

American Association of Neuropathologists

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TO: Intersociety Pathology Council
FROM: American Association of Neuropathologists
George Perry, Ph.D. President
Tarik Tihan, MD, PhD, Vice President for Professional Affairs
RE: Annual Report February 1, 2009

The American Association of Neuropathologists (AANP) held its annual meeting in conjunction with the American Society for Investigative Pathology at the Experimental Pathology Meeting in San Diego, California, 4-7 April 2008. The overall response from the membership in terms of meeting venue was positive and the majority of the responders to a post conference survey found the meeting, venue and the content as they have expected. The meeting in 2009 will be a stand alone meeting in San Antonio Texas, 11-14 June 2009. The meeting focus is on novel diagnostic approaches to oxidative stress in neurological diseases.

The planned initiatives have been furthered during the last year with reference to AANP outreach program and the website. The AANP web site (www.neuropath.org) includes a number of educational tools, information about membership and organization activities and archives of slide seminars held at annual conferences. Self assessment modules that provide credit towards part II of Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program of the American Board of Pathology have been implemented. Currently, only one SAM is being offered at the AANP website, and five such modules are in development. These modules are offered to members and non-members at a price and AANP provides a SAM certificate after successful completion of the 1-hour module. In addition, the revised website contains the text and microscopic images of cases presented at the annual diagnostic slide sessions (DSS).

AANP has initiated a number of surveys among memberships that relate to professional practice trends, educational activities and involvement of its members, the timing, venue and content of the annual meeting and the practice of Ophthalmic Pathology among various institutions. These survey have enable us to better define the needs and expectations of our memberships. These surveys are available from the Professional Affairs Committee of the AANP upon request.

AANP continues to work closely with AFIP both at the educational and at executive level to ensure that the government and the legislators understand our full support and conviction for the necessity of preserving the AFIP as an institution. In addition, with the help of Dr. Elisabeth Rushing, AANP and AFIP are collaborating in using whole slide imaging technology for the annual meetings and diagnostic slide sessions.

The AANP has conveyed serious concerns to the recent changes to the fellowship certification requirements by the American Board of Pathology. It is the opinion of the overwhelming majority of the membership and the unanimous consent of the Neuropathology fellowship program directors that the changes in the combined primary/subspecialty training requirements to neuropathology training Programs be reconsidered. We hope and believe that there is a way to satisfy the legitimate concerns of the ABP regarding clarity on subspecialty certification without adversely affecting the equally legitimate needs and expectations of the neuropathology training community, and the public whose good we are all seeking to serve.

The upcoming meeting activities of the AANP include the Companion Society Meeting at the USCAP annual convention and the annual meeting that will take place in San Antonio, TX between June 11th and 14th. This year, there will be specific emphasis on including ophthalmic pathology content, and a concerted effort to coordinate our activities with the American Association of Ophthalmic Pathologists.

Respectfully submitted,



George Perry, President



Tarik Tihan, VP of Professional Affairs