

### **Key Messages from COSEC Summit February 25-26, 2009:**

There are 24 (now 25) categorical sections and 6 cross-cutting sections. The summit focused on the categorical sections.

- Not all Sections find the AAN to be indispensable; nor does the AAN find all of the Sections to be indispensable.
- Sections/subspecialties differ vastly across the spectrum of the 24 Sections – in terms of member participation level, activities, their wants and needs, etc.
- Sections often do not feel valued/empowered within the AAN (e.g. they are not always consulted on critical issues).
- Communication – both within Sections and between the Sections and other AAN entities (e.g. committees, subcommittees) and vice versa – needs to be improved.
- Sections want their strategic plans to be valued and used by AAN leadership.
- Sections want more input into and responsibility for Annual Meeting educational and scientific programming.
- Small subspecialties/Sections need the AAN; whereas, larger subspecialties/Sections often rely on their own subspecialty organization (which very often includes non-neurologists).
- Sections want to be more active in choosing and developing “best practices” and guidelines in the AAN.
- Some Sections feel a need for more collaboration of AAN with subspecialty organizations – less competitiveness and more complementary.
- There is inadequate funding for research in specific subspecialties.
- There is inadequate support for fellowships in specific subspecialties.
- The AAN should promote more exposure to neurological subspecialties for medical students and neurology residents.
- Education programming and networking opportunities are greater at subspecialty organization meetings than the AAN.
- Sections want the AAN to advance their advocacy and reimbursement interests and goals.
- The ACP embraces subspecialty participation in their meeting by incorporation awards/award lecturers and other honorific enticements.
- Should the AAN consider a subspecialty model similar to the American College of Physicians? Specifically, the ACP does not have subspecialty Sections within their organization and instead they work with the subspecialty organizations. They do not force members to choose one organization over the other but instead encourage them to join both organizations. For example, the ACP offers discounted membership if they belong to the ACP and their subspecialty organization.

The Section strategic plans as well as the COSEC Summit minutes can be made available to the AAN Board of Directors and Long Range Planning Committee upon request. All of these documents provide greater details on the specific discussion that took place at the Summit.