



State Neurosociety Newsletter

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February 2021

State Legislative Spotlight

- In 2020, the AAN focused state advocacy efforts on the five states with the highest AAN member count and one small state including: California, Florida, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. In 2021, the AAN is expanding efforts to include Illinois, Ohio, and Texas. The AAN is primarily tracking legislative issues related to telehealth and scope of practice in these states, as well as ad hoc issues affecting neurology in any state as they arise.

[Use this interactive tool to track bills on telehealth and scope of practice in your state](#)

- The number of states that have adopted the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact stands at 26, **with 6 states having recently introduced legislation (MO, OH, OR, NJ, NY, TX)**. The compact offers an expedited licensing process for physicians interested in practicing in multiple states [\[link\]](#).
- Telehealth state resources
 - Center for Connected Health Policy
 - [State Telehealth Legislation and Regulation Tracking](#)
 - [Current State Laws](#)
 - Manatt Health COVID-19 Update [Tracking Telehealth Changes State-by-State in Response to COVID-19](#)
 - Federation of State Medical Boards, [U.S. States and Territories Modifying Requirements for Telehealth in Response to COVID-19](#)

Capitol Hill Spotlight

To stay up to date on what's happening in Washington DC and how it impacts neurology, [read the Capitol Hill Report](#).

- February 26 (tomorrow) is the deadline to apply for the virtual 2021 Neurology on the Hill to be held on May 19. The AAN needs members who are passionate advocates for neurology to help build influential relationships with Congress, especially from the following states: Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and South Dakota. [Learn more and apply](#). Contact us at noh@aan.com with any questions.
- The AAN's Advocacy Committee defines the strategic direction to achieve the Academy's health policy goals at all levels of government. In a virtual meeting on January 19, the committee discussed member feedback and the expected policy priorities for the new session of Congress and administration. The following priorities were identified and may be updated throughout the year.

Top priorities

- COVID-19 response
(e.g., telemedicine [site of service requirements, out-of-state licensure, private payer coverage], financial support, and research funding)
- Access to care
(e.g., telemedicine, drug affordability, health care disparities)

- Regulatory burden
(e.g., prior authorization, step therapy, out-of-state licensure, delay of Appropriate Use Criteria)

Active priorities

- Drug costs and access
- Reimbursement
- Neurology work force
- Scope of practice
- Interoperability
- VA Centers of Excellence
- National Neurologic Disease Surveillance System
- [AAN Health Care Principles](#)

Monitor

- Gun safety
- TBI/concussion
- Opioids and pain research
- Neuroimaging
- Liability reform
- Immigration
- Narrow networks
- MACRA fixes
- Surprise billing implementation
- Cannabis research
- The AAN has published [Position Statement: COVID-19 Vaccination](#), expressing confidence in the clinical trials of the two COVID-19 vaccines and the Food and Drug Administration data evaluation processes and supporting the recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The AAN strongly encourages that all eligible neurology health care providers become vaccinated against COVID-19 and support vaccination for all patients who qualify. The AAN strongly supports efforts to ensure all patients have equitable access to COVID-19 vaccination.

AAN Membership Update

- **AAN Board of Directors Slate Announced:** The AAN Nominations Committee, chaired by former President Terrence L. Cascino, MD, FAAN, has announced the [slate of nominees](#) for AAN officer and director positions for the 2021–2023 term. The slate of nominees will be presented to the voting membership for approval during the virtual Annual Meeting.
- **AAN Annual Meeting:** With the flexible virtual 2021 Annual Meeting, attendees can check out the latest education and scientific sessions when it works for them—with on-demand content accessible for 30 days after the live event—and fulfill all of their CME requirements for the year. [Register](#) by March 25 to receive discounted rates. Coming to mailboxes soon is the [Education Program](#) booklet.
- **Leadership Programs:** In an assessment of how AAN Leadership Programs have impacted participants, 100% showed a desire to be engaged within the AAN. A total of 80% felt that they were achieving their leadership potential *outside* the AAN and 56% felt the same *within* the AAN. Overall, the knowledge and skills obtained helped participants feel more in control of their career trajectory and more. In addition, Leadership Programs have attracted 20% more industry funding for 2021 than in 2020, which allows the AAN to continue supporting participants.
 - Applications for the [Enhanced Resident Leadership](#) and [Director Mentorship](#) programs are now open. Forward this information to clerkship directors or other interested parties. Applications are due February 19.

- The AAN ended 2020 with nearly a four-percent increase in members compared to 2019, despite the pandemic. The strongest growth areas were advanced practice providers and international members, with 1,600+ APP members and 8,000 international members. Retention of US dues-paying neurologists was 93 percent.

2021 State Meetings

State	Meeting Date
<u>Alabama Academy of Neurology</u>	TBD
<u>Arizona Neurological Society</u>	March 27
<u>California Neurology Society</u>	February 26-28
<u>Colorado Society of Neurology</u>	TBD
<u>Florida Society of Neurology</u>	September 24-26
<u>Georgia Neurological Society</u>	TBD
<u>Hawaii Neurological Society</u>	TBD
<u>Illinois State Neurological Society</u>	TBD
<u>Indiana Neurological Society</u>	April 9
<u>Iowa Neurological Association</u>	October 16
<u>Commonwealth Neurological Society</u>	TBD
<u>Maine Neurological Society</u>	TBD
<u>Massachusetts Neurologic Association</u>	March 27
<u>New York State Neurological Society</u>	TBD
<u>North Carolina Neurological Society</u>	February 21-22
<u>Pennsylvania Neurological Society</u>	TBD
<u>South Carolina Neurological Association</u>	TBD
<u>Texas Neurological Society</u>	July 22-23
<u>Virginia Neurological Society</u>	TBD
<u>Washington State Neurological Society</u>	TBD
<u>Wisconsin Neurological Society</u>	October 16

Request Speakers and Promote YOUR Meeting

- Ready to start promoting your upcoming meeting? Email Grant Niver at gniver@aan.com to send an email blast promoting your meeting to all AAN members in your state!
- As you put together the agenda for your 2021 meetings, consider taking advantage of the AAN’s sponsored speaker program! We have expert speakers on topics such as advocacy, the Axon Registry, practice management, quality measures, telemedicine, and much more.