

Pathology/Biology Section Business Meeting Minutes
67th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences
Orlando, FL
Wednesday February 18, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 12:51 pm by Section Chair JC Upshaw Downs. Eligible voting members were asked to move to the front of the room for the purpose of determining a quorum. A quorum was confirmed through show of hands; 51 required, 71 present.

II. READING and APPROVAL of Minutes

Section Chair Downs announced the Minutes of the February 2014 Pathology/Biology Business Meeting were approved by the Minutes Review Committee, comprised of Andy Baker, MD and Amy Gruszecki, MD.

MOTION: To approve the 2014 Business Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded, unanimously approved.

III. IN MEMORIAM

Section Chair Downs announced the names of Pathology/Biology members/fellows who died and a moment of silence was held.

IV. FINANCE REPORT

Section Chair Downs presented the finance report noting that the special section account is doing well and that the ending balance is \$57,500.

MOTION: To transfer \$6000 from the Special Section Account to fund Pathology/Biology Research Grants. Motion seconded, unanimously approved.

MOTION: To transfer up to \$500 from the Special Section Account to the current FY15 operating budget with any unused portion thereof to revert to the Special Section Account to cover potential overages on the 2015 Annual Meeting Expenses.

V. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

A. Membership Report by Section Secretary, Kathryn Haden-Pinneri, MD

a. Approved for membership or change in status:

- i. 8 for fellow (names announced and asked to stand and be recognized)
- ii. 8 for member (names announced and asked to stand and be recognized)
- iii. 41 for associate member
- iv. 16 for trainee affiliate
- v. 7 for student affiliate
- vi. 5 for retired fellow/member

b. Not approved for membership or change in status:

- i. 1 for student affiliate
 - ii. 2 for trainee affiliate
 - c. Incomplete or late applications
 - i. 2 for fellow
 - ii. 1 for member
 - iii. 1 for associate member
 - iv. 8 for trainee affiliate
 - v. 2 for student affiliate
 - d. Inactive Members
 - i. 6 deaths
 - ii. 23 for dues non-payment
 - iii. 2 for retired-not qualified
 - iv. 5 self-drop; not active
 - v. 3 self-drop; retired
 - vi. 4 affiliate non-compliance
 - e. Current membership matrix:
 - i. 366 Associate members
 - ii. 204 Members
 - iii. 219 Fellows
 - iv. 70 Retired fellows
 - v. 13 Retired members
 - vi. 24 Student affiliates
 - vii. 23 Trainee affiliates
 - viii. TOTAL: 919 members

B. PROGRAM CHAIR REPORT

Program Chair James Caruso, MD stated there were a large number of program submissions this year.

- 230 oral/poster abstracts were received and 152 were accepted (81 oral presentations, 71 poster presentations).
- Path/Bio put on 2 breakfasts, 3 workshops (2 full day and 1 half day) and 1 evening session. The Jay Dix Bonus Day was also scheduled this year.
- Scientific sessions will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday, including a joint session with Toxicology, a session with a pediatric focus, a session with postmortem imaging focus and a session with entomology and postmortem changes focus.
- The presentations for best resident paper will be held Friday morning.
- Gratitude given to all moderators and request made for all those who have not turned in their presentation to please do so.
- Recognition given to Salena Medina, Sondra Doolittle, Debbie Crockett, Cheryl Hunter and all AAFS for their help!
- Special Award: The Kenneth S. Field Award of Appreciation
 - Presented to Program Chair James Caruso, MD by Salena Medina and Sondra Doolittle for his outstanding service to the AAFS staff.
 - Congratulations to Jim for this well-deserved award!!

- Pathology/Biology Annual Meeting Involvement
 - Academy Cup: Patricia McFeely, MD; Victor Weedn, MD, JD; Kathryn Haden-Pinneri, MD; Michelle Sanford, PhD; Jason Byrd, PhD; Julia de la Garza, MD
 - Program Co-Chair: Andy Baker, MD
 - Workshops Chair: Greg Davis, MD
 - Interdisciplinary Symposium: Ed Donoghue, MD
 - Bring Your Own Slides: Randy Hanzlick, MD; Michael Baden, MD
 - Local Arrangements Chair: Jan Garavaglia, MD
 - Student Academy: Jamie Downs, MD
 - Special Session: Jamie Downs, MD
- Future AAFS Annual Meetings:
 - February 22-27, 2016: Las Vegas, NV
 - February 13-18, 2017: New Orleans, LA
 - February 19-24, 2018: Seattle, WA
 - February 18-23, 2019: Baltimore, MD

C. BEST RESIDENT PAPER REPORT

Committee Chair Erik Christensen stated that 11 abstracts were submitted for consideration for this award (3 posters and 8 platform). A majority of the submissions did not meet candidate or subject matter requirements. Five submitted the required manuscripts.

The committee is comprised of:

- Erik Christensen, MD (chair)
- Joyce DeJong, DO
- Amy McMaster-Hawes, MD

The winner of the 2014 Best Resident Paper is Nicole Yarid, MD for her presentation entitled: Globus Pallidus Necrosis Unrelated to Carbon Monoxide Poisoning: Retrospective Analysis of 24 Cases of Basal Ganglia Necrosis.

An honorable mention was awarded to Mehdi Koolaee, ME for his presentation on Examination of the Cervical Spinal Cord in Infants and Toddlers.

The committee is seeking new members. Anyone interested in becoming more involved with AAFS, and particularly this committee, is asked to contact a section officer.

D. ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Board member Greg G. Davis, MD (AL) discussed 4 items:

- AAFS budget: The Academy has a \$150,000 budget deficit this year. The annual dues have not increased since 2003. The board voted to move money from the Freedom Fund (set up for use in circumstances such as this so that Academy members wouldn't be affected by years with a budget deficit) to cover the deficit.

No dues increase was suggested at this time. The Academy did save approximately \$60,000 by not printing the AAFS Proceedings.

- CFSO: Victor Weedn, MD, JD is the Academy representative on this and Kim Collins, MD was elected the Vice Chair.
- Human Rights Resource Center is in the planning stages as initiated by AAFS President Dan Martell. Look for more exciting news to come about this new venture.
- JFS: Supplemental issue this year; currently running 6-8 months behind in publication. Will continue to issue supplemental issues until caught up. Make sure to submit your presentations as manuscripts!
- JFS: will reduce number of case report publications because very low number of citations from other journal articles; May submit information to another journal if it doesn't meet new JFS criteria.
- Path/Bio has 2 working group members for JFS: Corinne Fligner and Greg Davis

E. RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Amy Gruszecki, MD announced that there were 2 grant proposal submitted for 2015. The Pathology/Biology Section has \$6000 available for research to be allocated for a maximum of 2 grants in the amount of \$3000 or less each. All of the money is to be used for research. The next application deadline is December 1, 2015. Contact a section officer for submission guidelines. The grant award requires presentation of the research at the AAFS Annual meeting and publication of the research in JFS.

Both proposal submissions were awarded grant funds!

- Pathology of the cardiac pacemaking and conduction system in young adults
 - Steven M. White, MD, PhD
 - Jon Lomasney, MD
- Tau and TDP-43 formation in the central nervous system of infants and children with repetitive head injuries
 - Heather Jarrell, MD

Committee members include: Amy Gruszecki (Chair); Jamie Downs, MD; Laura Knight, MD

F. INTERSOCIETY PATHOLOGY COUNCIL REPORT by Scott Denton, MD – nothing to report

G. SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP REPORT

Marie Hermann, MD was appointed by the nominating committee in January 2012. Two conference calls were made during the year (February 27, 2014 and April 29, 2014) and a board meeting was held June 5, 2014 via conference call. SWGMDI documents are available on the website: www.swgmdi.org

The following documents are available:

- "Certification of Medicolegal Death Investigation Personnel: A Report and Recommendations" (June 5, 2014)

- “Research in Forensic Pathology/Medicolegal Death Investigation: A Report and Recommendations” (June 5, 2014)
- “Process Map – Basic Steps in Medicolegal Death Investigation”
 - Prepared by the board to give the public and other interested parties a better understanding of the basic steps involved in a medicolegal death investigation and to provide a visual understanding of critical steps in medicolegal death investigation around which projects, reports, and recommendations may be developed.
- SWGMDI transitioned to subcommittee on Medical/Legal Death Investigation within the Scientific Area Committee (SAC) on Crime Scene/Death Investigation
- Operates within NIST under the Department of Commerce to continue to support and promote the forensic application and advancement of medicolegal death investigation through development and dissemination of consensus-based standards, guidelines, best practices and recommendations
- The SWGMDI board is no longer active
- Website is still available and all documents were approved by the board
- Thanks given to AAFS for the opportunity to serve on the SWGMDI board

H. FORENSIC SCIENCES FOUNDATION (FSF) REPORT

Andy Baker, MD informed the section that the FSF is the charitable arm of the AAFS that promotes education and research in the US and around the world. The FSF awards 8 grants for research and travel and underwrites the registration fee to any student affiliate who submits an abstract, if the abstract is accepted. Please consider donating to the FSF!

The Emerging Forensic Scientist Award had 74 submissions from 8 sections. The Path/Bio section had 8 submissions. Anyone interested in judging next year’s EFSF Award presentations, please contact a section officer. New this year, the judging process is online only, utilizing survey monkey.

I. CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Andy Baker, MD stated that AAFS has been accredited by ACCME to provide CME since 1977 and that we are current and fully compliant through July 2017. Pick up your CME packets at the registration desk. The deadline to turn in your packet is 5 pm Friday, February 20, 2015 at the registration desk in person. The mailing deadline is March 9, 2015. The certificates will go out April 15, 2015. If you don’t receive your certificate by June 1, 2015, contact Kimberly Wrasse at AAFS.

All presentations must be tagged to criteria that target gaps in learning/education. The CE Committee used traditional Professional Practice Gaps to Change Competence or Performance as measures for meeting CE criteria. Due to the 2015 ABP MOC Study Guide, an expanded topic list more relevant to FP will be used to measure CE criteria.

J. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee members are Ed Donoghue, MD, Marie Herrmann, MD and Kim Molina, MD. The following were nominated for section officers for 2015-2016:

- Section Chair: Kathryn Haden-Pinneri, MD
- Section Secretary: James Caruso, MD
- Program Chair: Joyce DeJong, DO

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

MOTION: All those nominated be approved as officers for the 2015-2016 term. Motion seconded. No discussion. Passed unanimously.

K. AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Stephen Robinson, MD was unable to attend the meeting. Section Chair Downs gave committee report. Members of this committee are: Stephen Robinson, MD (Chair), Elizabeth Richards, PhD, Jeff Tomberlin, PhD, Amy Gruszecki, MD and Keith Pinckard, MD.

The **Milton Helpern Award** was presented to **Bruce A. Hyma, MD** by Jim Caruso, MD.

The **Award for Achievement in the Forensic Life Sciences** was presented to **Richard W. Merritt, PhD** by Eric Benbow, PhD.

L. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Thomas Noguchi, MD informed the section that the international reception was a huge success. The committee met yesterday and has future plans to continue the reception and foster good relations with our international attendees.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Forensic Biologist Trainee Award had several applicants this year.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Young Forensic Scientists Forum Assistant Secretary Brianna Bermudez stated the YFSF greatly appreciated the donation the Path/Bio section gave last year and would appreciate the same consideration this year. She informed the group of the benefits YFSF has had for her and other members. This year marks the 20th anniversary for the group! The forum has a bring your own slides session, a bring your own poster session and helps bring young practitioners into the field of forensics.

MOTION: To donate \$2000 to the Young Forensic Scientists Forum General Fund. Motion seconded. No discussion. Majority for, one opposed. Motion passed.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. In honor of Anne Warren and Steve Young, the Warren Young Scholarship was created. Last night's special session, led by Section Chair Downs, raised \$600 for the scholarship which will fund a high school teacher to attend the annual AAFS meeting. Debbie Crockett is the contact person for this award.

- B. Congratulations extended to Pathology/Biology Fellow Victor Weedn who will be elected President of AAFS at the annual AAFS business meeting. President-Elect Weedn stated that he will be creating new ad hoc committees to get more AAFS members involved. Appointments will be starting soon. The AAFS business meeting starts at 4:15 pm tonight (February 18, 2015) and everyone is encouraged to attend. One lucky attendee will win a free registration for next year's annual meeting. Bring Your Own Slides begins at 8 pm tonight (February 18, 2015).

- C. Congratulations to **Thomas Noguchi, MD** who will be presented with the prestigious **R. B. H. Gradwohl Laureate Medallion** during the AAFS Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2015. This award is one of the AAFS's highest honors and is well deserved by Dr. Noguchi who is, and has been, a pioneer in forensic pathology, inspiring many to follow in his footsteps.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Kathryn Haden-Pinneri, MD, Section Secretary