

American Association of Neuropathologists

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TO: Intersociety Pathology Council
FROM: American Association of Neuropathologists
Barbara J. Crain, M.D., Ph.D., President
Tarik Tihan, M.D., Vice President for Professional Affairs

RE: Annual Report **March 15, 2007**

The American Association of Neuropathologists (AANP) held its annual meeting in conjunction with the International Society for Neuropathology in September, 2006, in San Francisco. This meeting was a success in terms of scientific contributions, national and international attendance. The 2007 meeting for AANP will be held in Washington D.C. in conjunction with the American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) as part of the Experimental Biology meetings in Washington, D.C.

AANP has embarked on a number of initiatives in 2006, which are continuing in 2007 and likely beyond.

- 1- Drafting and acceptance of specific organizational guidelines, which have brought clarity to the function of the working committees, and provided a blueprint for some of the future activities. In addition, AANP has applied to organize a companion society meeting during the annual convention of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP). Organizational guidelines and a list of the future meetings have been drafted and accepted by the Executive Council of AANP.
- 2- A survey of the professional, educational and research practices of AANP members has been generated by the Professional Affairs Committee (PAC) in 2006, and has been launched in 2007. Preliminary data have provided valuable information that will be used to assist American Board of Pathology in their recertification efforts for neuropathology.
- 3- AANP-Online Resources for Education in Neuropathology has been initiated as a web resource for all the association members as well as pathologists in general

- 4- The President and the PAC have actively engaged in a dialogue with the ABP to help in the organization of components that will help the re-certification process of neuropathologists, and also help design the neuropathology component of re-certification in anatomic pathology. Select educational activities at annual meetings, new online resources, and additional courses are being planned to help pathologists and neuropathologists understand and acquire the skills and knowledge base necessary for their recertification. AANP strongly recommends that all pathology societies combine their efforts to coordinate the design of educational materials needed for recertification.
- 5- An important issue, still unresolved in our opinion, is the fate and future of Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, which is due to be dissolved by the Department of Defense. We believe there may still be progress that can be made in this issue if we register strong opposition and propose alternatives.

Future Challenges and Efforts

1. Collaborating with all those involved to provide reasonable and sensible solutions to certification and practice guidelines in Neuropathology including Peripheral Nerve and Skeletal Muscle Pathology.
2. Developing Self-Assessment Modules for maintenance of certification in Neuropathology and for the neuropathology component of Anatomic Pathology.
3. Increasing collaborative efforts with other professional organizations for defining recertification standards. Participating in efforts to facilitate and assess competence in neuropathology practice.
4. Supporting the efforts of keeping AFIP alive, or if this fails, providing venue and opportunities to continue the positive efforts and resources of this valuable institution.
5. Improving and increasing educational efforts to reach all levels of the society in terms of neuropathology education.

AANP realizes the changing trends in the practice, certification and training of pathology subspecialties, and is keenly interested in close collaboration with regulatory and professional pathology organizations to address the issues and help implement the necessary changes at every level of our profession.

Sincerely,
Barbara Crain, MD
President

Tarik Tihan, MD, PhD
PAC Committee Chair