WELCOME TO THE NORTHEAST QUADRANT OF THE CSNS!

If you were lucky enough to be in attendance at the April 2011 meeting of the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (CSNS) you witnessed the changing of the guard. Dr. Bill Bingaman finished his two year term as Chair, and handed over his responsibilities to Dr. Deborah Benzil. Dr. Benzil has introduced her goals for the next few years:

1. To establish long term financial stability for the organization,
2. To foster a unique atmosphere of creativity and diversity that will become strong enough to transcend individual leaders,
3. To build stronger bridges between academic and private practice neurosurgery through new program initiatives,
4. To help empower every neurosurgeon through socioeconomic education and CSNS activity.

Dr. Benzil’s message to all CSNS members can be seen on our homepage at [www.csnsonline.org](http://www.csnsonline.org). Dr. Benzil welcomes new participants, suggestions and comments. You can email her directly through the website.

THE HISTORY OF THE COUNCIL

Often new members of the CSNS wonder how the CSNS got started. There is a fantastic interview with Dr. James Bean (Jan 2011) on the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies: its origin and evolution into its present day form, how it functions and what it does on behalf of neurosurgeons everywhere! Use the link below!

http://www.aans.org/iPod%20Touch%20Initiatives/Audio%20Podcasts.aspx

THE WASHINGTON COMMITTEE

The Washington Committee for Neurosurgery (WC) was founded in 1984 and is a joint committee of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) and American Association of Neurosurgeons (AANS). It is dedicated to promoting sound federal public policy that supports neurosurgeons and the patients they serve. Headquartered in Washington, DC near the White House, the WC interacts daily with Congress; the White House; federal agencies including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Food and Drug Administration; and other healthcare organizations. The WC also works in collaboration with other medical associations, including the American Medical Association, America College of Surgeons, Alliance of Specialty Medicine, Doctors for Medical Liability Reform and dozens of others. In the past several years, some of the WC’s accomplishments include:

- Organizing a coalition of 11 high-risk medical specialties aimed at passing federal liability medical reform.
For questions or concerns, or to submit articles, please contact Catherine Mazzola, at cmazzola@njpediatricneurosurgery.com. The CSNS NE Quadrant Newsletter is published quarterly.

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**WASHINGTON COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)**

- Increasing Medicare reimbursement for neurosurgeons by revamping individual codes and working for system increases related to the annual update and professional liability insurance component
- Working with CMS to clarify the EMTALA regulations

Katie Orrico, JD. is the Director of the Washington Committee and may be contacted by email at korrico@neurosurgery.org

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**NY STATE NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETY**

On June 3, 2011 The NY State Neurosurgical Society held its annual meeting at Doral Arrowwood in Rye Brook, NY. Fifty neurosurgeons and neurosurgical residents from around the state attended the meeting. The honored guest was Peter W. Carmel, M.D., current President of the American Medical Association (AMA) and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Dr. Carmel gave a presentation titled “Healthcare Reform, ACO’s, and the Neurosurgeon”.

The keynote speaker was Mitchel S. Berger, M.D., President-Elect of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Berger’s talk was titled “Maximizing Extent of Resection for Gliomas While Minimizing the Morbidity Profile for Patients”. As in years past, the neurosurgical resident research competition was held. Eight residents from numerous training programs from around the state participated and the first place awards were given to Emmanuella Binello, M.D., William Cobb, M.D., and Christoph Hofstetter, M.D.

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**What’s on www.csonline.org??**

- Neurosurgical Guidelines
- NERVES support and Trauma Regionalization maps
- Updates and news and socio-economic curriculum
- Committee goals, membership and E mail links
- Upcoming meeting information
- CSNS Resolutions, educational Power Point presentations on RVU and other issues
- Upcoming meeting information

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**Did you know the AANS position on Neuro-critical care?**

“Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-approved neurosurgical residency training includes critical care management of patients with neurological disorders. Neurosurgeons are fully trained in neurointensive care by reason of training program requirements, and upon completion of training are competent to independently manage and direct treatment of patients with neurological disorders requiring critical care. **Additional training in critical care is optional, but not necessary for neurosurgeons to manage neurocritical care patients following residency training.** Certification in neurological surgery is through the American Board of Neurological Surgery (ABNS), and includes certification for critical care of patients with neurological conditions. No other certification is required for ABNS diplomates for privileges in neurological surgery or neurocritical care management. Additional certification by organizations unrecognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is unnecessary for ensuring neurosurgeon training, competency, or credentialing in intensive or critical care.”

American Association of Neurological Surgeons and Congress of Neurological Surgeons Position Statement on Neurosurgeons and Neurocritical Care; Position Statement: 2009 Mar 3

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**CNS University Features:**

- Neurowiki
- Webinars
- Guidelines and protocols
- Image Database
- Case based learning
- CME activities
- Neurosurgery Trivia
- PDA resources
- Fellowship & Grant information
- Resident awards and grants
- Job placement resources

go to http://univ.cns.org
Membership of the CSNS comes from three main sources: state representatives (appointed by the state societies), representatives appointed by the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) and the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and members selected by the Quadrants or appointed by the Chairperson of the CSNS. The membership of the Northeast Quadrant comes from: CT, NJ, DE, NY, MA, PA, ME, RI, NH and VT. The total number of representatives from each state varies depending on the membership of the respective state society. Go to the website and contact your state reps to become more involved. Catherine Mazzola, MD is the Chair, and Andrew Wakefield, MD is the Vice Chair.

Spring 2011 Resolutions – PLEASE SEE WWW.CSNSONLINE.ORG WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

Resolution I - Centralization of Information Technology for the AANS, CNS, Joint Sections and CSNS  
Author(s): Catherine Mazzola, M.D.; Joseph Cheng, M.D.; Michael Steinmetz, M.D.

Resolution II - Support of Resident Socioeconomic Education  
Author(s): Nicholas F. Marko, MD, CSNS Socioeconomic Fellow, Northwest Quadrant

Resolution III - Establishment of a Formal Socioeconomic Curriculum  
Author(s): Chaim B. Colen, M.D., Ph.D., David Sun, M.D., Ph.D., Catherine Mazzola, M.D., Mike Steinmetz, M.D., Alex Valadka, M.D.

Resolution IV - Payor Policy Response for Cervical Artificial Discs  
Author(s): Joseph Cheng, MD; Deborah L. Benzil, MD, John Ratliff, M.D.; Greg Trost, M.D.

Resolution V - Urgent Organized Neurosurgery Response to the Leapfrog Group  
Author(s): Mark E. Linskey, MD; William Bingaman, MD; Deb Benzil, MD

Resolution VI - Neurosurgical Sports Injuries  
Author(s): Kenneth Blumenfeld, M.D.

Resolution VII - The Neurosurgical Safety Coalition  
Author(s): Namath S. Hussain, M.D., Mick Perez-Cruet, M.D.

Resolution VIII - Increasing Neurosurgical Content on National Board of Medical Examiners Subject Exams  
Author(s): CNS Caucus

Resolution IX - Physician grading in surgical field; exploring the scope and recognizing the pitfalls  
Author(s): Brian Nahed, MD; Robert Heary, MD; Maya Babu, MD, MBA On Behalf of the AANS Caucus

Resolution X - Congressional Contact Information Database for Neurosurgical Patients  
Author(s): Namath S. Hussain, M.D., Mick Perez-Cruet, M.D.

Resolution XI - Development of Core Curriculum  
Author(s): Shelly D. Timmons, MD, PhD, and Gary Bloomgarden, MD  
Committee(s): Young Neurosurgeons, CSNS Fellows
COUNCIL OF STATE NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES: NORTHEAST QUADRANT NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2011

CNS Meeting: October 1 – 6, 2011

Convening in the US capital, Washington, DC, the 2011 Congress of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting offers a myriad of opportunities to connect with the leaders who are moving our specialty forward. Our theme, E Pluribus Unum: The Specialty of Neurological Surgery, recognizes the tremendous impact we have on the public through the synergies within organized neurosurgery. Our scientific program will present the highest-impact original science as well as innovative sessions and hands-on courses, all designed to help you improve your daily neurosurgical practice. And be sure to make time during your stay to truly experience the historic city of Washington, DC.

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SANS Lifelong Learning

- SANS general module
- SANS spine module
- SANS pediatric module
- SANS Neuro-trauma
- SANS ABOS module

SANS is perfect for CME, MOC and general educational content. Go to [http://sans.cns.org](http://sans.cns.org) to register.

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COUNCIL OF STATE NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES (CSNS)

www.csnsonline.org

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Council of State Neurosurgical Societies

Attn: Ms. Sandy Meyer
5550 Meadowbrook Drive
Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008-3852

Phone 847.378.0500 or 888.566.AANS (2267)
Fax 847.378.0600

For the submission of articles or events, please email content to Catherine Mazzola, MD;
Chair of the Northeast Quadrant of the CSNS at

cmazzola@njpediatricneurosurgery.com

NEXT MEETING IS SEPT. 30-OCT 1, 2011
PLEASE BOOK YOUR TRAVEL NOW!!

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CSNS MISSION STATEMENT

The CSNS is a representative, deliberative and collaborative organization of delegate neurosurgeons in training and practice that exists to:

1. positively influence and affect the socioeconomic policy of organized Neurosurgery for the benefit of Neurosurgical patients and our profession,
2. serve as a resource for socioeconomic knowledge and education for our Neurosurgical colleagues, regulatory and health care officials as well as legislative representatives,
3. provide a conduit for new initiatives, concerns and issues to be brought to the AANS and CNS for response and action, and
4. provide an environment for developing future leaders in healthcare policy and advocacy for Neurosurgery.

We believe that the specialty of Neurosurgery stands for the highest quality of care and that neurosurgeons are their patient’s strongest advocates.