

UNITED COUNCIL
FOR
NEUROLOGIC
SUBSPECIALTIES

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MEMORANDUM

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To: Karen Johnston, MD, President
Association of University Professors of Neurology

From: Brenda Riggott, UCNS Executive Director

Cc: JoAnn Taie, AUPN Executive Director
David J. Fink, MD, AUPN Representative, UCNS Board of Directors

Date: December 11, 2017

Subject: UCNS 2017 Third Quarter Report

As one of the five founding parent organizations of the United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties (UCNS), we are pleased to provide the Association of University Professors of Neurology (AUPN) with an update of the UCNS activities. Due to third quarter financials not being finalized until late October, the quarterly report was delayed and now includes activities through the month of October.

UCNS Activities

Marketing Report: The UCNS is expanding its reach through its sponsoring and parent organizations. The American Headache Society distributed flyers regarding the 2018 Headache Medicine Certification Examination and fellowship opportunities at their November meeting and Mayo Clinic agreed to distribute information about Autonomic Disorders certification and accreditation at its recent Autonomic Quantitation Workshop. We will continue identifying other potential opportunities and promotional partnerships.

A slide presentation was developed for use by an institution that was having a career day for residents and fellows to educate this target audience about the UCNS, its accredited training programs, certification, and career opportunities in UCNS-recognized subspecialties. This presentation is being updated and will be posted on the website and promoted for use by diplomates, training program directors, Board, and Council members.

The UCNS will continue to engage subspecialty stakeholders in distributing information at their meetings to increase their role as ambassadors for the UCNS and help increase awareness and recognition of UCNS certification and accreditation.

Board of Directors

David J. Fink, MD, FAAN serves as the AUPN representative and Vice Chair on the **UCNS Board of Directors**. The Board met via teleconference meeting in July and at the UCNS headquarters on October 21 for a combined strategic planning session and board meeting.

Strategic Planning Session - The strategic planning session focused on evaluating the current status of maintenance of certification (MOC), including the present UCNS program as well as the current American Board of Medical Specialties and American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology (ABPN) requirements and to discuss the future of UCNS MOC and the pros and cons of alternative models. The session included information that would assist the Board in future data-driven decision making. The Board and stakeholder groups, including diplomates, lapsed diplomates, and training program directors, were surveyed in advance of the meeting and results were recapped for the Board along with data collected from the annual reports submitted by the UCNS training programs and certification/recertification outcomes. The Board embarked in discussions about the future of UCNS recertification and explored alternative models. The strategic planning session outcome revealed that the Board wishes to explore a new recertification model. The task has been turned over to the Certification Council to determine an alternative UCNS maintenance of certification model and they will report to Board of Directors in April with proposals and budget projections.

Electronic Voting Policy - The Board passed an electronic voting policy that outlines the process for decision-making in this manner.

Staff Incentive Program - A staff incentive program was approved by the Board. The new program will be monitored through a scorecard of targets that tie exclusively to the UCNS budget, goals, and priorities. Previously the UCNS staff fell under the AAN's incentive program.

Accreditation

Angela Hays Shapshak, MD, and Jennifer S. Kriegler, MD continue to represent the AUPN on the **Accreditation Council**. Their expertise and participation are tremendous assets to the UCNS Accreditation Council's training program oversight.

Program Review and Milestones – Common and Headache Medicine milestones have been completed. Comments received during a comment period were reviewed at the fall Council meeting. A recommendation for approval will be forwarded to the Board in early 2018. Subspecialty-specific milestones are in development for Neurocritical Care (NCC), Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry, and Neuro-oncology. The Council is conducting a review of the common program requirements as is required every five years to make sure they are current. Once the review of the **common program requirements** is completed, the Council will review the subspecialty-specific program requirements for each subspecialty.

Newly accredited programs – A total of **eight programs** were newly accredited during the fall Council meeting. There are currently 195 **UCNS-accredited training programs**.

Certification

The current AUPN representative on the **Certification Council** is Matthew Fink, MD who also serves as Chair of the Council. The Certification Council recently expanded the number of physicians serving on the Council from five members to nine members. Dr. Alireza Minagar was nominated by the AUPN to fill one of the newly created seats on the Council. The UCNS administered seven examinations this year.

Addition of NCC Recertification Examination - The Neurocritical Care Society (NCS) submitted a formal request asking the UCNS to administer a recertification examination in 2018. They agreed to assist with offsetting the additional fixed expenses of administering the examination. The request was reviewed by the Certification Council and approved by the Board of Directors. No initial NCC certification examinations will be offered in 2018.

Extension of Certification - In the initial years of certification, some subspecialty examinations were offered for two consecutive years before moving to an every-other-year schedule. This required diplomates that fell in this “off year” recertification cycle to recertify a year early to avoid a lapse in certification. To eliminate this problem, the UCNS approved a new policy in July. The new policy provides diplomates who are due for recertification in a year when a recertification examination is not offered an extension of their certification to the next examination to avoid a lapse in certification.

NCC Application to ABPN - The NCS submitted an application to the American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology for recognition as an ABPN subspecialty. The UCNS supplied certification and training program information that was requested for the recognition application. The application will be reviewed by the ABPN in June 2018, and there is ongoing dialogue with the NCS and AAN during this process. The UCNS remains committed to administering the NCC examinations during this application and evaluation period.

There are currently 2,749 **UCNS-certified diplomates** in the nine UCNS-recognized neurologic subspecialty areas.

Financial

The UCNS is in a strong cash position. The budget forecast shows a potential net increase for 2017. The October 2017 financial report and 2018 budget are included with this update.

2018 Budget - The 2018 Budget was presented and approved. Projected revenue for 2018 is \$881,000. Certification fees for 2018 will be reported separately from recertification to provide a better reflection of activities. The budget includes \$37,000 to be used from the restricted grant fund to balance the budget. The grant fund was established with funds received from the AAN to provide support and balance the budget as needed in future years. There is currently \$92,000 available in the grant fund. The 2018 budget was presented as a balanced budget with the grant support discussed above.

On behalf of the UCNS Board of Directors and its Councils, I want to thank the AUPN for their ongoing support and leadership of the UCNS, and appreciate the opportunity to provide you with an update on the activities of the organization. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (612) 928-6106 or briggott@ucns.org.