

# OPERATIVE NOTES

American Academy of Pediatrics - Section on Surgery Newsletter

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AAP Section on Surgery  
Together, We Heal Children

## Pediatric Surgical Subspecialties Alliance Selects its First Chair

The American Academy of Pediatrics decided to reorganize sections to facilitate collaboration and improve feedback to the Board of the AAP. Sections are now grouped based on themes. The new **Pediatric Surgical Subspecialties Alliance (PSSA)** will unify the surgical based sections: Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Neurological Surgery,



Kenneth Gow, MD, FAAP

Ophthalmology, Oral Health, Orthopedics, Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Radiology, Surgery, and Urology. While this "Surgical Alliance" is a new entity, it takes over the past iteration in the form of the **Surgical Advisory Panel (SAP)**. Two SOSu leaders have previously led the SAP, **Drs. Arnold Coran** and **Michael Klein**. Following in those footsteps will be **Dr. Kenneth Gow** who was the SOSu Chair from 2021-22. His goal as the PSSA chair is to build a community amongst the 10 sections through communication such as newsletters and webinars. He is following **Dr. Kris Rosbe** (the last SAP Chair) who was elected to the Board of the AAP. Drs. Rosbe and Gow will work together to bring surgeons' voices to the Board. It is here that the decisions are made that will guide the plans and policies of the entire organization. The Editors of Operative Notes have loaned some of its staff to help with the formation of the PSSA Newsletter - stay tuned.

## Section on Surgery 2024 NCE Symposium I: How Pediatric Readiness Can Impact Pediatric Trauma From Every Day to Mass Casualty

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Each National Conference and Exhibition Section on Surgery meeting provides an opportunity to provide symposia that reach across to our partners in the American Academy of Pediatrics. This year, **Section on Surgery** and the **Council on Children and Disaster** will present, “*How Pediatric Readiness can Impact Pediatric Trauma from Every Day to Mass Casualty*”. This session will include expert speakers:

- **Sarita Chung** (Pediatric Emergency Medicine) on the topic of pediatric readiness
- **Ron Ruffing** (Pediatric Emergency Medicine) discussing medical operations coordinating centers
- **Mary Fallat** (Pediatric Surgery) describing her success with trauma education in rural centers, specifically in Kentucky
- **Mike Dingeldein** presenting the findings from his work in Ohio Region V and development of a toolkit in preparation for surge events

This session will be moderated by **Tony Escobar** and **Deanna Dahl-Grove**, both experts in pediatric trauma and members of the AAP Council on Children and Disaster.

The AAP **Council on Children and Disaster (COCD)** was founded in 2019, as an evolution of the work conducted under the AAP **Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council (DPAC)**. The formation of the COCD reflects an enduring commitment within the AAP of the importance of disaster preparedness and recovery in all aspects of pediatric care. The COCD has collaborated with the Section on Surgery since its inception highlighting the close relationship between pediatric trauma and pediatric disaster preparedness.

In July 2019, the **Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)** issued a funding opportunity announcement aimed at the creation of centers of excellence (COEs) for comprehensive regional pediatric disaster management. There were two awards granted establishing the **Western Region Alliance for Pediatric Emergency Management [WRAP-EM]** and the creation of the **Eastern Great Lakes Pediatric Consortium for Disaster Response [EGLPCDR]**, now known as Region V for Kids). Through additional ASPR support, this has ultimately led to creation of the **Center for Pediatric Everyday Readiness-Regional Pediatric Pandemic Network (PPN)**. The PPN supports healthcare infrastructures that care for children to prepare and respond to global health threats, including pandemics, by creating a network of 10 children’s hospitals and their affiliated subject matter experts supported by WRAP-EM, Region V for Kids and the EMS for Children Innovation and Improvement Center (EIIC). Each of the speakers has expertise in the development and implementation of these systems and serve as leaders in the pediatric disaster preparedness arena.

## Symposium I/cont'd



Sarita Chung, MD,  
FAAP



Ron Ruffing, MD, FAAP



Mary Fallat, MD, FAAP



Mike Dingeldein, MD,  
FAAP



Tony Escobar, MD, FAAP

Moderators



Deanna Dahl-Grove, MD, FAAP

## SOSu Trainee and Early Career Surgeons Committee (TECS) Announcements

The **Trainees and Early Career Surgeons Committee (TECS)** is pleased to announce the Webinar on “How to successfully develop subspecialty programs” with expert panelists **Dr. Rebecca Rentea** (colorectal program – Kansas City, MO), **Dr. Regan Williams** (vascular anomalies program, Memphis, TN), **Dr. Jamie Robinson** (aero-digestive program, Nashville, TN), and **Dr. Kirk Reichard** (bariatric program, Wilmington, DE) on **February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM EST**. If you are interested in joining this Webinar, please register [HERE](#).

The TECS committee is also planning a **Virtual Mock Oral Boards** for Early Career Surgeons taking their boards this spring. The planned date is **February 18<sup>th</sup> 6-8 pm EST**. Please send an email to Lindel Dewberry ([lindel.krige@gmail.com](mailto:lindel.krige@gmail.com)) if you are interested in registering as an examinee or examiner. The first 30 examinees will be selected. We plan to have groups of 5 fellows with 2 faculty members each on zoom for 2 hours.

We are currently still gathering evaluations for our mentorship program that started in October 2022. If you have not done so yet, please fill out our survey [HERE](#) so we can improve our program for the next cycles.

## Liaison Report: Committee on Fetus and Newborn (COFN)

Under the chairmanship of **Eric Eichenwald**, MD, FAAP, chief of neonatology at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the **Committee on Fetus and Newborn (COFN)** membership consists of ten neonatologists as well as liaisons to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), Child Protective Services (CPS), the National Association of Neonatal Nurses, and the AAP Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. The mission of COFN, which was established in 1937, is to improve health outcomes for the fetus and newborn by:

- Critically reviewing and synthesizing evidence on key topics into policy statements and reports for dissemination to Academy members and others working to improve perinatal outcomes
- Encouraging further research when knowledge gaps exist
- Providing expert collaboration with other agencies, organizations, and individuals that share the common goal of achieving the best outcomes for all children.



Tim Jancelewicz, MD, MA,  
MS, FAAP

Dr. Jancelewicz's role on the committee is to attend the biannual COFN meetings where statements in progress are discussed, and provide suggestions and input from the pediatric surgical perspective as needed. Throughout the year, he writes, reviews, and edits statement drafts that include content relevant to the Section on Surgery (which, he has found, is most statements!).

Recent COFN policy statements in *Pediatrics* during Dr. Jancelewicz's tenure include [Assessment and Management of Inguinal Hernias in Children](#), [Primary Care Framework to Monitor Preterm Infants for Neurodevelopmental Outcomes in Early Childhood](#), and [Use of Point-of-Care Ultrasonography in the NICU for Diagnostic and Procedural Purposes](#).

Other major statements in progress include a revised statement on [Post Discharge Follow-Up of Infants with Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia](#) and a new statement regarding recommendations on prenatal surgical intervention.

Tim Jancelewicz, MD, MA, M,S FAAP, Associate Professor Surgery and Pediatrics at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, has served as the Section on Surgery liaison to the AAP Committee on Fetus and Newborn (COFN) since 2019.

## The British Association of Paediatric Surgery

Paediatric surgeons had been appointed to British children's hospitals since the 1850s but it was not until 1953 that there were enough specialists to form an association. Prior to the emergence of the National Health Service (NHS), paediatric surgeons in children's hospitals had been dependent on charity, with their positions as honorary only, and an income that had to be derived from private practice. All this changed with the birth of the NHS in 1948, and the defining of a new specialty. Surgeons could now turn their gaze to congenital abnormalities, conditions which needed a dedicated service to correct.

Informal discussions on a British professional society for paediatric surgeons took place in the early 1950s. In October 1952, four British surgeons **Denis Browne, Robert Zachary, David Waterston and Peter Rickham** attended a meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics in Chicago. At that meeting, they discussed the foundation of a Society of Childrens' Surgeons.

In November 1953, at a special meeting at **Great Ormond Street Hospital**, an agreement on the formation of the association was approved. The initial committee of the British Association of Paediatric Surgery (BAPS) formed. It was decided that Denis Browne would be the first chair and an executive, 4 member committee was formed: Secretary David Waterston, Treasurer Peter Paul Rickham, and JJ Mason Brown and Harold Nixon. A decision was made to include overseas members



Great Ormond Street Hospital

in BAPS. This international push was thought necessary by David Vervat from Holland as many countries had no support. The international aspect expanded very quickly. Founding Members included **Denis Browne, Valentine Swain, JJ Mason Browne, Wallace Denison, Isabella Forshall, Peter Paul Rickham, Robert Zachary, Ambrose Jolleys, John Scott, and David Waterson.**

The **objectives** of BAPS were:

1. The advancement of the study, practice and research in paediatric surgery
2. The promotion of the teaching of paediatric surgery, both under-graduate and post-graduate, and advice on the training of Paediatric Surgeons
3. Advice on matters concerning the paediatric surgical services in the British Isles
4. The promotion of friendship with Paediatric Surgeons overseas.

## British Association of Paediatric Surgery / cont'd

### The Denis Browne Gold Medal

This award commemorates Sir Denis Browne (1892-1967), the first President of BAPS. It marks outstanding contributions to paediatric surgery worldwide and is awarded annually at the Annual Congress. The first medal was awarded in 1968 to **Robert E Gross** after Browne's passing. Some other Americans that have won this prestigious award include: **Pat Donahoe** 2019, **Michael Harrison** 2013, **Arnold Coran** 2007, **Jay Grosfeld** 1998, **JA Haller Jr** 1995, **WH Hendren** 1991, **MM Ravitch** 1988, **HW Clatworthy** 1984, **S L Gans** 1983, **O Swenson** 1979, **CE Koop** 1971.

### AAP SOSu and BAPS Joint Meetings

In 1962, towards the end of **Lawrence K Pickett's** tenure as Secretary of the AAP SOSu, Pickett thought that a joint meeting of the SOSu and the BAPS would be a good idea. The meeting was held in Edinburgh as the 12<sup>th</sup> congress of the BAPS July 27 through 30, 1965 as a joint enterprise with the AAP SOSu. The meeting was led by the BAPS President, Mr. **Wallace Dennison** from Glasgow and AAP SOSu Chair Lawrence Pickett from Yale. Another such meeting would occur in 1968 in London.



**BAPS Edinburgh, July 27, 1965.**

L-R: Pickett, Chair SOSu; Lord Weatherstone, Lord High Mayor; Mrs Dennison; Lady Weatherston; and Wallace Dennison, President BAPS



**Gathering at BAPS Meeting London, 1968.**

Standing L-R: Swenson, Pickett, Clatworthy, Lynn, Bill, Koop, Potts, Cloud, Dorman, Benson  
Seated L-R: Ravitch, Allen, Beardmore, Gross

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## British Association of Paediatric Surgery / cont'd



### Sir Denis John Wolko Browne (1892-1967)

**B**orn on April 2, 1892 in Melbourne, Australia, Sir **Denis Browne** studied medicine at St. Paul's College in Sydney and finished with his MB in 1914. After graduating, he served in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps in World War I, and in Gallipoli with the 13<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment. He became ill with typhoid fever, necessitating his return to Australia. After the war ended, he obtained his Fellowship of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons (FRCS) designation in 1922. Later that year, Browne joined the staff at Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street (GOS). He was the first British surgeon to devote his practice entirely to the

care of children and is recognized as the father of paediatric surgery in the UK. He studied and influenced the surgical management of a wide variety of problems including cleft lip and palate, PDA, intestinal obstruction, and GU anomalies. He passed on January 9, 1967. The year after his death, BAPS established the first annual Denis Browne Gold Medal in his honor, "to mark an outstanding contribution to paediatric surgery", with the additional comment that "the aim of paediatric surgery is to set a standard, not to seek a monopoly."

**Browne was the second recipient of the AAP SOSu Ladd Medal which was bestowed in 1957.**



### David James Waterston (1910-1985)

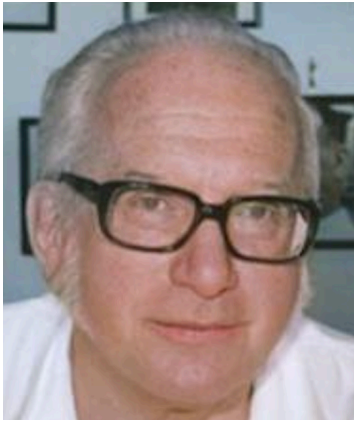
**B**orn in St. Andrews, Scotland on August 26, 1910, **David Waterston** entered the Universities of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh for his medical studies. He qualified in 1933 and after his initial house appointments in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, came to London where he began his life-time association with the Hospital for Sick Children at GOS. At first, he was a house surgeon but was soon promoted to senior surgical resident. In 1938, believing that war was inevitable, he took a short service commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) and was stationed in West Africa when war broke out.

After the war, he returned to his junior appointments at GOS. He passed the FRCS Edinburgh in 1946 and the FRCS three years later. In 1951, he was appointed consultant surgeon to the hospital and took a special interest in the care of neonates and young children. His experience in intra-thoracic surgery expanded to include the treatment of congenital heart defects and, in conjunction with Dr RE Bonham-Carter, he pioneered the thoracic unit, the first of its kind in the world. He operated on Prince (now King) Charles, then a schoolboy, for acute appendicitis. He was elected President of BAPS in 1961. Browne served as consulting paediatric surgeon to the Army until his retirement. He retired from hospital practice in 1975. He passed on May 8, 1985.

**Waterson was bestowed the Ladd medal in 1978.**

## British Association of Paediatric Surgery / cont'd

### Peter Paul Rickham (1917-2003)



**B**orn in Berlin on June 21, 1917, **Peter Paul Rickham** qualified from St. Bartholomew's, London and Queen's College, Cambridge, and served in the RAMC. After World War II, he was appointed to Liverpool, United Kingdom, as a senior registrar and subsequently a consultant in 1953 with Isabella Forshall, who had established the Pediatric Surgical Service there. Shortly thereafter, he established the first neonatal surgical unit in the world at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool. In 1969, he wrote the text *Neonatal Surgery* with JH Johnston. In 1983, he wrote the first textbook for students in the German language with RT Soper and UG Stauffer. Meanwhile in Liverpool, Rickham and his colleagues had established a training program based on Boston's program.

In 1971 he moved to Zurich where he became Chief of the Paediatric Surgical Department of the Kantonsspital of the University until his retirement in 1983.

Rickman served as the first Treasurer of BAPS and later as Secretary in 1956 and then as President in 1968. He was also a founding member of the European Union of Paediatric Surgical Associations and the Society for Research in Hydrocephalus and Myelomeningocele. He died on November 19, 2003.

**Rickham received the Denis Browne Medal in 1972 and the Ladd Medal in 2001.**

### Robert Bransby Zachary (1913-1999)



**B**orn on March 1, 1913, in Pudsey, England, **Robert Zachary** earned a Bachelor of Pharmacy in 1935 before completing a medical degree at the University of Leeds in 1940. He got his FRCS in 1943, originally working in orthopaedics at Oxford's Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre. He changed specialties in 1945 to paediatric surgery and received a grant to train at Boston Children's Hospital. In 1947, he became a consultant paediatric surgeon at Sheffield Children's Hospital. He focused on neonatal surgery and campaigned for all surgery on newborns to be done by specifically trained pediatric surgeons. He developed an international reputation for his expertise on the surgical management of spina bifida and hydrocephalus. After retiring, he moved to Australia and then to Canada. He passed on February 1, 1999.

Zachary was a founding member of BAPS and served as president in 1963. .

**Zachary was awarded the Denis Browne Medal in 1977.**

**He was a visiting lecturer for the AAP Section on Surgery.**



## AAP Section on Surgery Famous Figures: Lawrence K Pickett (1919 - 2003)



Lawrence K Pickett Sr.  
MD, FAAP

**L**awrence Pickett began his formal education at the Gilman School in Baltimore and continued at Yale College. He went on to a wartime-shortened medical education at Yale. He was recruited to the Boston Children's Hospital by **William E Ladd** before continuing on to General Surgery training at the Brigham Hospital. He completed his Pediatric Surgery training under **Robert E Gross** as Chief Resident in 1950. While in Boston, Pickett coauthored a paper with **Orvar Swenson** describing the initial experience with a newly described pull-through procedure for Hirschsprung's disease. After training, he became the first pediatric surgeon in the Syracuse area, practicing from 1950 through 1964. In 1964, he was recruited by Yale-New Haven Hospital in Connecticut to establish a pediatric surgical department. He was named the William H Carmalt Professor of Clinical Surgery and Pediatrics at Yale Medical School, the Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs to the Yale Medical School and the Chief of Yale-New Haven Hospital. After retiring in 1983, he accepted a post as medical director for the medical equipment manufacturer, Welch Allyn, Inc., in Skanetales until 1995. In 2003, he passed at the age of 84 years.

**Pickett served as the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Surgery's Second Secretary from 1958 to 1964 and then as Chair from 1964-65. At the 1965 annual meeting, he received a bronze statuette of a "Mother Holding Child" from the visiting professor, Dr. Fritz Rehbein. This statue is still passed to the newly elected Chair every year and is symbolic of leadership in Pediatric Surgery.**

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