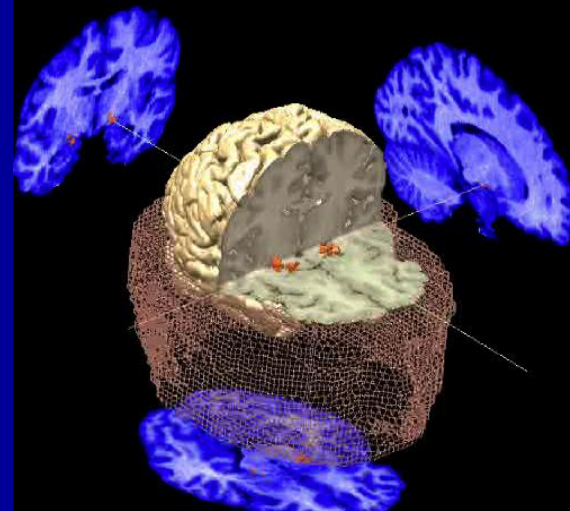
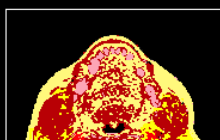
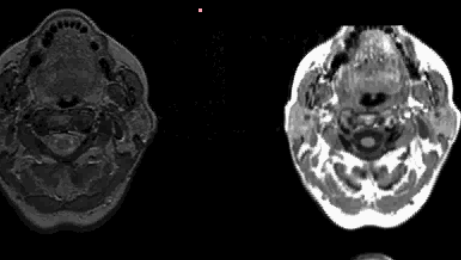
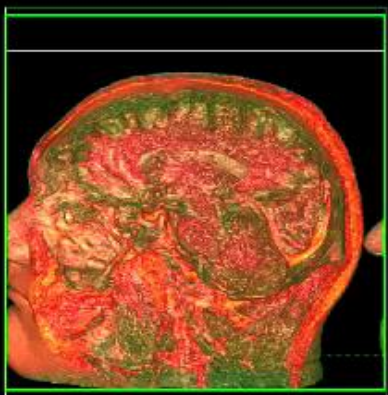


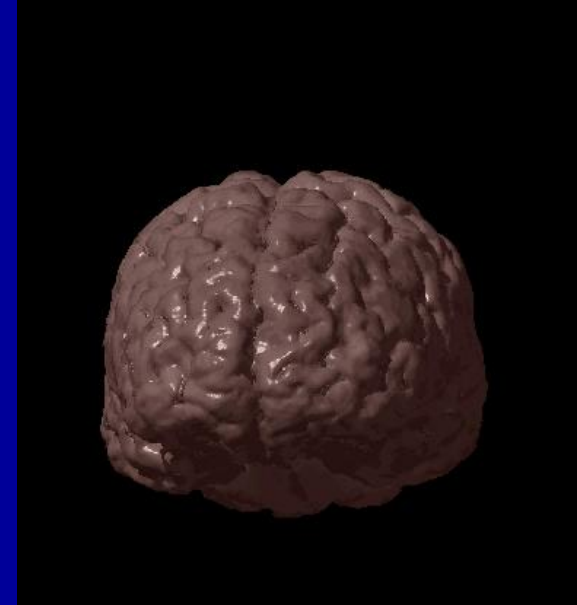
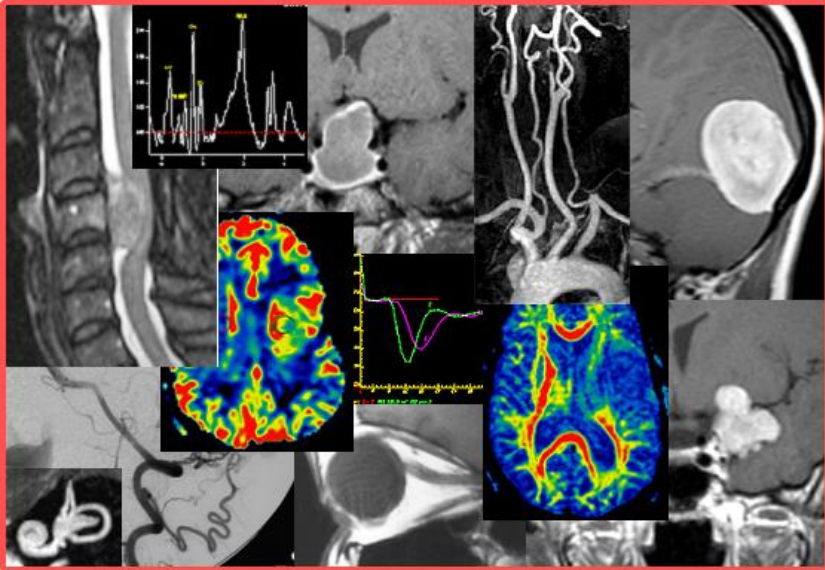
NEUROIMAGING ADVOCACY: 2014

ASN Annual Meeting

Sarasota, Florida

January 18, 2014





ASN/AAN NEUROIMAGING ADVOCACY: Rationale and Historical Perspective

William G. Preston, MD, FAAN

**Past-Chair, AAN Neuroimaging Section
ASN Treasurer and Board of Directors**

AAN/ASN ADVOCACY REVIEW: Where We Were, and How We Got Where We Are Now

ASN and AAN on MRI Neuroimaging:

- Birds of a Feather?
- Or (Di)poles apart?
- Destined to endure Love/Hate relationship?

Membership and Money Matter:

- AAN ~23,000
- ASN ~750

ASN Neuroimaging Advocacy: Are we better off “with or without” AAN? Relationship is complex and at times antagonistic/confrontational !

ADVOCACY

- Main Entry: ad·vo·ca·cy
- Function: noun
- Pronunciation: 'ad-v&-k&-se
- Advocacy: the act or process of supporting a cause, purpose or proposal, political or otherwise



ADVOCACY

- “My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit.”
- “He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition.”

Indira Gandhi



POLITICS: Often Not Pretty, But Essential to Survival

- "One of the penalties of not participating in politics is that you will be governed by your inferiors."

Plato

- "Politics is a lot like an unfriendly dinner meeting...if you don't have a seat at the table, you may find yourself on the menu."

Anonymous

Advocacy, then, is a matter of self-preservation.

NEUROLOGIST NEUROIMAGING: ADVOCACY RATIONALE

- **Neuroanatomy and Neuroimaging are integral parts of neurological residency and CME training**
- **Organ system specialty imaging is becoming a standard of care**
- **Neurologists are best suited to define appropriateness and timeliness of the various neuroimaging modalities**

NEUROIMAGING: IMPORTANCE TO NEUROLOGISTS

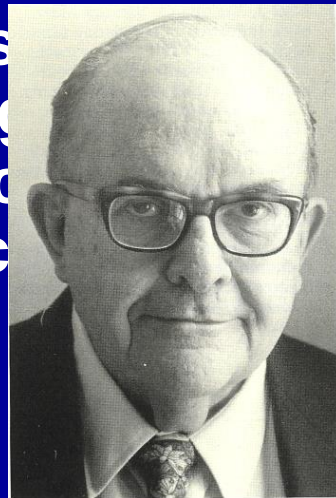
- **Neuroimaging is a key part of virtually all neurological diagnostic evaluations**
- **Neuroimaging is a logical extension of our clinical skill set, a mandatory part of our practice domain**
- **Neurologists are ultimately responsible for neuroimaging content, quality and interpretation**

NEUROIMAGING: NEUROLOGIST ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- **Neurologist Clinician-Imagers:**
 - **Have specialized knowledge in the anatomy and function of the nervous system**
 - **Are uniquely qualified to recommend the appropriate imaging studies**
 - **Have expertise in interpreting the clinical relevance of imaging findings**

NEUROIMAGING: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

- The first cerebral angiogram was performed by a neurologist (Moniz)
- A neurologist was co-inventor of the CT scan (Oldendorf)
- Neurologists have been instrumental in introducing clinical practice of neuroimaging. They continue to be instrumental in the development of MRI basic research and clinical applications.



NEUROLOGIST NEUROIMAGING: ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

- AAN and AAN-Neuroimaging Section: COS, AUPN, NRRC
- ASN: Founded 1977, certifying neurologists in MRI and CT for > 2 decades
- UCNS: Neuroimaging recently added (2006) as sixth neurological subspecialty, now responsible for neurologist MRI certification
- ICAMRL: **Intersocietal** commission for accreditation of MRI laboratories (ASN, AAN, ACC, AAOS)
- Coalition for Patient Centered Imaging (CPCI): ACC, ASN, AAN

AUPN Statement October, 2000 to Neurology RRC

Residents in neurology must have adequate experience in neuroimaging that assures proficiency in magnetic resonance images, computerized tomography, and neurosonology. This can be accomplished as an integral part of supervised patient care during rotations of required adult and pediatric neurology, as well as in the outpatient clinics where neurology residents should review and interpret their own patients' neuroimaging studies under supervision. Additional experience may be attained by elective rotations in subspecialty areas where neuroimaging is particularly relevant to patient care, such as cerebrovascular disease, neuro-oncology, neurointensive care, cognitive neurology, and epilepsy. Some residents may have additional opportunities to interpret neuroimages during elective rotations in neurosurgery and neuroradiology. Program directors have responsibility to document this aspect of training.

AAN Neuroimaging Section

- What is it?
- Who's in it?
- What does it do?
- AAN Neuroimaging Section=American Society of Neuroimaging (ASN)
- Therefore, should the organizations merge, and have ASN essentially serve as the Neuroimaging Section of the AAN?

AAN/ASN ADVOCACY 2006-2008

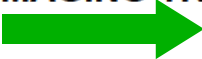
REVIEW: Where We Were, and How We Got Where We Are Now

- 2006: Neuroimaging became the sixth member of UCNS (Masdeu)
- 2006: ASN presentation to UHc at AAN HQ (Morariu/Preston) with subsequent MRI certification of neurology
- February 2008: ASN contracted with Ed Eichhorn, as political strategist
- March 2008: AAN NI Work Group (AAN/ASN) Neuroimaging Position Statement, approved by AAN EC, (Hutchinson/Preston)

AAN Neuroimaging Position Statement



**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION**

**POSITION STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF
NEUROIMAGING TRAINING, GUIDELINES AND PRACTICE**
 **March 2008**

Preamble

The American Academy of Neurology Professional Association (AAN/PA), representing over 21,000 neurologists and neuroscience professionals, recognizes the increasing importance of patient access to neuroimaging technologies and physicians qualified to perform and interpret imaging scans.

AAN Neuroimaging Position Statement

- 
- Expand educational opportunities in neuroimaging in order to enhance the quality of training, research and care.
 -  ○ Collaborate with the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to expand neuroimaging training standards as part of the requirements of program accreditation.
 - Promote the neuroimaging certification and accreditation program through the United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties (UCNS).
 - Continue to promote and expand the development of comprehensive appropriateness guidelines to establish neuroimaging practice standards.
 - Improve quality and access to neuroimaging accreditation and certification through organizations such as the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of MRI Laboratories (ICAMRL), CT Laboratories (ICACTL), and Vascular Laboratories (ICAVL).

AAN Neuroimaging Position Statement

Ensuring Access to Care

- The Academy supports the use of innovative outpatient models of care incorporating neuroimaging as a means to improve patient access, cost-effectiveness and quality.
- The Academy strongly supports public and private payer reimbursement to appropriately trained neurologists for provision and interpretation of imaging studies.
- The Academy opposes efforts by payers to implement prior-authorization programs in neuroimaging that limit neurologists' interpretation privileges without providing neurologists a reasonable means of demonstrating their specialty competence and obtaining an exemption from participation in such programs.
- • The Academy opposes efforts to prevent neurologists from providing imaging services, including such practices as denying hospital privileges to perform and interpret inpatient scanning, requiring multiple imaging modalities in office settings and requiring the presence of additional specialty physicians in situations where the neurologist already possesses the required medical competence.
- • The Academy opposes further public and private restrictions on self-referred imaging practices and equipment ownership beyond those of the federal Stark provisions.

AAN/ASN ADVOCACY 2006-2008

REVIEW: Where We Were, and How We Got Where We Are Now

- April 2008: ASN meeting with AAN MEM Committee (Bakshi/Kaufman), re: neurologist reimbursements for imaging from private payers, RBMs
- May 2008 AMA HOD: Resolution 208, Fairness in Medical Imaging Interpretation: provided reaffirmation of neurologists' imaging rights regarding provision of, and payment for, in-office MRI services, debunking radiologist charges of increased costs, opposing discriminatory restrictions imposed by payers and RBMs (Sloan)

AAN/ASN ADVOCACY REVIEW: Where We Were, and How We Got Where We Are Now

- Fairness in Medical Imaging Interpretation: AMA Resolution 208 (2008)
 - Whereas, Expenditures for advanced medical imaging services, such as CT, MRI and PET, have significantly increased in this decade, raising legitimate concerns over utilization rates; and
 -
 - Whereas, These concerns have led payers, state legislatures, government agencies and radiology management companies to consider eliminating reimbursement for in-office imaging and image interpretation by non-radiologists without consideration of their training and certified competence to provide these services; and
 -
 - Whereas, Available data do not suggest that increased imaging costs are necessarily attributable to in-office imaging services by most medical specialties involved in medical imaging and interpretation; therefore be it
 -
 - RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association encourage and support the in-office utilization, medical direction and supervision of advanced imaging services by qualified or certified physicians whose utilization of these modalities is within the scope of their specialty practice in accordance with appropriateness guidelines, practice guidelines, technical standards and accreditation standards for the imaging modalities utilized as defined by their specific medical society (New HOD Policy); and be it further
 -
 - RESOLVED, That our AMA actively oppose efforts by federal and state legislators, regulatory bodies, private payers, public payers and radiology business management companies to restrict the application of advanced imaging services for the diagnosis and treatment of patients when such services are provided as defined by specialty specific appropriateness guidelines, practice guidelines and technical standards for the imaging modalities utilized. (Directive to Take Action)
 -

AAN Committee on Sections (COSec): Origins of NI Strategic Plan 2009

- AAN/ASN through CPCI (Eichhorn/Amery): neuroimaging lobbying support to CMS/MedPAC
- NI Section Chair to CSec Meetings, submitting NI Strategic Plan (Preston/Bakshi) : Roadmap for continuing AAN/ASN advocacy cooperation
- 2009 AAN Federal Legislative Priorities:
 - SGR fix
 - CMS fee schedule reform
 - “Support efforts to ensure that neurologists with appropriate training have the ability to practice imaging.... *There are efforts to restrict the ability of neurologists to participate in the use of imaging techniques.*”

AAN/ASN ADVOCACY: 2008-2010

REVIEW

- Joint AAN/ASN notifications to neuroimagers:
 - Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act 2008 (MIPPA) mandated imaging center accreditation: IAC, ACR, TJC
 - UHc mandated pre-cert for advanced imaging (MRI/CT/PET)
 - Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act 2010 (PPACA) mandated patient notification of alternative providers for clinicians providing imaging services
- Joint AAN/ASN actions with Coalition of Patient Centered Imaging (CPCI) in 2009/2010:
 - CPCI Mission Statement
 - CPCI letter to National Imaging Associates (NIA) regarding benefit manager's exclusion of IAC (ICAMRL/ICACTL) certified providers
 - CPCI letter to US Senate in opposition to CMS utilization of Radiology Benefit Managers (RBMs)

Neuroimaging Section Strategic Plan: Discussion/Input

- Requested of NI Section by AAN COSecEC at COS meetings 2008, first submitted 2009:
 - ➡ • Summary of mission/vision/goals for subspecialty
 - ➡ • Action items for goal fulfillment, AAN's role in achieving goals
 - Global conclusion and assessment of subspecialty's place within larger scope of AAN, other specialties, neurology in general, and related fields
 - Benefits to AAN and subspecialty in goal achievement
- Recent request for 2010 year end specific
 - ➡ progress update

AAN NI Section: Strategic Plan

Summary of Mission/Vision/Goals of Neuroimaging Subspecialty:

- To promote the role of the neurologist in providing integrated neuroimaging in the practice of clinical neurology
- To promote neurology residency neuroimaging training, all graduates with a neuroimaging skill set at least equivalent to general radiology
- To facilitate post-graduate neuroimaging fellowships training, all graduates with a neuroimaging skill set at least equivalent to neuroradiology

AAN NI Section: Strategic Plan: Primary Action Items/Update

- AAN to require formal neuroimaging training in neurology residencies
- AAN to support neuroimaging fellowships for neurologists
- AAN to provide financial support for neuroimaging advocacy
- Dr. Griggs participated in the NI Section Meeting Toronto (4/15/10), discussing all aspects of NI Strategic Plan and requests made by ASN and NI Section of AAN
- He proposed combined Neuroimaging Summit with “Neuroimaging-Related Sections.” This meeting was held 1/20/11: ASN, AAN officers Griggs/Sigsbee, AAN Neurointerventional and NI Sections

AAN/ASN ADVOCACY 2011-2012

REVIEW: Where We Were, and How We Got Where We Are

- Neuroimaging Summit, Sanibel Island, January 2011: dialogue between ASN/SVIN members and AAN officers (Griggs/Sigsbee)
- Letter from ASN to AAN requesting support outlined in NI Section Strategic Plan
- Muted response from AAN; reciprocal request for BrainPAC donations.
- ASN decision to release Eichhorn as lobbyist, relying instead on BrainPAC and AAN lobbyist (Amery)
- Election of ASN member to CPCI BOD (Hutchinson)

AAN/ASN NEUROIMAGING: Synergistic Advocacy

- Co-signed letters from ASN/AAN:
 - To CareCore (RBM) regarding neurologist exclusion from neuroimaging reading panel (Wechsler/Sergay)
 - To NQF regarding inadequate neurologist representation on voting panel (Lindzen/Sergay)
 - To NQF, AAN response to stroke CT imaging policy (Leibeskind/Sergay)
 - To CMS regarding neurologists' CT interpretation reimbursement with acute stroke care (Wechsler/Griggs)
 - To Pennsylvania Legislative Committee on Insurance opposing Maryland-style proposal prohibiting in-office imaging (Wechsler/Griggs).

AAN/ASN ADVOCACY REVIEW: Where We Were, and How We Got Where We Are

Works in Progress (2012-2014):

- Neuroimaging Training Guidelines for Neurology Residents (Wechsler/Liebeskind)
- MedPAC, Congressional oversight (V&E Rowe)
- ASN Practice Issues Leadership (E.Rowe, Hutchinson)
- ASN Leaders in Advocacy and Education (Mechtler, Jamieson, Lindzen)
- Maintain supportive intersocietal relationships: AAN, BrainPAC, NOH, PALF, ICAMRL, NIH, AMA (Masdeu, Fritz, Preston)

NEUROIMAGING ADVOCACY 2014

