding Complications" will focus on brain tumor surgery. Lastly, on Wednesday, Oct. 28, a lunch seminar (W44), "Pediatric Brain Tumor Strategies," and a 2:30 p.m. session, "Achieving Excellence in Craniopharyngioma Treatment" will be held.

SANS Update

Jason Sheehan, MD, and Sarah Jost, MD

The Tumor Section has actively provided support for the Self-Assessment in Neurological Surgery. For more than 25 years, SANS has been utilized for neurosurgical training, examination preparation, and continuing medical education. SANS also has been integrated into the Maintenance of Certification process overseen by the American Board of Neurological Surgery. In the last fiscal year, nearly 400 neurosurgeons, including many Tumor Section members, have participated in SANS for MOC purposes.

SANS currently offers Tumor Section members a wide variety of options for lifelong learning. Currently deployed SANS learning platforms include general examination, pediatrics, spine, competencies, and *Neurosurgery*.

Tumor Section members have provided new educational materials to update the neuro-oncology and neuroanatomy sections of SANS examinations. In addition, new questions related to tumors have been added to SANS-Neurosurgery, the CME learning platform associated with the journal *Neurosurgery*.

In addition, Tumor Section members are assisting in the development of SANS “fundamentals,” which is an online educational product designed for neurosurgical residents and fellows. Options for lifelong learning and CME for Tumor Section members through SANS are readily available and of high quality.

We welcome your suggestions, support, and volunteerism for the section’s lifelong learning efforts in neurosurgery.

Washington Committee Report

Andrew E. Sloan, MD, FACS

In the last few months, the Washington Committee has been focusing on a number of items of particular concern to the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors, including coding and reimbursement and the Obama administration’s healthcare reform agenda.

It appears that the proposed 2010 Medicare physician fee schedule will result in an overall gain for neurosurgery of approximately 2 percent. In addition, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is considering appointing a new multispecialty radiosurgery “refinement panel” to consider changes to the radiosurgery coding, acknowledging that there are “simple” and “complex” radiosurgery procedures but not distinguishing these in terms of relative value units.

The Washington Committee also has been active in working with other groups to assess and comment on H.R. 3200, the America’s Affordable Health Choices Act. The committee has significant concerns about this bill, as illustrated in its position statement and letters to the American Medical Association and American College of Surgeons. In a letter to the New York Times, the Washington Committee also pointed out that some of the president’s statements on surgeons’ fees were provocative and based on erroneous information.

The full 273-page text of the Washington Committee’s report will be available on the Tumor Section Web site for review by interested individuals.

AANS/CNS Section on Tumors Executive Committee 2009–2011

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Skull Base, Franco DeMonte

Spine, Timothy Ryken

Self-Assessment in Neurological Surgery (SANS), Sarah Jost/Jason Sheehan

Washington Committee, Andrew Sloan

Young Neurosurgeons, Anthony D’Ambrosio