

**Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Executive Committee/Governance Policy**

*Approved March 2013*

**Policies for Conduct of Joint Sections And Committees of Congress of Neurological Surgeons and The Association of Neurological Surgeons**

- CNS is an independent national and international neurosurgical organization. By virtue of its national and international stature in organized medicine and Neurosurgery, the CNS jointly sponsors Joint Sections (“Sections”) and Joint Committees (“Committees”) with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (“AANS”), another independent Neurosurgical organization.
- The Sections and Committees are separate, discipline-related joint divisions of the CNS and AANS.
- They contribute to the AANS and CNS and the whole of Neurosurgery with focused, creative education and training in specific subspecialty areas within Neurological surgery.
- While not separately incorporated, the Sections have their own Rules and Regulations and their own governing bodies (Executive Councils) and Officers.
- Because the Sections and Committees are joint divisions of the CNS and AANS, the CNS and AANS might be held legally accountable for activities of the Sections and Committees and for the manner by which they produce revenues, accumulate assets, and spend funds.
- The assets and liabilities of the Sections (1) and Committees are the joint assets and liabilities of the CNS and AANS. While the continued operational autonomy of the Sections and Committees is essential, the CNS must ensure that the activities and conduct of the Sections and Committee do not create undue financial risk to the CNS, or in any way prejudice the tax-exempt status of the CNS.<sup>1</sup> Excluding the separately incorporated American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (a/k/a Joint Section on Stereotactical and Functional Neurosurgery). 9/28/01
- Sections and Committees should obtain the joint concurrence of the CNS and the AANS before they hire any employee or enter into any substantial contracts or financial commitments.
- The Sections and Committees must remain cognizant of the potential impact of their activities on the tax-exempt status of the CNS and AANS.
- Sections and Committees should not undertake activities that are commercial or profit-making in nature. While a tax-exempt entity, under certain circumstances, may raise a limited amount of income through unrelated business income, this income is taxable to the organization. However, the IRS may revoke the tax-exempt status of an organization if a substantial amount of its revenues are received in this manner.
- Under no circumstances are the respective assets of the Sections and Committees to be used for the benefit of individual members.
- Each Section or Committee consult with the CNS and AANS before undertaking potential income generating activities; all Sections and Committees report at least annually their financial activities to the CNS and AANS. These reports should include periodic “Balance Sheets” and “Revenue and Expense Statements”; and Sections develop and maintain a method of auditing their own financial records.
- Membership dues, registration fees, and other assessments must reflect the needs of the Section or Committee to support its planned activities.
- By virtue of its Mission, the CNS may be called upon to speak on behalf of the neurosurgical specialty.
- To accomplish this goal, the President with advice and consent of the Executive Committee
- Functions as a focal point for communications related to matters of interest and importance to neurosurgical surgery, both nationally and internationally.
- The Executive Committee may request that one or more state neurosurgical societies, Sections or Committees of the CNS and AANS (e.g., Joint Officers or the Washington Committee), or other bodies act or speak on behalf of the CNS, in addition to speaking on their own behalf.
- The Executive Committee will provide written authority for such action or statements to the elected leadership of such societies, Sections or Committee, or their representative. Such written authorization will state the desired action or statement and the necessary supporting documentation.
- If expenditures are included in such authorization, these will be separately authorized in writing, and payment or reimbursement will be arranged.
- In the absence of such specific written authority, neither state neurosurgical societies, Sections, Committees, the AANS, nor other bodies may speak or act by or on behalf of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

**Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Executive Committee/Governance Policy**

**Joint Sections**

The Congress of Neurological Surgeons and the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) jointly support eight Sections—each dedicated to a neurosurgical subspecialty or a special population within neurosurgery.

Joint Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves

Council of State Neurosurgical Societies

Joint Cerebrovascular Section

Joint Tumor Section

Joint Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care

Joint Pain Section

Joint Pediatric Section

Joint Stereotactic and Functional Section

Women in Neurosurgery

**The AANS/CNS Sections serve to advance education, research and patient care relative to their individual subspecialties, including the educational activities of the parent organizations, as well as to advise the parent organizations of important issues and initiatives within the subspecialty or special population.**

The Sections maintain their own rules (with revisions subject to approval by the parent organizations), elect their own officers, and may hold their own meetings, levy their own dues, and maintain their own financial accounts. They also report annually to the Executive Committee of the CNS and the Board of Directors of the AANS. Members of either parent organization are eligible to become Section Members.

---

---

**Policy**

**The Section Criteria/Policies are noted in Article X of the CNS Bylaws.**

According to the CNS Bylaws, the Sections are described as follows:

The Congress may, from time to time by resolution of the Executive Committee, create sections representing subspecialty interests in neurosurgery. Such sections may be created separately by the Congress, or jointly with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (Joint Sections). Sections may maintain their own rules, which must be approved by the board of directors of the sponsoring entity or entities. Under such rules, Sections may elect their own officers, hold their own meetings, levy their own dues and must maintain financial accounts. Sections shall not be authorized to use the name of the Congress, to issue any statement of position or policy, or issue publications, to incur any debt, liability, contract or obligation in excess of amounts to be determined by the relevant board(s) of directors, without the prior approval of such board(s) of directors. The officers of Sections shall report section activities and finances to the relevant Board(s) of Directors at least annually and otherwise as may be requested by the Board(s) of Directors or as may be warranted by the activities of such section.

**Section Roles/Mission:**

- **Cerebrovascular** – This Section is dedicated to education, research and patient care in cerebrovascular diseases.

The purpose of the AANS/CNS Cerebrovascular Section is to advance education, research and patient care in the area of cerebrovascular disease. Through our activities and educational programs, we strive to promote awareness among all neurosurgeons of opportunities for clinical practice and research in the area of cerebrovascular surgery.

- **Neurotrauma & Critical Care** – This Section is focused on education and research in the areas of trauma and critical care of the nervous system.

The purpose of the AANS/CNS Neurotrauma and Critical Care Section is to provide a forum for education and research on trauma and critical care of the nervous system, to coordinate activities and programs relating to trauma, critical care and sports medicine for the parent organizations and other societies, committees and agencies, to represent the parent organizations, at their discretion, at any organization or group on matters relating to trauma, critical care and sports medicine, to advise the parent organizations of activities which relate to nervous system trauma and critical care by other individuals, group and/or agencies.

- **Pain** – This Section acts to increase the role of the neurosurgeon in the multidisciplinary field of pain management, through education and advocacy.

The purpose of the AANS/CNS Pain Section provides liaison and involvement with other specialties and organizations in the field of pain management. The section helps communications between AANS and the CNS via section status. It provides help in resident curricula planning, especially in the area of pain management and promotes the *Journal of Neurosurgery* and *NEUROSURGERY*® manuscript submissions in pain management. The Pain Section fosters international communication and collaboration in neurosurgical procedures for pain and reaches out to and encourages involvement by part of neurosurgery somewhat outside mainstream. Lastly, the section acts to increase the role of the neurosurgeon in the multidisciplinary field of pain management.

- **Pediatric** – This Section is dedicated to education, research and patient care in pediatric nervous system diseases.

The objectives of the Section shall be to enhance and assure the advancement of the subspecialty of pediatric neurosurgery by: (1) serving as a forum for the intimate exchange of ideas and information among a group of neurological surgeons whose interests are directed towards the infant and child, (2) serving as a vehicle through which the Board of Directors of the AANS and the Executive Committee of the CNS can be apprised of the activities and the advances in the subspecialty of pediatric neurosurgery, (3) serving as a resource for the Board of Directors of the AANS and the Executive Committee of the CNS for conducting special studies and proposing solutions to problems in pediatric neurosurgery when directed to do so, and (4) service as a section to assist the AANS and the CNS to advance education, research and patient care in the area of pediatric neurosurgery.

- **Spine & Peripheral Nerves** – This Section is dedicated to advancing spinal neurosurgery and related sciences through education, clinical research and improved patient care.

The purpose of the AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves is to foster the use of spinal neurosurgical methods for the treatment of diseases of the spinal neural elements, the spine and peripheral nerves. To advance spinal neurosurgery and related sciences, to improve patient care, to support meaningful basic and clinical research, to provide leadership in undergraduate and graduate continuing education, and to promote administrative facilities necessary to achieve these goals.

- **Stereotactic & Functional Neurosurgery** – The American Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, an independently incorporated organization, serves many functions of the Joint Section for Stereotactic & Functional Neurosurgery, including fostering the use of stereotactic and functional neurological methods for the treatment of diseases of the nervous system.

The mission of the American Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery is to foster the use of stereotactic and functional neurological methods for the treatment of diseases of the nervous system. Our goal is to advance stereotactic and functional neurosurgery and related sciences, to improve patient care, to support meaningful basic and clinical research, to provide leadership in undergraduate and graduate education and continuing education, and to provide administrative facilities necessary to meet these goals.

- **Tumor** – This Section was created to promote the education of neurosurgeons in the area of neuro-oncology and to serve as a resource on the clinical treatment of and research into nervous system tumors.

The purpose the AANS/CNS Tumor Section is to provide a forum for education and research on tumors of the nervous system, to coordinate activities and programs relating to tumors for the AANS and the CNS and other societies, committees and agencies, to represent the AANS and the CNS when requested by executive action, at any organization or group on matters relating to tumors, and to advise the AANS and the CNS of activities which relate to nervous system tumors by other individuals, groups and/or agencies.

- **Women in Neurosurgery (WINS)** – This Section serves to inspire, encourage and enable women surgeons to realize their professional and personal goals

The mission of the **WINS Section** is to inspire, encourage and enable women surgeons to realize their professional and personal goals. The goals include:

- To promote professional growth and development.
  - To enhance and facilitate interaction among women surgeons throughout the world.
  - To foster an environment supportive of personal values and individual diversity.
  - To advance the highest standards of competence and ethical behavior.
- **The Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (CSNS)** is a grassroots organization representing neurosurgeons from all 50 states on a variety of socioeconomic issues, and providing guidance and educational resources to the CNS and AANS on topics important to neurosurgeons across America. The CSNS is organizationally equivalent to the subspecialty Joint Sections in its relationship to the parent organizations.

The purpose of the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies is to provide a national forum for the State Neurosurgical Societies of the United States. This forum is primarily for discussion, consideration, and proposals of action regarding socioeconomic issues concerning Neurological Surgery.

[CSNS Rules and Regulations 2010 \(Updated October 24, 2009\)](#)