Authors' Response to Letter Neurocritical Care Research Networks—Pediatric Considerations

Jose I. Suarez · Peter D. LeRoux · Christiana Hall ·
Romergryko Geocadin · Christine Wijman

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We thank Drs. Bell et al. for their thoughtful comments regarding the contributions of pediatrics to the formation of specialized research networks to advance and promote clinical investigations in important critical care disorders affecting children. We acknowledge the outstanding efforts that the pediatric critical care community has undertaken and the significant salutary effects they have had on patients.

The First Neurocritical Care Research Conference was the initial step of the Neurocritical Care Society (NCS) to begin to address objectives and goals for research endeavors in neurocritical care. One of the main goals of the conference was the creation of the Neurocritical Care Research Network (NCRN) and this conference was attended largely by NCS members, who are specialists in

adult neurocritical care. The fact that no pediatric research networks were mentioned in the manuscripts reflects the composition of the conference attendees and our expertise toward adult neurocritical care practice rather than a deliberate omission on our part. The summary statements presented in the Journal reflect the material presented and discussed at the symposium. We admire the organized pediatric research infrastructure. In addition, we realize that NCRN is a recent effort and at a very early organizational stage but aspire to rise to a similar standard achieved by PECARN, PALISI, and PNCRG.

As we acknowledge the comments of Bell et al. regarding the lack of pediatric research focus in the first Neurocritical Care Research Conference, we also like to indicate that the NCS is committed to pediatric patients with the formation of a pediatric neurocritical care committee and the initiatives to train and certify pediatricians in the field of neurocritical care. We agree with Bell et al. that investigators caring for adults and children can and should work together to address mutual goals and achieve them in a more efficient manner. In fact, we invite them to become active members of NCS and NCRN.

This study was conducted on behalf of the First Neurocritical Care Research Conference Participants.

J. I. Suarez
St Luke's Episcopal Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine,
Houston, TX, USA

P. D. LeRoux
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA

C. Hall
UT Southwestern, Dallas, TX, USA

R. Geocadin
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA

C. Wijman
Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, USA

J. I. Suarez (✉)
Department of Neurology, Baylor College of Medicine,
One Baylor Plaza, NB:320, Houston, TX 77027, USA
e-mail: jisuarez@bcm.tmc.edu