

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Division of Pediatric and Developmental Neurology  
Department of Neurology

Feb 3, 2023

Dear Subcommittee Members,

I am writing to ask you to explicitly consider programming on neurodevelopmental disabilities across the lifespan as an integral part of the AAN Annual Meetings.

Neurodevelopmental disabilities, in aggregate, are among the most common neurologic conditions. 15% of the population is affected by a neurodevelopmental disability. Just one of these conditions, cerebral palsy, affects approximately 2 of every 1000 people, comparable to the prevalence of Parkinson's disease and almost 6 times the prevalence of multiple sclerosis. Yet, adult neurologists lack the education necessary to take ongoing care of people with neurodevelopmental disabilities. As a result, people with neurodevelopmental disabilities lose access to trained medical professionals who can help them maintain and reach their optimal function. Providing high quality education to the entire AAN membership about the importance of lifespan care for people with neurodevelopmental disabilities is not just an epidemiologic imperative. It is a social justice imperative, in line with the anti-ableism stance I am proud to support on the AAN IDEAS Subcommittee. Therefore, I urge this Subcommittee to consider programming on neurodevelopmental disabilities as an integral part of the AAN Annual Meeting offerings.

Considerations might include:

1. A course on the lifelong manifestations of childhood onset neurologic conditions, and the importance of neurologist involvement across the lifespan.
2. Incorporation of childhood-onset conditions when discussing other topics (e.g. ensuring that Down syndrome is discussed explicitly when talking about Alzheimer's disease).
3. A course on how to neurologically re-evaluate adults with childhood-onset conditions (e.g. many adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities have not had the genetic evaluations current guidelines mandate; others may have been misdiagnosed in childhood but still carry that label unquestioned throughout their lifespan).

I am happy to discuss this further, as I am passionate about this issue. Please let me know how I can help address this gap to ensure that the AAN is able to serve the educational interests of all of its members.

Sincerely,



Bhooma Aravamuthan, MD, DPhil  
Chair, **AAN** Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Section  
Member, **AAN** Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-racism, and Social Justice Subcommittee  
Member, **AAN** Child Neurology Quality Measures Workgroup  
Assistant Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics  
Research Director, Cerebral Palsy Center  
Washington University School of Medicine