

**Professional Affairs Committee of the American Association of
Neuropathologists**

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

SECTION I. Background

Neuropathology is a profession built around the principles that guide patient care, education, and research in order to promote human health. Neuropathology subspecialty is intricately connected to the practice of Anatomic Pathology, and is directly affected by the developments in Molecular Pathology and Neurosciences. The American Association of Neuropathologists (the Association) was founded in 1925 to advance the science, practice and teaching of neuropathology and is the principal advocate of the profession in the United States.

SECTION II. Charge and the Mission of the Professional Affairs Committee

The Constitution of the Association states that *the Vice-President for Professional Affairs shall be the chairman of the Professional Affairs Committee (PAC). PAC shall keep the Association informed in all professional affairs affecting the practice, including teaching, research, training and certification in neuropathology. Subject to the wishes of the President, PAC chairman may represent the Association at meetings with representatives of other organizations, public or private, in the pursuit of information pertaining to professional affairs. PAC members are required to be licensed to practice medicine, and be actively engaged in the practice of neuropathology.*

In addition, PAC is charged with the following: 1) to study issues associated with professional practice as they relate to neuropathology education, 2) to establish and improve working relationships with organizations, 3) to assist members in sharing professional experiences, and 4) to work with individuals and public to promote neuropathology education at all levels. PAC was also encouraged to identify issues critical for neuropathology training through its Education subcommittee. The annual report of the Vice-President for Professional Affairs summarizes the initiatives, important changes in neuropathology practice, training, as well as interactions with other professional organizations. While the Association (and PAC) is not responsible for the certification of practicing neuropathologists, it represents the overwhelming majority of experts in this field with the highest competence to define the professional boundaries of the practice.

SECTION III. Policy Statement

PAC shall adopt initiatives that will support its members and academic programs in their efforts to train neuropathology professionals committed to their communities and all the populations they serve. PAC will aim to facilitate opportunities for the development and maintenance of strong academic, community and public cooperation.

A) PAC shall:

- 1. Participate in the establishment of guidelines in neuropathology practice and education.**
- 2. Participate in facilitating competence in the practice of neuropathology.**

3. ***Participate in designing guidelines and recommendations in neuropathology fellowship training, as well as neuropathology component of anatomic pathology residency training.***
4. ***Encourage dialogue among its members and develop methods to obtain feedback in order to understand needs, trends and challenges of neuropathology practice. These efforts will include but not be limited to attempts to gather data necessary to make decisions on future programs or initiatives.***
5. ***Provide opinion and feedback in legislative issues that directly affect the practice of its members, and provide information to the public at large concerning these issues.***
6. ***Facilitate the educational efforts of the Association through its Education Subcommittee.***
7. ***Maintain communication and collaborate with other professional and governmental organizations whose functions or purpose directly or indirectly affect neuropathology practice. This communication will specifically include, but not be limited to interacting with the American Board of Pathology (ABP), United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP), College of American Pathology (CAP), Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP), International Society of Neuropathology and member organizations, and other professional organizations.***
8. ***Inform the membership about developments in any part of the country that may directly or indirectly impact their practice. Inform the organization on the neuropathology practice trends and statistics in the United States.***
9. ***Conduct its business in highest ethical standards, and expect all organizations and individuals that interact with PAC to act in the same manner.***
10. ***Undertake any other task or initiative requested by the President or the Executive Council of the Association.***

B) PAC shall NOT:

1. ***Act as a political action committee or organization, or engage in affairs to do not directly or indirectly impact practice, education or research in the field of neuropathology.***
2. ***Act on behalf of a religious organization or political party.***
3. ***Act as a certifying agency.***
4. ***Act in a manner in contradiction to provisions stated in section (A), or knowingly collaborate with any organization that does not conduct business with the highest ethical standards.***
5. ***Conduct business in contradiction with the decisions of the Executive Council.***

SECTION IV. Committee Membership

The members of PAC are selected by the Vice-President for Professional Affairs subject to approval by the President. Committee members shall be practicing members in good standing. Each member shall be appointed for five years but may be reappointed for additional terms. Those who lose their medical licenses or AANP membership status shall also be relieved of their responsibilities at PAC. The Chairperson shall ensure that committee member terms sufficiently overlap to maintain a continuum of service. PAC shall consist of no less than eight and no more than twelve members.

The chairperson may, at his/her discretion, call upon a vote of the entire committee to determine consensus on critical issues. Such voting may be executed through open ballot during the committee meetings or electronically through secure e-mail. Each member including the Chairperson shall have one vote, and the vote cast by the chairperson shall constitute the tie-breaking vote, if necessary. The Chairperson shall record such voting, its rationale and the outcome, and present it to the President of the Association.

SECTION IV. Committee Meetings

PAC shall meet at least once a year during the annual meeting of The Association. In addition, the Chairperson can call additional meetings as needed, and following approval by the President of The Association. The meeting agendas and minutes shall be submitted to the President, and if approved by the President shall be made public records of The Association.