

**BOARD OF SPECIALTY SOCIETIES (BOS) MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2007
SAN DIEGO, CA
MINUTES**

Deliberations

Approval of October 2006 Meeting Minutes:

BOS Chair Andrew Pollak, MD presented the draft Minutes of the October 2006 meeting Minutes. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the BOS approved the Minutes.

BOS Research Committee Meeting Report:

Dr. Pollak stated that the newly invigorated BOS committees had their first meetings yesterday and they seemed well attended.

Research Committee Chair Peter Amadio, MD reported that representatives from 16 musculoskeletal specialty society research committees attended the Research Committee meeting plus Committee members. Other attendees included Josh Jacobs, Chair, AAOS Council on Research, Quality Assessment and Technology and Charles Turelson, PhD, Director, AAOS Department of Research and Scientific Affairs. The purpose of the meeting was to get specialty society feedback on research issues of concern to the AAOS and Dr. Jacobs. The meeting was energetic and including discussions on how AAOS advocacy activities regarding research funding, obtaining more money from industry for research activities and partnering with AAOS to develop a "clinical trials infrastructure." The problem at the end of the meeting was how to follow-up with these ideas since the participants are not Committee or BOS members. The Committee decided to have a conference call with these participants in the near future, especially on the clinical trials infrastructure issue.

Dr. Amadio suggested that perhaps we explore changing the BOS' composition to include the chairs of a specialty society's research committee, health policy committee and education committee, if it has them. This way, we would have the primary specialty society decision-makers on these main areas of concern for the AAOS and the specialty societies. Dr. Jacobs certainly liked the idea of being able to talk with all of the specialty society research chairs in one forum rather than dealing with them individually.

BOS Health Policy Committee Meeting:

Health Policy Committee Chair Steven Ross, MD reported that his committee had a meeting that was very similar to the Research Committee meeting. Specialty society health policy committee representatives attended, along with AAOS Council on Advocacy Chair David Halsey, MD. Dr. Ross stated that meeting participants mostly discussed how to improve communications on health policy between the AAOS and specialty societies. They also discussed Medicare's new Voluntary Reporting System with a Medicare representative, who joined by telephone. In addition, they talked about potential Committee activities on Medicaid issues.

Dr. Ross said the Committee enjoyed having specialty society health policy committee representatives in attendance. Committee members would like to find a way to continue this type of interaction. However, it will be difficult since most of these representatives are not on the BOS and do not attend BOS meetings.

AAOS Medical Director, Robert Haralson, MD, gave a brief report on Medicare's new Pay-for-Performance program. In response, Dr. Parsley expressed his belief that the 11/2% bonus payment that CMS is offering participating physicians is probably not enough to cover their costs for participating. He suggested that the AAOS conduct an impact analysis to determine how much it will cost orthopaedists to participate in the program in comparison to the bonus payment. Dr. O'Conner strongly agreed with Dr. Parsley's suggestion.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the BOS voted to recommend to the Council on Advocacy that the AAOS conduct an economic analysis on how much it will cost individual physicians to participate in Medicare's Physician Voluntary Reporting Program in order to determine if the bonus payment potential is worth the added expense. If the Council agrees with this recommendation, the results should be published to AAOS members and CMS.

BOS Education Committee Report:

Acting Committee Chair Joseph McCarthy, MD announced that Arlen Hanssen, MD has been appointed as new Education Committee Chair, effective immediately. He reported that the Education Committee had a meeting with specialty society education committee representatives to discuss the following questions:

1. With the increasing complexity of ACCME regulations for certification of CME, what collaborative processes can we put in place to help specialty societies meet their qualifications?
2. How can the AAOS and the specialty societies work together to expand programming at the Orthopaedic Learning Center and how can we protect this valuable resource in the face of increasing competition from industry?
3. What needs, if any, in the education area would you like the AAOS to help you meet?

Dr. McCarthy said AAOS Council on Education Chair Alan Levine, MD and AAOS Chief Education Officer Mark Wieting also attended the meeting. Participants found the dialogue interesting and valuable as AAOS charts its future relations with specialty societies in the education area.

OREF 60/40 Program:

OREF President and Chief Executive Officer Gene Wurth, JD described the 60/40 pilot program involving the Orthopaedic Trauma Association. Under this program, 60% of funds raised go to OREF and 40% go to OTA. The program is geared toward obtaining smaller contributions (under \$1,000) and may be expanded to other specialty societies.

Mr. Wurth also reported that OREF has created a new committee chaired by Richard Haynes, MD to look at research and research funding issues of special concern to specialty societies.

Orthopaedic PAC Report:

PAC Chair Stuart Weinstein, MD explored how specialty societies can become involved in fundraising activities. He described how fundraising events can be folded into specialty society meetings, especially when the candidates are concerned about issues of importance to the individual societies. He stated that the PAC will help the specialty societies plan these events. The same offer is going to be made to state orthopaedic societies.

More Specialty Society Involvement in RUC Surveys:

Dr. Haralson explained the role of the AMA/Specialty Society Relative Value Committee (RUC) in advising CMS on Medicare physician payment issues. He then explained how the RUC operates and how it uses the results of surveys to develop work value recommendations for new and revised CPT codes. He then encouraged the specialty societies to work harder to identify members that would be willing to complete these surveys since we often have trouble getting the minimum number of survey respondents that the RUC requires.

Nomination and Election of New BOS Secretary:

BOS Nominating Committee Chair Mark Gebhardt presented William Robb, MD as the Committee's nominee for new BOS Chair. Dr. Pollak opened the floor for additional nominees. There being none, a motion was duly made and seconded closing nominations. Dr. Robb became new BOS Secretary.

Presidential Line Reports:

AAOS President Richard Kyle, MD talked about the unity effort among the specialty societies and between the AAOS and the specialty societies. He also reported that the AAOS Board as created a new governance body, the Unity Review Group, to look at requests from specialty societies emanating from the one-on-one meetings between their leadership and AAOS officials. The Unity Review Group consists of the AAOS First Vice President and the BOC and BOS chairs. Dr. Kyle stated his hope that specialty societies would also work through the BOS with their requests.

AAOS First Vice President James Beaty, MD reported on the work of the AAOS Trauma Care and On-Call Project Team. He stated that the multi-disciplinary group looked broadly at orthopaedic emergency care issues from a number of different perspectives. Project Team products include a Position Statement and a series of Bulletin articles to help orthopaedists deal with on-call issues.

Dr. Beaty also reported on the accomplishments in Medicare reimbursement emanating from the Medicare Five-Year Review. Our accomplishments are a direct result of close working relations between the AAOS and the specialty societies.

AAOS Second Vice President E. Anthony Rankin, MD, reported that he is chairing a work group to look into whether or not the AAOS should become involved in Medicare Part A reimbursement activities. The work group is inclined to support AAOS involvement in this arena. The work group will present a report to the AAOS Board in May.

Nominating Process Work Group:

BOS Secretary William Robb, MD, reported on the work group that is reviewing whether or not the AAOS nominating process should be changed. Dr. Robb described the different views of work group members. He also mentioned that the work group is still active and has not developed its final recommendations.

New Plan for Submitting Applications for and Co-branding Instructional Courses:

AAOS Central Program Committee Chair Andrew Schmidt, MD and 2007 AAOS Instructional Course Chair Paul Duwelius, MD reported on the new processes for specialty societies to apply for specific instructional courses. They also reported on the new AAOS' policies regarding AAOS/specialty society co-branding of these courses.

New BOS Chair:

Dr. Pollak presented Dr. McCarthy as the new BOS Chair. Dr. McCarthy expressed his gratitude to Dr. Pollak for his work and leadership as BOS Chair. He then presented Dr. Pollak with a plaque in recognition of his service.

There being no further business, Dr. Pollak adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Fine, JD, CAE
BOS Staff Liaison