



2016 Annual Report

We've Got Your Back

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LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Member of the American Academy of Neurology,

The AAN exists for the benefit of members like you, to do the things collectively that would be nearly—if not completely—impossible to do individually. With the dogged commitment and passion of thousands of volunteer members and leaders working in tandem with our professional staff, we had your back in 2016, and we're happy to highlight some of our most significant successes of the year in this annual report. But there are a few efforts we wish to call out in this message because of their profound importance to the specialty of neurology.

Strengthening Practices. Some 30 percent of our US members are in solo and small practices (with five or fewer neurologists), balancing heavy patient loads with increasingly distracting reporting requirements and regulatory hassles. To ensure the Academy is providing the best value to these members, the Solo and Small Practice Task Force identified major issues affecting these members and reviewed existing AAN products and services. The task force made more than two dozen recommendations that the Board of Directors and staff have examined and will be acting upon in the months to come to strengthen our members' practices and alleviate the pressures of regulatory burdens. The AAN is doing everything it can on the health policy front to decrease these burdens and limit the impact of

new policy changes, and **we had success with the final rules for MACRA and the Medicare physician fee schedule for 2017.**

Rebalancing Lives. Neurology is the only medical specialty that has both one of the highest rates of burnout and the lowest rate of work-life balance. **We know there are many external factors contributing to physician burnout**, including the myriad of regulatory hassles that you face daily. Your health matters to the AAN and we're here to help. The Burnout Task Force we launched in 2015 to research the issue of physician burnout reported its findings and recommendations to the Board in 2016. Consequently, we launched our new Live Well campaign and webpage at AAN.com/LiveWell with a range of resources to help address regulatory, workplace, and individual frictions that spark burnout and to help cultivate well-being and resiliency in your life. **Rest assured that the AAN is fighting for you in Washington, DC, to decrease regulatory hassles and limit the impact of new policies, reporting requirements, and reimbursement changes.**

Increasing Research Support. Research into neurologic diseases, treatments, and cures is of the highest importance. For 2016, the Academy's expanded our investment in research via the AAN Research Program to \$2.6 million—an increase of \$200,000 over 2015—and new awards were offered.

Reinventing Learning. We reinvented the AAN Annual Meeting with seismic shifts, from a new one-rate registration fee to novel Experiential Learning Areas unchained from didactic classroom presentations. The result was a meeting imbued with new energy, variety, and enthusiasm that we will build upon in our planning for the 2017 Annual Meeting in Boston. We hope to see you there.

Investing in Quality Improvement. The AAN successfully piloted the Axon Registry® with four cohorts involving nearly 800 neurologists and more than 1 million patient records. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services approved the Axon Registry as a Qualified Clinical Data Registry, meaning AAN members will be able to easily submit quality data to CMS and participate in future Medicare value-based payment programs under MACRA. In addition, the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology stated participating in Axon Registry will meet Maintenance of Certification Performance in Practice requirements. The Axon Registry demonstrates our commitment to improving the quality and value of neurologic care.

Inspiring Tomorrow's Neurologists. The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation awarded a grant to the AAN to help increase the percentage of medical students entering neurology by 25 percent over a three-year period. This will help us determine what factors lead medical

students to choose neurology as a career and develop materials to inspire more students to go into our specialty.

Nurturing Tomorrow’s Neurology Leaders.

Future success depends on tomorrow’s leaders. We evaluated and rebranded our Leadership Programs, launched the Transforming Leaders Program for mid-career neurologists, and developed the Women Leading Neurology Program for implementation in 2017.



Collaborating with Child Neurology. The AAN developed a Child Neurology Work Group in late 2015 with representation from the AAN and the Child Neurology Society to collaborate and identify ways that the two organizations can work together to improve care for patients across the life span. This collaboration has led to initiatives such as new programming at the Annual Meeting including scientific presentations, networking opportunities, and panel discussions, as well as new scholarships to the Annual Meeting for five child neurology residents. In addition, more child neurologists have been integrated into AAN leadership opportunities such as committees and subcommittees, science and education program groups for Annual Meeting program, and as participants in AAN Leadership Programs.

Commitment to Innovation. As leaders, we are committed to advancing the AAN through innovation. We started work on redesigning all of our publications and their websites, including *AAN.com*—which receives more than 1 million visitors each year. We’ve engaged some of the top design agencies from around the world to deliver a highly attractive, easy-to-digest user experience. In addition, we started work on a new powerful search engine across all of our websites to make finding AAN content easier and more relevant. Furthermore, we’re embarking on new personalization strategies to help deliver relevant and timely content when and how you like to learn. Even more exciting, we have begun to develop a new website for patients, caregivers, and the public that will serve as a new tool for members looking to provide their patients content from the most trusted authority on managing neurologic disease—the AAN.

Addressing Gender Disparity in Neurology.

Appointed in October 2016 in response to startling salary data that shows neurology has one of the widest discrepancies between genders, the Gender Disparity Task Force is studying compensation, professional advancement, leadership opportunities, and work/life balance. It will make recommendations for strategies to improve the identified disparities.

Please know that each day, AAN member volunteers and our staff are fighting on your behalf to make it easier to be a successful neurologist. We’ve got your back.

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Our Vision

To be indispensable to our members.

Our Mission

To promote the highest quality patient-centered neurologic care and enhance member career satisfaction.

Our Goals

- Ensure the ongoing health of the profession and the organization in order to support the unique needs of all members.
- Personalize member communication and the member experience.
- Educate and assist members in order to provide high-quality, high-value clinical care in the evolving health care environment.
- Advocate for members and their patients on issues of importance to neurology, including access to high-quality, cost-effective care, research, and fair payment.
- Enhance member satisfaction, wellbeing and resiliency with resources that support members throughout their careers.
- Promote neurology and neuroscience research and training.

Our Core Values

Core values answer the question: “How do we want to act as we move toward achieving our vision?”

Leadership

We provide guidance and inspiration through education, information, policy development, and advocacy for our members and their patients.

Integrity

We set and maintain the highest ethical and professional standards for ourselves, our staff, and our programs.

Professionalism

We work with expertise, commitment, and diligence to provide high-quality neurological care.

Commitment

We are dedicated to upholding the integrity and mission of the American Academy of Neurology.

Diversity and Equality

We commit to building and sustaining an inclusive organization that respects and values the diversity of our membership and the communities we serve, and promotes equality in professional advancement and compensation.

Respect

We embrace the dignity and uniqueness of every human being and in all we do keep the interests of the patients first.

Compassion

We are sensitive and empathetic to the needs of others.



GUIDELINES

The AAN assists neurologists in making decisions regarding the diagnosis and treatment of their patients by creating guidelines that are considered the gold standard in evidence-based medicine.

The Academy published [six new guidelines](#) and [practice advisories](#) in *Neurology*® in 2016 and provided summaries for physicians and patients on these topics:

- Practice Guideline: Treatment of Restless Legs Syndrome in Adults
- Practice Advisory: The Utility of EEG Theta/Beta Power Ratio in ADHD Diagnosis
- Practice Advisory: Recurrent Stroke with Patent Foramen Ovale (Update of Practice Parameter)
- Practice Advisory: Etanercept for Poststroke Disability

- Practice Guideline Update Summary:

Botulinum Neurotoxin for the Treatment of Blepharospasm, Cervical Dystonia, Adult Spasticity, and Headache

- Practice Guideline Update Summary: Corticosteroid Treatment of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Translated Guidelines

The Academy collaborated with the Mexican Academy of Neurology to produce English-to-Spanish [translations of a select number of the AAN's clinical guidelines](#). These new Spanish translations are offered through the AAN's journal *Neurology*® and join other AAN guidelines translated into Arabic, Chinese, Hungarian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, and Turkish.

Concussion Awareness

The AAN and American Brain Foundation collaborated with the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) to develop [a training video for concussion](#). The AAN/NFLPA joint press release received considerable media coverage. The video featured former NFL player and Super Bowl champion Ben Utecht, whose 2015 AAN public service announcement radio and TV spots continued to run on the air through 2016. Also, the AAN and its sports concussion guidelines were cited in a congressional hearing investigating concussions in athletics.



PRACTICE

The AAN is determined to help protect and strengthen solo and small group practices and fight against the regulatory hassles that stand between you and your patients and complicate your success as a practitioner.

Solo and Small Group Task Force Recommendations

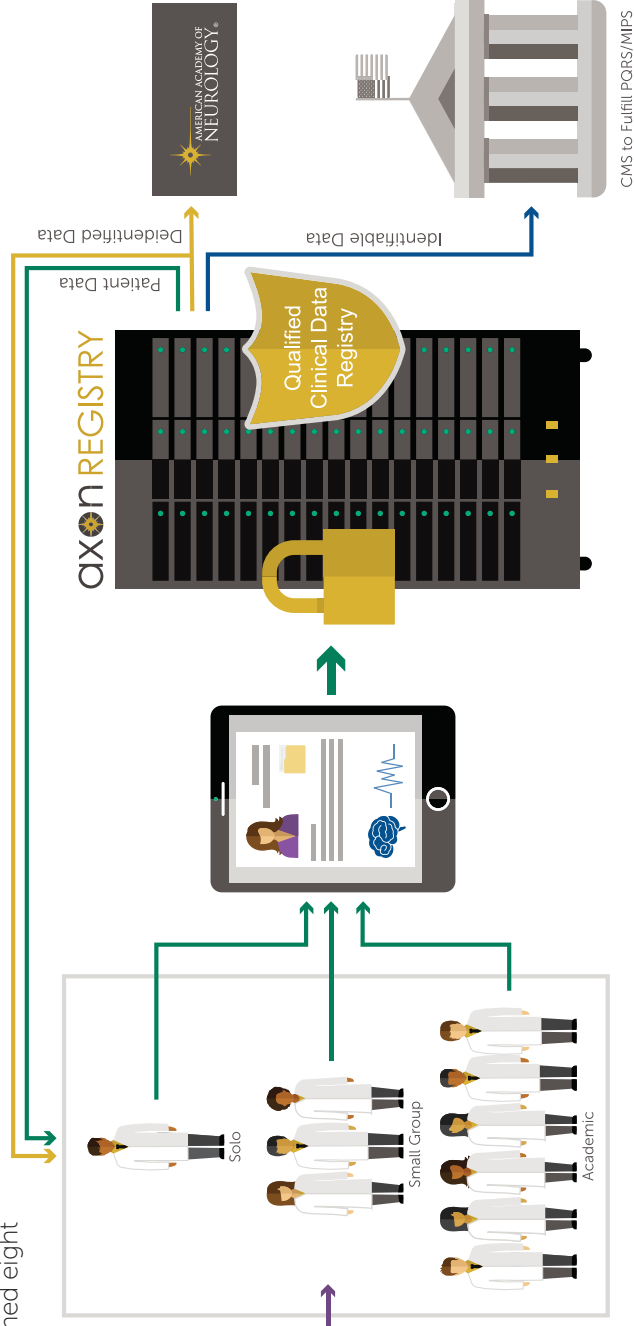
The Solo and Small Group Task Force appointed in 2015 by President Cascino was charged with reviewing existing AAN products and services and identifying major issues affecting solo and small practices. [Dr. Cascino announced in his October AANnews column](#) that the task force had submitted to the Board of Directors its report and 25 recommendations that spanned eight key topic areas:

1. Running Your Practice
2. Advocacy
3. Communications
4. New Payment Models
5. Practice Management Education
6. Coding and Reimbursement
7. Recruiting and Hiring
8. Representation in AAN Activities

The Board and staff began evaluating and prioritizing the recommendations as it continues to strive to be indispensable to its members in solo and small practice by supporting them to remain in the practice of their choosing.

Axon Registry

The Academy's [Axon Registry®](#) ramped up throughout the year, expanding the number of cohorts and ticking off milestones, including acceptance as a qualified clinical data registry. This means registry data can be used in PQRS reporting—saving time and decreasing administrative burdens for neurologists. After a successful pilot phase, nearly 800 AAN member neurologists are participating and we reached one million patient records faster than any other registry that our vendor has developed. In 2017, the Axon Registry will continue to grow in participation and the data will be used to inform quality improvement collaborations nationwide.



MACRA, MIPS, and APMs

Our staff has worked diligently to establish relationships with regulatory agencies in Washington, DC, and position the AAN as thought-leaders with officials. In April, the AAN responded to more than 300 questions posed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on draft regulations for the [Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act \(MACRA\)](#) and its [Quality Payment Program](#). The Academy emphasized its concerns about the impact the proposed rule could have on solo and small practices and suggested steps CMS should take in the final rule to alleviate these challenges, including ways to structure the new Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Alternative Payment Models (APM). In October, [CMS published its final rules](#), incorporating many of the Academy's recommendations to remove or lessen regulatory burdens on neurologists and demonstrating that the AAN has your back.

Academy volunteer members and staff developed frameworks for [epilepsy and headache APMs](#) to potentially use under MACRA. The AAN also placed a member representative onto the CMS working group that is developing episodes of care for future use in the cost component of MIPS.

Throughout the year, the Academy provided webinars, courses, and informational articles in [AANnews®](#) and "[Capitol Hill Report](#)" to help members understand the upcoming changes created by MACRA and how they could impact their reimbursement. [A suite of tools and resources](#) was developed to help you successfully transition to this new Medicare reimbursement model.

Quality Measures

As health care in the US has shifted to emphasize quality and outcomes of care, the AAN is instrumental in creating quality measures that neurologists and payers can assess effectiveness. New quality measures in 2016 included child neurology, essential tremor, inpatient and emergency care, neuro-oncology, neuro-otology, and updates of previous sets for Parkinson's disease, dementia, and stroke. The data provided by these measures can inform internal quality improvement, demonstrate quality care to payers and may lead to increased reimbursement while at the same time reducing costs raised by unnecessary or ineffective procedures.

Zika Virus Response

The outbreak of the Zika virus and its connection to increased instances of Guillain-Barré syndrome prompted the [AAN to collaborate with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#) to develop educational materials for health care providers on the diagnosis, management, and treatment of Guillain-Barré syndrome. At the Annual Meeting, we added a Zika virus presentation to the Hot Topics Plenary Session and a press conference on the effects of the virus on the brain. With the strong urging of the AAN, Congress included in its continuing resolution \$1.1 billion in funding to fight the virus.

Payer Relations

The AAN's [advocacy efforts with payers](#) reversed Cigna's blanket non-coverage of responsive cortical stimulation for the treatment of patients with medically refractory partial onset seizures. The Academy also pressed payers to universally adopt AAN quality measures.

Practice Management Webinars

The popular [Practice Management Webinars](#) were revamped with significantly lower pricing for individual webinars, which were reduced to one hour for the convenience of participants.

ACADEMIC

The AAN is committed to assisting neurology professionals in all areas of academic medicine: education, clinical, or research-oriented faculty; division chiefs; chairs; deans; and other roles.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Grant

As [President Cascino announced in June](#), the AAN received a significant grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to help increase the percentage of medical students entering neurology by 25 percent over a three-year period. The grant will help the AAN determine factors that lead medical students to choose neurology as a career; develop engaging multimedia resources to inspire medical students to maintain interest in neurology as a field; and expand and enhance the AAN's Student Interest Group in Neurology (SIGN) program, which provides opportunities to participate in clinical, research, and service activities in neurology at more than 150 chapters in US and Canadian medical schools.

Education Committee Strategic Plan 2016

In January 2016, the AAN Education Committee, President Cascino, President Elect Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAHA, FAAN, and staff met for two days at an Education Committee Retreat to review the overall AAN Education Program—all aspects from K-12 to post-graduate—and formulate a plan for the next two to four years, with the following academic goals aligned with the AAN's overall strategic plan:

- **Medical Student/Neurology Pipeline Goal:** Aligned with the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Grant, increase the percentage of medical students choosing to enter a neurology residency. The percentage has been at approximately two percent for at least the last 10 to 15 years. The goal is to increase it to three percent in three years.
- **Resident/Graduate Medical Education Goal:** Educate and assist neurology programs throughout the country in providing high-quality educational offerings while simultaneously meeting regulatory requirements.
- **Interdisciplinary Neurology Team Goal:** Provide high-quality educational and professional resources for all members

of the neurology care team, including resources to facilitate integration of APPs and other team members into neurology practices and departments.

- **Online eLearning Goal:** Create a centralized online learning production model, stand-alone curriculum architecture, and integration strategy that addresses personalized, blended learning plans that meet the needs of all career stages.
- **Public Goal:** Create excitement at a young age about neuroscience/neurology and provide a robust library of online teaching resources for elementary, middle school, and high school teachers to use in their classrooms (in collaboration with the "Neuroscience Is..." campaign). Ultimately, attract young people into neurology and/or raising awareness about neuroscience/neurology so they support activities in the neurology field (e.g., funding).
- **Meta Issues Goal:** Address, in collaboration with key stakeholders in the AAN, the underlying synergies that relate to the five goals outlined above (e.g., data collection, leadership opportunities, cross-collaboration with AAN committees, value of the educator, impact of AAN CME, ROI on AAN education).

CME & MOC

Ever since the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) mandated maintenance of certification (MOC), the AAN has supported members continually with tools and resources to help members successfully meet the recertification examination in clinical neurology. Responding to member concerns about the costs involved, the Academy made most of its MOC resources free to members in 2015, and built upon that commitment in 2016 with additional offerings.

New Online Neurology MOC Preparation Course

To complement the live MOC preparation course the AAN has offered at conferences, an easy-to-access online Neurology MOC Prep Course was made available, giving members more access and the chance to earn up to 15 self-assessment CME credits, anytime and anywhere.

Free NeuroSAE Annual Meeting Edition

Members attending the Annual Meeting in Vancouver could attain 10 free self-assessment CME credits by using the [NeuroSAE® Annual Meeting Edition](#) to assess their knowledge in major clinical areas of neurology and then build their ideal itinerary from provided course suggestions. A new edition was created for members attending the 2017 Annual Meeting in Boston.

New Free NeuroPISM Modules on Intracerebral Hemorrhage, Chronic Opioid Therapy

As a complimentary benefit to members, the AAN produced two new modules for its performance improvement CME program: [Chronic Opioid Therapy: Second Edition](#) and [Intracerebral Hemorrhage](#). Each module provides 20 CME credits and meets the MOC Part IV Clinical PIP requirement.

New Free NeuroLearn Patient Safety Course

A new [Patient Safety course](#) was added to NeuroLearnSM, the AAN's exclusive suite of online education courses free to members. The Patient Safety course is designed to help AAN members address the ABPN's one-time requirement of diplomates to complete an approved patient safety course within three years prior to their board certification/recertification, or in their first C-MOC block. The ABPN requirement was implemented in January 2016. NeuroLearn Patient Safety awards two self-assessment CME credits upon successful completion.

NeuroLearn Goes Mobile

The AAN adapted its popular [NeuroLearn](#) products to a mobile-friendly format, enabling members to access and complete NeuroLearn courses from any mobile device.

NeuroTracker Enhancements Help with MOC

The latest version of [NeuroTracker™](#)—the Academy's free online resource for conveniently tracking CME, Self-assessment, Performance in Practice, and professional development activities—was enhanced to reflect ABPN's requirement for MOC. It also includes new features to help in the event of an ABPN audit and automatically sends your AAN-specific CME, Self-assessment, and Performance-in-Practice credits to the ABPN on a quarterly basis for easy access in your ABPN Physician Folios account as "verified" credits.



PUBLIC POLICY

The AAN represents neurology before lawmakers and regulators, working diligently to preserve patient access to care, ensure there is adequate funding for brain research, and reduce regulatory hassles that consume too much of a neurologist's day.

2016 Legislative Priorities

The [AAN's legislative priorities for 2016](#) were set by the Government Relations Committee. The top issues for the Neurology on the Hill event were: 1) support for Furthering Access to Stroke Telemedicine (FAST) Act; 2) continued support for Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative funding; and 3) support for regulatory relief from Meaningful Use requirements. By the year's end, the AAN had secured more than 168 cosponsors for the FAST Act and won a flexible Meaningful Use EHR program hardship exemption. In December, the AAN's advocacy paid off as Congress passed the 21st Century Cures Act, which awarded \$1.51 billion towards the Brain Initiative (subject to annual appropriations). The legislation also contains \$1 billion to address the opioid abuse and addiction epidemic.

Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

AAN advocacy gained neurology victories in the 2017 [Medicare Physician Fee Schedule](#), including:

- Improved payment for visits that initiate chronic care management (CCM)
- Increased payment for complex CCM codes
- Payment for the assessment and creation of care plans for beneficiaries with cognitive impairment
- Payment for critical care consultations furnished via telehealth

BrainPAC

The elections of 2016 made for a busy year for [BrainPAC](#), the only federal political action committee that specifically represents neurology. Member donations enable the AAN to increase the influence and profile of neurology on Capitol Hill, particularly among lawmakers holding sway over health care issues. BrainPAC supported 125 candidates running for Congress in 2016—incumbents and challengers on both sides of the aisle—and 92% were victorious. BrainPAC itself was supported by \$380,598 in contributions from 1,436 members in 2016.

Neurology on the Hill

Capitol Hill was consumed by impassioned neurology advocates when the biggest [Neurology on the Hill](#) ever took place: 184 AAN members, 35 stroke advocates from the American Heart Association/America Stroke Association, 253 congressional offices visited, 879 tweets, and 1.1 million social media impressions. This was our first Neurology on the Hill event with representatives from a voluntary health association, and we were very pleased with the added dimension the advocates from the AHA/ASA provided in sharing our stories with Congress.

Palatucci Advocacy Leadership Forum

In a survey, all 2016 [Palatucci Advocacy Leadership Forum](#) advocates and advisors responding ranked the event as excellent or good, and 100 percent would recommend the program to their peers. Two additions to the program this year were well received: "Leading to Shape Communities" leadership training for advisors, and "Advocacy Showcase" highlighting advocacy initiatives, challenges, and methods for overcoming those challenges.

Congressional Visits

The AAN facilitated several in-person visits with members of Congress. AAN Board Member Sarah Benish, MD, FAAN, hosted Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN) at the Minneapolis Clinic of Neurology in August, providing an overview of her day-to-day activities in a physician-owned private practice. Several AAN members met with their representatives in their local district offices: Partha Thirumala, MD, met with Rep. Keith Rothfus (R-PA); Brett Kissela, MD, FAAN, met with Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH); and Nicholas E. Johnson, MD, Jennifer Majersik, MD, MS, Steve O'Donnell, MD, and Awais Riaz, MD, PhD, FAAN, met with staff of Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT). In addition, Executive Director/CEO Rydell, met with House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) in Minneapolis.

White House Visit

President Cascino; President Elect Sacco; and Executive Director/CEO Rydell, participated in the White House's "Making Health Care Better Series: Cardiovascular Health," highlighting advancements in cardiovascular health research, quality of care, delivery of care, and coverage over the past seven years.



CONFERENCES

AAN conferences are the backbone of its continuing medical education and sharing of scientific research. They also provide the opportunity for members to interact with leading experts in the field and network with colleagues.

2016 Annual Meeting

Canada warmly welcomed 11,670 attendees and more than 2,700 abstracts to a boldly reimagined and innovative AAN Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC, in April. Changes began with registration: Instead of the usual base registration fee and additional costs for some 230 education courses wrapped into a tightly structured pre-planned schedule, nearly all Annual Meeting activities were included in one rate, and attendees did not need to commit to specific courses in advance. Courses were shortened to two-hour blocks rather than full- or half-day structures to accommodate better learning practices. The Vancouver Convention Center was leveraged to make the most of a series of new dynamic and interactive Experiential Learning opportunities that offered an alternative to typical didactic teaching methods. These changes and the increased value provided by the Academy were met with great acclaim by attendees and will be built upon for the 2017 meeting in Boston.

Breakthroughs in Neurology

The AAN presented its second Breakthroughs in Neurology conference, held in January in Phoenix.

It drew 356 professional attendees excited to learn the “best of” clinical highlights, scientific breakthroughs, and other hot topics from the previous year.

Fall Conference

October’s Fall Conference shattered previous attendance records, with 715 people converging in Las Vegas to enjoy a three-day immersion in neurology and practice management education programs in the first year to offer all-inclusive registration to attendees. The attendance count was nearly 100 more than in 2015 and 80 people higher than the previous record year of 2013. The curriculum, networking opportunities, and exhibits all continued to grow for the popular conference.

Sports Concussion Conference

The third annual Sports Concussion Conference, offered in Chicago in July, attracted a record number of 481 professionals—20 percent more than in 2015. For the first time, the AAN was recognized by the Board of Certification, Inc., to offer continuing education for certified athletic trainers, which helped to strengthen the AAN’s

effort to create a meeting for all disciplines involved in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of sports concussion. The AAN also reached out to family physicians, pediatricians, and physical therapists regarding the conference devoted to the latest research findings and education on this too-common brain injury.

Brain Health Fair

The AAN shares its knowledge of and love for the brain each year with the community in the Annual Meeting’s host city through the popular Brain Health Fair. For its work in helping people understand the science of neurology and embrace the new milestones in research, the Brain Health Fair received a Silver Award in the American Society of Association Executives Power of A Awards, which recognize organizations with innovative, effective, and broad-reaching programs and activities that positively impact America and the world.



RESEARCH & AWARDS

Research is always a focal point at the Annual Meeting. More than 2,700 science abstracts were shared in Vancouver, poster halls were open daily, and each day featured a plenary session. Attendees were invited to Frontiers in Child Neurology, a new, free half-day program that brought together leading experts to explore the latest science in pediatric neurology.

AAN Research Program

The Academy's board and staff put into place a significant expansion of our investment in research via the [AAN Research Program](#), which includes money from the AAN Institute, the American Brain Foundation, association partners, the pharmaceutical industry, and AAN members. The amount for 2016 was \$2.6 million—an increase of \$200,000 over 2015.

Three new awards underscore the AAN's pledge to support all types of research across all career levels and discovery stages: the three-year, \$450,000 Career Development Award; the two-year, \$130,000 Neurology Research Training Scholarship; and the Future Clinical Researchers in Neurology and Neuroscience Scholarship, which offers to medical students/junior residents/junior fellows who are interested in a career in clinical research the possibility of receiving a \$1,000 scholarship to reimburse expenses associated with attending the AAN Annual Meeting.

Animals in Research

The AAN collaborated with the Foundation for Biomedical Research, Society for Neuroscience, and other organizations to publish a white paper advocating the continued importance of the use of nonhuman primates in medical research. ["The Critical Role of Nonhuman Primates in Medical Research"](#) makes the case for continued need of animals in research, particularly nonhuman primates. It cites a number of major medical accomplishments that were assisted by research monkeys, notably the development of brain-machine interfaces and advances in pregnancy outcomes, organ transplants, and mapping brain function. The paper states that because of significant differences between the brains of primates and rodents, it is necessary to rely on monkeys to continue to make advances in medical research.

Neuroscience Is...

Neuroscience Is...™ is a campaign by the AAN to build public awareness and demonstrate the importance of neuroscience research in care of neurology patients and the development of cures for brain diseases. Four new work groups were established to help direct this initiative, which demonstrates how Neuroscience Is... "Cool," "Rewarding," "Essential," and "Critical." In 2016, the AAN reached out to the public at the 2016 Brain Health Fair with resources, games, and social media opportunities to demonstrate why neuroscience is cool, and held a Neuroscience Is Cool video contest, which encouraged students to submit short videos about why neuroscience is cool to help shape a lifelong interest in the field. Neuroscientists of all career stages sat for interviews to discuss why neuroscience is a rewarding career path. These videos will be available on AAN.com and will be shown at the 2017 Annual Meeting. Compelling timelines demonstrating the amount of effort and tenacity required to go from hypothesis to therapy have been displayed at AAN conferences, and plans are underway to transform them to patient materials so the public can understand why neuroscience is essential to brain health.



LEADERSHIP

New Leadership Programs

The Academy established a new overarching branding for its [AAN Leadership Programs](#), which are designed to develop and hone a diverse range of leadership skills over a lifetime of membership. Leadership courses offered at the Annual Meeting and regional conferences are now called Leadership University. Applications were strong for the new Transforming Leaders program, an elite 10-month program designed to identify and

develop talent among experienced members for future leadership roles in the AAN and the field of neurology. A six-month program designed for mid-career female neurologists—Women Leading in Neurology—was retooled for 2017. Other programs for members include Diversity Leadership, Emerging Leaders, Palatucci Advocacy Leadership, Enhanced Resident Scholarship, and Minority Medical Student Scholarship.



MEMBERSHIP

Live Well

The prevalence of burnout among neurologists has been a priority issue of the Academy and President Cascino for several years. Daily work challenges, aggravating regulatory burdens, and emotional exhaustion can lead to the loss of interest and enthusiasm for practicing medicine. This affects physicians as well as the care provided to patients. AAN leadership created a task force to investigate the range, causes, and effects of burnout on members and to recommend actions and resources to confront this problem. This work resulted in the Live Well campaign created to build awareness

New FAAN Members

The designation of [Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology \(FAAN\)](#) is a highly regarded accomplishment, and the Academy encouraged members to apply for the recognition they deserve—and the endorsement they need to be considered for key leadership positions on the AAN Board of Directors. In 2016, 217 applications were submitted.

Business Administrators

The AAN introduced a tiered membership model for business administrators in 2016, with the top tier membership granting unlimited access to the 2016 Practice Management Webinar series. This tiered membership resulted in an over a 25-percent increase in members from 2015 to 2016.

Sections and Personalized Membership

To better meet the needs of subspecialties and special interest groups, the AAN revamped its sections and added staff dedicated to supporting their unique needs. The Academy also continued to personalize communications to ensure a seamless and optimal member experience, delivering the information most vital to their professional interests.

of the issue and to provide resources available at [AAN.com/LiveWell](#) to mitigate burnout. The Academy wants to help members mitigate burnout factors and restore balance and well-being in their professional and personal lives as it continues its efforts on the health policy front to decrease regulatory hassles.

New Synapse AAN Online Communities

To help members be part of a vibrant network of neurologists and neuroscience professionals in their areas of interest, the Academy launched [Synapse AAN Online Communities](#) to facilitate global conversations of all-things neurology. Synapse enables members to:

- Exchange insights on professional-related topics and issues
- Share expertise on patient care
- Discuss timely news and science affecting the field of neurology
- Find answers to tough questions
- Share the realities of and possible solutions to challenges in practice, patient care, academia, and other areas of the neurology profession



Advanced Practice Providers

The Academy knows that providing quality neurologic care is the work of many hands, and wants to provide membership programs for the entire care team. To improve delivery of timely resources and information to help strengthen neurology practices, the AAN continued its tiered membership model for advanced practice providers, offering a new Synapse Online Community and other dedicated benefits. We now have nearly 700 nurse practitioner and physician assistant members.

Trainees

To ensure the ongoing health of the neurology profession—and the future viability of the AAN to support the unique needs of all members—the Academy deepened its commitment to recruit medical students to neurology, increasing this membership population to 4,866 and exceeding the Board's goal of 4,151. Greater effort went into retaining Junior members (residents and fellows) and engaging them more fully in the AAN experience with tailored communications.

Career Services

The AAN's goal of supporting members throughout their careers extends to helping them find new opportunities and providing tools and resources that help them put their best foot forward. The [Neurology Career Center](#) was exceptionally busy in 2016, with more than 425,000 job views. The popular monthly Jobs Email continued to be one of the top-viewed emails of all AAN communications to members. In all, more than 1,900 job applications were completed online.

Board Nominations for 2017-2019

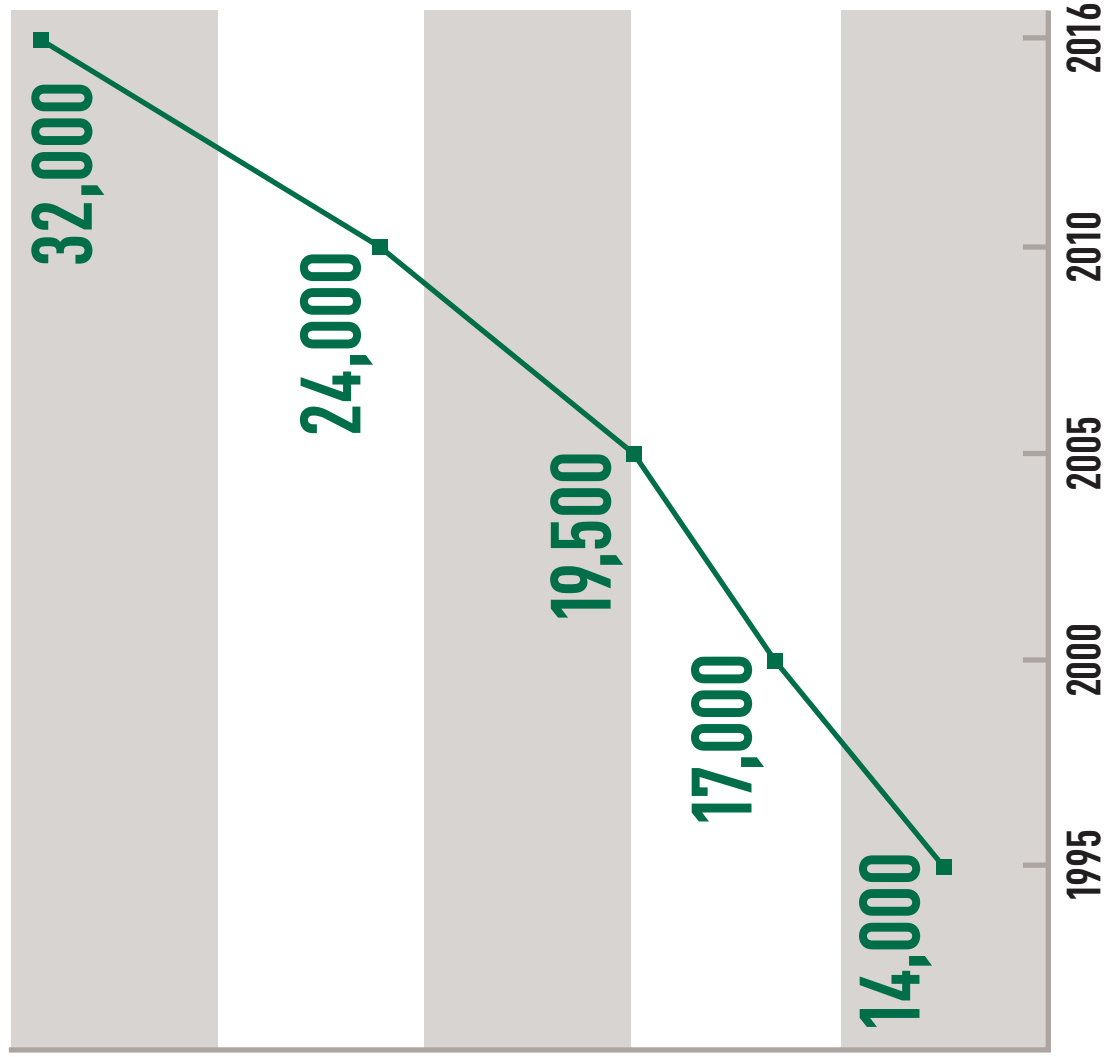
Because the AAN is a volunteer-driven organization, the service and commitment of [the Board of Directors](#) is critical to the Academy's success. Making sure the composition of the Board members reflects the diversity of membership can help ensure that the AAN is serving all members to the best of its ability. To that end, the Academy strongly promoted nominations for open Board positions to under-represented members in solo and small practices, female members, neurologists of various ethnic backgrounds, and those early in their career. The campaign resulted in a record number of applications including a qualified pool of candidates from various ethnic backgrounds and practice settings.



Breakdown of US Members



Membership Growth



Based on 2016 year-end data.

Membership Demographics



International Members
6,000

US Members
26,000

US Neurologists 14,000 **More than 89%** of current market share

Based on 2016 year-end data. Includes members in arrears.

PUBLICATIONS

Awards for AAN Publications

Once again, the AAN's *Neurology Now*® and *Neurology Today*® garnered top editorial awards in the 2016 American Society of Healthcare Publication Editors competition, which draws nearly 3,000 entries each year and is judged by a panel of publishing professionals. *Neurology Now* received the Silver Award in the Best Profile category for its profile of Walter Mondale, "[A Leader Takes on Brain Disease](#)," published in the April/May 2015 issue. The patient education magazine's For the Caregiver department was given a Bronze Award in the Best Regular Department category for its articles in the [April/May](#), [June/July](#), and [October/November](#) 2015 issues.

Neurology Today was honored with a Bronze Award in the Best News Coverage category for the article, "[AAN's Call for Repeal of MOC Part IV Awaits Action from Credentialing Board](#)," published in the April 2, 2015, issue.

Neurology Now and *Neurology Today* received top awards from APEX, an annual competition recognizing excellence in print, web, electronic, and social media. *Neurology Now* received the top honor, the Grand Award for Writing, for the article, "[Dementia 101](#)" (December/January 2015). *Neurology Today* won the Award of Excellence for News Writing for the article, "[When Academic Neurologists Leave, Who Owns Their Research? Sometimes, Not Always. It's a Tug of War Between Institutions](#)" (October 8, 2015).

Neurology Now was awarded a 2016 Clarion Award in the category, Magazine Feature Article, External Publication – Circulation of 500,000 or More: Current News, for the June/July 2015 article, "[A Labor of Love](#)." The article features "Orange is the New Black" actress Connie Shulman's work on a documentary to chronicle her friend's frontotemporal dementia and raise awareness of the fatal disease. The award was given by the Association of Women in Communications.

Neurology®



In January, [Neurology](#) launched two specialty interest sites. [Without Borders](#) is designed to be the go-to source for tracking science and politics of neurology beyond the United States, featuring

up-to-the-minute blogs, scholarly perspectives, and academic review of developments and research from *Neurology* journals and other sources. [Innovations in Care Delivery](#) is a forum to explore new care models from multiple disciplines, access sources on health care innovation, and read expert opinions on current research from *Neurology* journals. Actor Robin Williams' widow, Susan Schneider Williams, wrote an editorial in the September 27 issue describing her husband's battle with Lewy Body dementia. It was covered by over 650 news outlets, receiving nearly 2 billion impressions, and has been downloaded more

than 90,000 times since publication. The podcast for *Neurology* reached 10 million overall downloads in 2016.

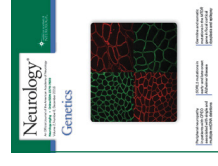
Neurology® Clinical Practice



Focused on introducing original research articles of direct relevance and importance to neurologists in clinical practice, this journal engaged readers with the new [Practice Current: An Interactive](#)

[Exchange on Controversial Topics](#). The latest survey on "When do you stop antiepileptic drugs?" generated more than 400 responses from neurologists in more than 50 countries.

Neurology® Genetics



Launched in 2015, the open access journal [Neurology: Genetics](#) published many reports on important developments in neurogenetics. The June 2016 issue was one of the journal's

largest to date, featuring an article on identifying the molecular etiology of Parkinson dementia. Papers were also presented on the *Neurology* podcast, including an article on the clinical and genetic features of cervical dystonia. As of April, articles in *Neurology: Genetics* can be searched using PubMed.

Neurology® Neuroimmunology & Neuroinflammation



In its third year of open access publishing, [Neurology® Neuroimmunology & Neuroinflammation](#) published rigorously peer-reviewed reports of original research and in-depth reviews of topics in neuroimmunology and neuroinflammation, affecting the full range of neurologic diseases. A paper on laquinimod preventing and reducing progression of MS in mice was featured.

Neurology Today®



Celebrating its 15th year in publication, the AAN's biweekly newspaper [Neurology Today](#) covered important news on clinical, research, policy, practice, and other topics relevant to neurologists, and was received by all US neurologists and all AAN members worldwide. The newspaper increased its social media reach— as of November 2016, over 5,700 Facebook followers, 27,400 Twitter followers. The Academy continued deployment of *Neurology Today*® Conference Reporter this year, an e-news service sent to all subscribers covering scientific meeting highlights from the AAN's Annual Meeting and seven additional subspecialty meetings.

Continuum: Lifelong Learning in Neurology®



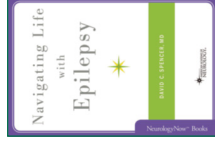
Circulation for [Continuum](#)® continued to increase at a time when most print publications are seeing a decline. With a total circulation through November of 11,733, up 9.3% over November 2015, the AAN's bimonthly topic-based, self-study CME journal for practicing neurologists examined spinal cord disorders, neuro-oncology, behavioral neurology and neuropsychiatry, headache, neurocritical care, and neuroinfectious disease. *Continuum* also increased its social media reach—over 2000 Facebook followers. *Continuum* is provided as a free benefit of Junior membership.

Neurology Now®



This patient and caregiver magazine is provided free to those with neurologic conditions and their families and is an important patient education resource for AAN member neurologists to distribute in their offices. [Neurology Now](#) has a per-issue estimated reach of 1.6 million readers and more than 300,000 individuals have signed up to receive free subscriptions. The magazine expanded online content, including the physician-written blog "The Neurologist is In." It also increased its social media reach with more than 23,000 Facebook likes and 24,300 Twitter followers

Neurology Now® Books



Neurology Now Books published *Navigating Life with Epilepsy*, the latest entry in its patient and caregiver series. The book provides accessible, comprehensive, and up-to-date information about epilepsy, guiding the reader through the initial diagnosis, current approaches to diagnostic testing, medications, treatment options, and life management for the patient, their family, and their caregiver.

AANnews®



The official monthly member magazine of the Academy, [AANnews](#) is mailed to 26,000+ US members and is posted online in the Membership area of [AAN.com](#) for international and US members to easily access. Along with keeping members up-to-date on Academy activities and upcoming events in 2016, the magazine explained the many new developments resulting from MACRA, introduced AAN Board members and their leadership perspectives, and shared how the AAN and industry work together on common goals and how Academy and its members benefit from these relationships.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2016 Revenue \$47.6M



Diverse revenue streams help the AAN keep membership dues as low as possible.

2017 STRATEGIC PLAN

American Academy of Neurology and American Academy of Neurology Institute

Strategic planning is all about determining where the Academy is going, how we get there, and when we'll know if we got there or not. Our philosophy is to be mission-directed, data-driven, and have strategic planning be an active part of the culture and process. As a result, the AAN has developed a comprehensive process for continual strategic planning and strategic decision making.

Creating a Wildly Important Goal (WIG) has served as a critical organization-wide strategy for focus in the midst of the daily functions that need to be done. The identified WIG is to:

Demonstrate the value of neurology, neurologists, and neuroscientists

This goal is wildly important because the Academy must demonstrate value to advocate for patient access to high-quality care, fair reimbursement, research funding, and other issues. The Academy must also demonstrate value to attract an adequate neurology workforce, create member satisfaction, and support the neurologist role in the evolving health care environment. The Academy must also demonstrate value to create awareness of the neurologist's role by the public and patients, policy makers, and others.

2017-2019 Strategic Goals

The Board-approved goals for 2017-2019 are:

1. Ensure the ongoing health of the profession and the organization in order to support the unique needs of all members
2. Personalize member communication and the member experience
3. Educate and assist members in providing high-value clinical care in the evolving health care environment
4. Advocate for members and their patients on issues of importance to neurology, including access to high-quality, cost-effective care, research, and fair payment
5. Enhance member satisfaction, well-being and resiliency with resources that support members throughout their careers
6. Promote neurology and neuroscience research and training

Future Objectives

Much progress was made in 2016 toward accomplishing the Academy's goals through key objectives met by Academy committees and volunteers, leadership, and staff. In 2017, the Academy will continue to:

- Focus on expansion of the Axon Registry
- Develop an improved digital infrastructure for supporting the member experience
- Continue to build and sustain inclusion of our diverse membership and the communities we serve
- Continue our innovation in the Academy's education programs
- Continue to improve and offer tools, resources, and communication regarding health care developments and reforms
- Focus on neurologist workforce advocacy including the well-being of our members, regulatory hassles, the neurologist care team, gender disparities, medical students, academic medicine, and solo and small practice
- Support neuroscience research
- Expand on efforts to personalize the member experience and redesign our publications

The process of continual, data-driven strategic planning and decision making will continue as the Academy strives to be indispensable to you!

2015-2017 AAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President:** Terrence L. Cascino, MD, FAAN
- President Elect:** Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAHA, FAAN
- Vice President:** James C. Stevens, MD, FAAN
- Secretary:** Aaron E. Miller, MD, FAAN
- Treasurer:** Lisa M. Shulman, MD, FAAN
- Past President:** Timothy A. Pedley, MD, FAAN

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- Neil A. Busis, MD, FAAN
- Charles C. Flippen II, MD, FAAN
- Carlayne E. Jackson, MD, FAAN
- Elaine C. Jones, MD, FAAN
- Janis M. Miyasaki, MD, Med, FRCPC, FAAN
- John C. Morris, MD, FAAN
- Stefan M. Pulst, MD, FAAN
- Thomas R. Vidic, MD, FAAN

Ex officio (Voting):

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Chair, Medical Economics and Management Committee
- Gregory D. Cascino, MD, FAAN
Chair, Member Engagement Committee
- Nicholas E. Johnson, MD
Chair, Government Relations Committee
- Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FANA, FAAN
Neurology® Editor-in-Chief

Ex officio (Non-Voting):

- Catherine M. Rydell, CAE
Executive Director/CEO

2015-2017 AAN INSTITUTE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Chair Elect:** Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAHA, FAAN
- Vice Chair:** James C. Stevens, MD, FAAN
- Secretary-Treasurer:** Bruce Sigsbee, MD, FAAN (2015)
- Secretary-Treasurer:** Ann H. Tilton, MD, FAAN (2016)
- Past Chair:** Timothy A. Pedley, MD, FAAN

Directors:

- Sarah M. Benish, MD, FAAN
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- Janis M. Miyasaki, MD, Med, FRCPC, FAAN
- John C. Morris, MD, FAAN
- Stefan M. Pulst, MD, FAAN
- Thomas R. Vidic, MD, FAAN

Ex officio (Voting):

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Chair, Science Committee
- Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FANA, FAAN
Neurology Editor-in-Chief
- Heidi B. Schwarz, MD, FAAN
Chair, Practice Committee
- A. Gordon Smith, MD, FAAN
Chair, Education Committee

Ex officio (Non-Voting):

- Catherine M. Rydell, CAE
Executive Director/CEO



2016 ACADEMY COMMITTEES

Board Executive Committee

Board Planning Committee

- Member Research Subcommittee

BrainPAC Executive Committee

AAN Bylaws Committee

AAN Institute Bylaws Committee

Audit Committee

Compensation Committee

Education Committee

- Conference Subcommittee
- Distance Learning Subcommittee
- Examination Subcommittee
- Graduate Education Subcommittee
- Undergraduate Education Subcommittee

Ethics, Law and Humanities Committee

Fair Hearing Panel Committee

Finance Committee

Government Relations Committee

Grievance Committee

Investment Committee

Journal Arbitration Committee

Leadership Development Committee

- Medical Student Diversity Subcommittee

Medical Economics and Management Committee

Medical Student Diversity Subcommittee

- Coding Subcommittee
- Payment Policy Subcommittee
- Practice Management and Technology Subcommittee

Meeting Management Committee

Member Engagement Committee

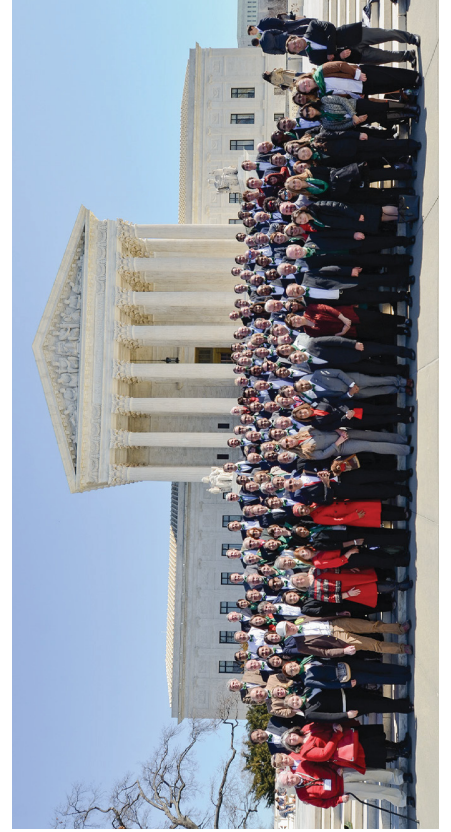
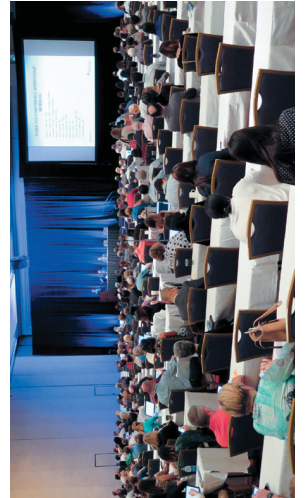
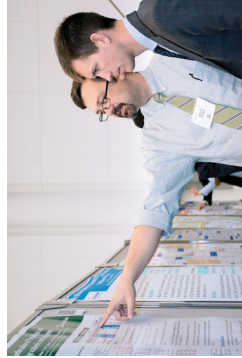
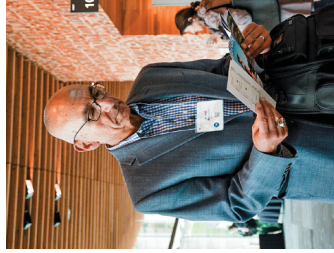
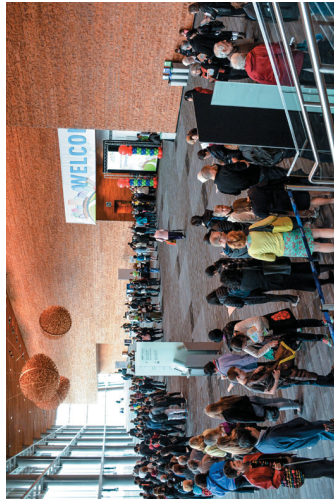
- Digital Strategy Subcommittee
- International Subcommittee
- Member Application Review Subcommittee
- Sections Subcommittee

Nominations Committee

Practice Committee

- Guideline Development, Dissemination, and Implementation Subcommittee
 - Quality and Safety Subcommittee
- Publications Committee
- Registry Committee
- Science Committee
- Clinical Research Subcommittee







American Academy of Neurology

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GUIDELINES

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