

## History of BRAINS

Background: The Business and Research Administrators in Neurology Society (BRAINS) was officially formed at the 2004 AAN Annual meeting. For those in the Neurology management field this in itself was a wonderful achievement, as a group of administrators / practice managers had been informally meeting and networking for several years with sporadic support from other Neurology organizations.

BRAINS, an affiliate of the AAN, is a group of both academic and private practice administrators and managers with a focus on opportunities that will benefit those who are managing neurology and neurosurgery groups, working together to advocate for change and identify issues of importance to administrators and managers in neurology.

The goals of BRAINS are to promote communication among people who manage neurology practices, promote education in business management, and develop tools aimed at improving the overall business management of neurology. BRAINS will also work to advocate for neurologists on business issues.

BRAINS has staff liaisons to both the Medical Economics and Management Committee (MEM) and the Practice Committee. Each liaison will report back to both BRAINS and the committees on group activities and discussions. BRAINS will report directly to the Practice Committee. Through Practice, this reporting structure gives BRAINS a voice to the Board

The first BRAINS meeting took place on April 24, 2004 at the AAN Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California. During the meeting, the group elected officers and voted on the bylaws. The first meeting of BRAINS consisted of a business meeting to elect officers and vote on bylaws. David Rausch was the first chair of BRAINS with KC Goodell serving as chair elect and Jeff Dann as secretary. At the first meeting it was decided to form an executive committee of the group which would be made up of the elected officers plus a liaison to the Medical Economics and Management committee. Mary McDermott was approached by the executive committee and has been serving in that capacity ever since. It was decided that the chair would serve as a liaison to the Practice Committee through which BRAINS reports to the AAN Board.

At the second annual BRAINS meeting in Miami Beach, the executive committee organized a free informal education session staffed by BRAINS members for BRAINS members. There were approximately 25 people in attendance. This program has since taken off and become a colloquium offered through Education attracting approximately 50 people in 2006 and 110 in 2007. BRAINS executive committee members have also been involved in numerous educational courses put on by MEM committee members at both the Annual Meeting and Regional Programs. Due to a shift in jobs for David Rausch, K.C. Goodell and Jeff Dann assumed the role of Chair and Chair-elect respectively, earlier in the year, leaving the secretary position open. Craig Williams was nominated and elected to serve in the role of secretary. For the 2005 year the executive committee of BRAINS consisted of: K.C. Goodell – Chair, Jeffrey Dann – Chair-elect, Craig Williams – Secretary, Bill Hamilton – Immediate past chair, Mary McDermott – MEM liaison, Scott Madden – Publications workgroup Chair, TBA – Membership workgroup Chair

In 2006 at the third Annual BRAINS meeting Jeff Dann assumed the role of chair. Craig Williams was elected Chair Elect and Scott Madden was elected secretary. In addition to the elected roles, members were urged to participate through other volunteer roles. BRAINS membership in 2006 was approximately 120 members.

In 2007 at the Annual BRAINS meeting, Craig Williams assumed the role of chair. Bryan Soronson was elected Chair Elect and Jeff Pike was elected secretary. In addition to voting on officers the members also voted to extend the terms of office to two years. This will coincide with the terms of committee members and assist the chair in transitioning into their new role as a member of the Practice Committee.

The BRAINS group currently has members serving on numerous AAN committees and subcommittees. Jeff Dann (past chair of BRAINS) is a member of the Affiliate Member Subcommittee, Scott Madden (past secretary of BRAINS) is serving on the Membership Committee, Bill Hamilton (past chair of BRAINS) is serving on the AANnews Subcommittee, Mary McDermott (MEM liaison to BRAINS) is serving on the Medical Economics and Management Committee and the Coding Subcommittee of MEM, Bill Henderson is serving on the Practice Management and Technology Subcommittee of MEM, and Craig Williams (current chair of BRAINS) is serving on the Practice Committee.